

NORMANDY HISTORIANS

**The thirty-fourth Annual General Meeting
NORMANDY HISTORIANS
Will be held in the small hall of
NORMANDY VILLAGE HALL
At 8pm on Tuesday February 20th 2024**

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. To determine Quorum for the AGM (10 members)
4. To adopt the minutes of the AGM held on 21st February 2023.
5. To receive / adopt the 2023 Report and Accounts
6. To agree the Annual Subscription amount for 2024.
The Committee proposes that the Annual Annual Subscription rate for 2024 be unchanged at £10
7. To elect the Committee for 2024.
8. Any Other Business
9. Date of next AGM: Tuesday 18th February 2025

There will be a talk on The Great Roof of Westminster Hall by Roy Waight

COMMITTEE *(as at December 2023)*

Chairman: Peter Southwell
Vice-Chairman: Vacancy
Secretary: Alan Norris
Treasurer: John Squier *(also Membership Secretary)*
Members: Peter Trevaskis, Alice Beech and Eileen Wicks

The future of the Historians depends on new committee members.

Please contact a committee member (or e-mail below) if you are able to contribute to the running of the society.

Website: **www.normandyhistorians.co.uk**

Enquiries: **info@normandyhistorians.co.uk**



COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2024 AGM BY PETER SOUTHWELL, CHAIRPERSON

Our 2023 AGM was held on 21st February followed by an interesting talk by Patrick Yarnold on Whitaker Wright – the Witley Fraudster. Whitaker built the staggeringly ambitious, wildly over the top mansion of Witley Park, and was a fabulously rich investor who made his money in mining. His whole life collapsed when his stock market shenanigans came to light and his life ended in spectacular disgrace and suicide.

In March Peter Reece spoke on Samuel Cody – the Flying Cowboy. Cody was a brave and resourceful man who built his own aeroplanes and became the first man to fly in Britain, despite having no apparent technical education.

In April Alan Norris gave an interesting talk on Swedish Railways when our arranged speaker withdrew on the day due to ill health.

In May Martin Ellis of the National Trust spoke on Clandon Park – the Fire and Restoration. A devastating fire in 2015 revealed the construction of this Georgian mansion which was built for the Onslow family in the 1730s.

In September Jo Gosney gave a talk on Farnborough Abbey and the Empress Eugenie. Eugenie was the widow of Napoleon III who was exiled to Britain following the Franco-Prussian war of 1870. Napoleon III, Eugenie and their son lie in the Abbey crypt.

In October Len Huff talked on the ED Abbotts of Farnham, a coach and car building business which made car bodies for a range of iconic cars from the 1930s to the 1970s.

In November Nick Bale, Guildford Town Guide spoke on Tunsgate – a Century of Change, describing the changes to this historic area of the High Street over the last century.

Our December meeting was intended to be a “from our archives” film show presented by Historians Committee members but this was cancelled because of ill health. Alan Norris stepped in again and gave a talk on the history of Woking’s railways.

In December Alan appeared on the BBC TV South news programme in an item about Christmas Pie which was live from the new Normandy Community Shop and Café. He explained the origin of the name of Christmas Pie.

John Squier undertook research on the history of the Red Route, a 1950s revival of the London to Southampton coaching route which ran through Normandy. This research will be published on the Historian’s website and may form a future presentation.

Throughout the year Ashley Hoare continued his excellent work of managing and maintaining the Normandy Historians website.

Alan Norris is stepping down from the Secretary’s role after our 2024 AGM and appeals for new members to join the committee have so far had no effect. A programme of Open Meetings for 2024 has been arranged. Without new blood on the committee existing committee members regretfully confirm 2024 will be the last year that open meetings are arranged. In future the Historians will exist only to carry out research on the village, to maintain our web site and to respond to public enquiries about the history of the village.

MINUTES OF THE 33rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on Tuesday 21 February 2023 at 8.00pm at Normandy Village Hall

1. **The Chairman, Peter Southwell** welcomed 23 members and 1 guest (P Y) to the meeting.

2. **Apologies for absence** from John Squier, Eileen Wicks, Heather Edgington.

3. **Quorum:** The committee proposed that the quorum for the AGM be 10 members
Accepted by the meeting.

4. **The Minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting** (included in the Annual Report document) were adopted

5. **The Annual Report / Accounts for 2022** was previously circulated to Members (by email or post; copies available at the meeting). The Report was taken as read and was adopted by members with no questions.

