

## Programme of Events for the Houghtons and Brafield Local History Society 2011-12

All meetings take place in the Little Houghton Village Hall at 8pm on Wednesday evenings unless indicated otherwise. Remember please that these dates are on the

**4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday** (no longer the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday) in order to enable us to attend Cogenhoe Heritage Society (2<sup>nd</sup> Wed each month) if desired.

Additionally the committee have decided to offer meetings throughout the year rather than just the winter evenings. That coupled with the option of also attending/joining the Cogenhoe Heritage Society will give us 24 varied and interesting talks from which to choose.

22 Jun 2011                      The Roman Army in Northampton.

1900 years ago you could have met Centurion Gaius Marius Martialis in the full regalia of a Roman Soldier and it may not have been a pleasant experience. However he is quite a gentle Roman Soldier these days so come and hear the stories of the local garrisons and see him in uniform plus some of the artefacts of that period. Hail Caesar

27 Jul 2011                      The Story of the Early Postal Service

Derek Smeathers has several talks in his inventory but this talk comes highly recommended. The talk covers 200 years up to modern times.

24 Aug 2011                      Policing in Northamptonshire 1975-1990

Several of you were very impressed by Mike Edge's recent and very personal story of his time as a young Police Dog handler. The long awaited part 2 covers some even more interesting experiences. In part 2 we see that Mike had by that time worked up to CID from his earlier dog handling days.

28 Sep 2011                      Disappeared London

An intriguing title which covers Richard's experiences and photographs from his 2 year time in London in the 1970s as a professional surveyor. Richard had access to sites not available to the public at the time and which have since disappeared.

26 Oct 2011                      Rockingham Castle and the Watsons

Mick Boyce has been a guide at Rockingham Castle for the past 12 years and really knows his stuff. The Castle was built in 1070 four years after the Battle of Hastings so it must have been an important Castle to the Normans. It was captured during the Civil War by the Parliamentarians but I give too much of the story away. Come and hear it from the expert!

23 Nov 2011                      Pots and People in Medieval Northamptonshire

Paul Blinkhorn is probably a name familiar to many of you through his famous "Time Team" exploits with Tony Robinson (Baldrick of the series Blackadder) on the TV. We are very lucky to have such an enthusiastic expert living so very close to us here. An amusing speaker, he will be a great addition to this year's programme.    PTO

3 Dec 2011                      Xmas party with medieval music Richard York.

After our very successful 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary party at hosted by Christopher and Jill Davidge last year we are back in the Village Hall for what promises to be a very pleasant evening. Not only will there be fine food as usual but Richard York and his wife will entertain us with a range of medieval instruments whilst dressed in costume of the time. If any of your wardrobe dates back to that time feel free to wear it too.

25 Jan 2012                      The Cogenhoe Map project

Ted Barnes and the Cogenhoe Heritage Group have embarked on a project involving 4 maps and how the show the changes and cover not only Cogenhoe but also Little Houghton. Ted who is a very accomplished speaker will give us the story so far....

22 Feb 2012                      The Villa of Tiberius Claudius; a peep into the past

Where can that place be? It is not too far from here and Roy has been excavating the site for 32 years and has a long way to go. His helpers come from far and wide – there is an Australian who comes every 2 years, an expert from Boston USA and many other countries. The associated museum has tens of thousands of finds and there are a host of fascinating facts to hear on the night.

28 Mar 2012                      Northampton Archaeology

Tim Upson-Smith is from the Northampton Archaeological Society and will give us a fascinating insight into parts of the county beneath our feet and a medieval castle at Roode!

25 Apr 2012                      Little Houghton

Christopher Davidge has to be one of the experts on the village and surrounds. Having given us a taster of this area at the AGM this will no doubt be a fascinating talk about the history of our truly lovely part of the County since 1066. Not to be missed!