The Accounts showed a total account balance at end of 2022 of £2105. The Accounts were adopted with no questions.

6. **The committee proposed the Annual Subscription rate** for 2024 be unchanged at £10 per person. This was accepted by Members.

7. **Election of Executive Committee.**

The existing committee was prepared to continue in the following positions:

Peter Southwell – Chairman

Alan Norris – Secretary

John Squier – Treasurer (and Membership Secretary)

Committee Members – **Alice Beech, Peter Trevaskis, Eileen Wicks.** The meeting accepted the committee appointments without comment.

Peter Southwell informed members that Alan Norris has notified his intention to retire from the position of Secretary at the end the current year. Peter reminded members that new committee members were required.

8. **Any Other Business** No matters were raised by the members present.

The Calendar of Events for 2023 was circulated with the AGM Report.

9. **The 34th AGM** will be held on Tuesday 20th February 2024.

The AGM concluded at 8.10pm.

Following the AGM Patrick Yarnold gave a talk on Witley Park and Whitaker Wright, a 19th century fraudster.

NORMANDY HISTORIANS - Open Meeting cost breakdown for 2023

Income		Total Inc.		Expenses		Total Exp.		Net meeting cost	
						£0.00		Last year Dec. social	£0.00
<u>Jan (no meeting)</u>				Laminated posters & postage	£0.00				
Jan - teas		£0.00		Jan - village hall	£0.00				
Jan - visitors	0	£0.00	£0.00	Jan - speaker	£0.00	£0.00		January meeting -	£0.00
<u>Feb 21 (AGM, Witley Fraudster)</u>									
Feb AGM - teas		£0.00		Feb AGM - village hall	£30.00				
Feb AGM - visitors @ £3	0	£0.00	£0.00	Feb AGM - speaker	£13.50	£43.50		AGM February -	£43.50
<u>March 21 (Cody)</u>									
March - teas		£0.00		March - village hall	£30.00				
March - visitors @ £3	3	£9.00	£9.00	March - speaker	£50.00	£80.00		March meeting -	£71.00
<u>April 18 (Westminster Hall)</u>									
April - teas		£0.00		April - village hall	£30.00				
April - visitors @ £3	1	£3.00	£3.00	April - speaker	£5.50	£35.50		April meeting -	£32.50
<u>May 16 (Clandon Park)</u>									
May - teas		£0.00		May - village hall	£30.00				
May - visitors @ £3	1	£3.00	£3.00	May - speaker	£50.00	£80.00		May meeting -	£77.00
<u>June-Aug (no meeting)</u>									
<u>Sept 19 (Farnborough Abbey)</u>									
Sept - teas		£0.00		Sept - village hall	£28.00				
Sept - visitors @ £3	6	£18.00	£18.00	Sept - speaker	£50.00	£78.00		September meeting -	£60.00
<u>Oct 17 (Farnham motor industry)</u>									
Oct - teas		£0.00		Oct - village hall	£30.00				
Oct - visitors @ £3	4	£12.00	£12.00	Oct - speaker	£0.00	£30.00		October meeting -	£18.00
<u>Nov 21 (tba)</u>									
Nov - teas		£0.00		Nov - village hall	£30.00				
Nov - visitors @ £3	3	£9.00	£9.00	Nov - speaker	£40.00	£70.00		November meeting -	£61.00
<u>Dec 5 (From our archives)</u>									
Dec - visitors @ £3		£0.00		Dec - village hall	£30.00				
				Dec - expenses	£0.00				
	18		£0.00	Meetings - admin, tea & coffee expenses	£0.00	£30.00		December social -	£30.00
Total meeting income:		£54.00		Total meeting expenditure:	£447.00			Net meeting expense:	£393.00



NORMANDY HISTORIANS - FINANCIAL STATEMENT for 2023

<u>Current account</u>	£	<u>Savings (Publication account)</u>	
Opening Balance at 1st of January	£2,105.64	Opening Balance at 1st of January	£41.94
Income			
Memberships prepaid last year	1	Interest received	£0.00
Membership subscriptions @ £10	41 £410.00		£0.00
Memberships prepaid for next year	0 £0.00		
Meeting income (visitors)	£54.00	Balance at 31st December	£41.94
(No summer outing)	0 £0.00		
Century of Normandy CDs sold @ £7.50	0 £0.00		
Normandy Park books sold @ £9.50	0 £0.00		
Henley Park books sold @ £10	1 £10.00		
Postage and packing received	£4.00		
Donations received	£0.80		
Total income:	£478.80		
Expenditure			
Postage and packing for books	£3.35		
Paypal fees for memberships, books & CD sales	£1.89		
Public address system for talks	£135.00		
Meeting expenditure (see separate sheet)	£447.00		
Outings and Exhibitions expense	£0.00		
Printing, stationery, website backup	£12.29		
Gift for website manager	£35.20		
Total expenditure:	£634.73		
Net increase / decrease:	-£155.93	<u>Financial position at 31st December 2023</u>	
Balance at 31st December:	£1,949.71	Current account	£1,949.71
		+ Publication account	£41.94
		+ Float in cash box	£15.00
		Total =	£2,006.65
<u>The Society's Bankers are</u>			
Lloyd's plc, 115 Victoria Road,			
Aldershot, Hants. GU11 1JR			



CALENDER OF EVENTS FOR 2024

Tuesday February 20th

The Great Roof of Westminster Hall

Roy Waight will describe the structure and construction of the roof of this iconic building which was produced from Surrey oak trees and manufactured at Farnham.

Tuesday March 19th

Red Rover stagecoach

Normandy Historians presentation about the Red Rover stagecoach from London to Southampton and the historical re-enactments in the 1950s and 1960s

Tuesday April 16th

Sex and Parish Politics

Louise Falcini, a research fellow in history at Sussex University will give an insight into an aspect of early social history.

Tuesday May 21st

The Gentleman's Magazine

Julian Pooley of the Surrey History Centre will introduce an 18th century magazine featuring an early Panorama of Georgian Surrey for the Family and Local Historians.

Tuesday September 17th

Bees and Honey - Myth, Legend, Tradition and Magic

Peter Smith A beekeeper and entomologist.

Tuesday October 15th

The Story Behind the English Dictionary

Susan Purcell Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Linguists, who has published 10 books in her specialism.

Tuesday November 19th

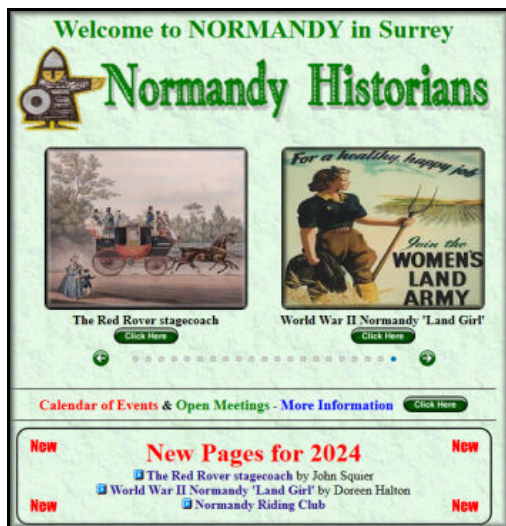
A film show from the Historians archives

Featuring several short films of local interest including extracts from "Light Up the Sky" a 1960 film starring Tommy Steele, Ian Carmichael and Benny Hill; and short films on William Cobbett, Guildford town amongst others, presented by members of the Historians Committee.

Tuesday December 3rd

Programme

To be confirmed.



New Pages for 2024

The Red Rover stagecoach
by John Squier

World War II
Normandy 'Land Girl'
by Doreen Halton

New Normandy Riding Club

*And in 2023 the adding of the book
Westwood, Normandy
The story of a Surrey Estate
By Pat Ashworth and Jack Kinder*

*Also three more pages added to the
members library in 2023*

www.normandyhistorians.co.uk

The Normandy Historians website now has over 555 pages, That's:-

1779 html files
7894 images files
235 pdf files
44 Excel files
5 rtf files
284 other

(Disk Space Used 726.78 MB) (this is about 72.68% of Allocation*)

In **December 2023** we had:-

Total Hits 95935 - (3,095 per Day)

Total Files 72170

Total Pages 22945

Total Visits 11537 - (742 per Day)

Total KBytes 1537519

(at about 2 GB this is 20% of Allocation)

Allocated 10 GB Bandwidth per month

Allocated 1 GB Web space



The number of visits to the website has gone up over the year.