



**The Rugby
National Trust
Association**

Spring Newsletter 2025

Talks Programme

Summer Outings

www.rugbynationaltrust.org

Committee Report - Spring 2025

Looking at the healthy attendances and audience enthusiasm we currently enjoy at our talks, we are gratified and encouraged that our Association continues to thrive despite recent worries about its future. The lectures this autumn have again been of a high standard, and finances remain buoyant – we are hopeful that we can resume making modest donations to local National Trust properties in 2025. We also continue to attract new members, which is very cheering.

Our biggest concern just now is that the number of summer visits has shrunk, due to people no longer being willing or able to organise them. The 2024 trips were well supported and enjoyed, but for 2025 we have only four on the books. If you think you might like to help with this, or simply find out more, just talk, call or write informally to Committee members – no commitment is expected until you decide you actually want to organise something.

We are always thinking about improving and streamlining the Association, and suggestions regarding future donations, the Meetings calendar, entrance and membership fees, and the Sales table will be raised at the January Annual General Meeting as part of our annual Committee Report. In the meantime, we thank you once again for your continued active support, and look forward to a productive and happy 2025.

Compiled by George Brunavs (Talks and Meetings Secretary/Vice-Chairman) in consultation with other Committee members

The RNTA Database

Full details of our membership are kept on personal computers for the purpose of membership subscriptions, circulation of Newsletters and key activities of the RNTA. Such details will not be disclosed to any third party.

THE RUGBY NATIONAL TRUST ASSOCIATION
37th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 16 January 2025

at 2.30 pm in the Dunchurch Village Hall

Agenda

- 1. Apologies for Absence**
- 2. Minutes of the last AGM**
- 3. Matters Arising**
- 4. Treasurer's Report**
- 5. Chairman's Report and discussion**
- 6. Election of Committee** – The members of Rugby National Trust Association that are put forward for election in the year 2025 are:

Vacant	Chair
Tim Seakins	Treasurer
Pam Southern	Bookings Secretary
Vacant	Secretary
Adrian Futter	Membership Secretary
George Brunavs	Meetings Secretary/Vice chair
Vacant	Visits Co-ordinator
Malcolm Tennant	Meetings Manager
Isobel Palmer	Newsletter Editor
Alain Foote	Web Editor
Vacant	Publicity Officer
- 7. Appointment of Independent Examiner**
- 8. Subscription**
- 9. Any Other Business**
- 10. Next Annual General Meeting will be Thursday 15 January 2026**
at 2.30 pm in the DVH

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT - 2023/24

INCOME	2022/23	2023/24
Membership Fees	2,220.00	2,220.00*
Admission to Meetings	1,104.00	1035.00
Sales/Raffles	266.00	160.00
Donations	133.00	119.00
Trips and Visits	4,043.00	7429.80
Bank Interest	30.17	44.70
TOTAL	£7,796.17	£11,008.50
EXPENDITURE		
Refund to Members	30.00	
Speakers	975.00	1,120.00
Hall Hire	835.70	809.47
Printing	940.60	941.00
Postage/Admin Expenses	339.85	438.79
Refreshments	100.00	85.00
Raffle Prizes	69.63	60.00
Trips and Visits	3,788.40	6,152.02
TOTAL	£7079.18	£9,606.28
Surplus for the year	716.99	1,402.22
Balance brought forward	14,857.31	15,574.30
Balance carried forward	£15,574.30	£16,976.52
RESERVES at YEAR END		
Nat West A/C 43070566	£9,358.71	£9,438.45*
Nat West A/C 43070574	£3,170.96	£4,448.74
Nat West Business Res A/C 43207758	£3,044.63	£3,089.33
TOTAL	£15,574.30	£16,976.52

* Includes £15 paid in advance for 2024-25

I have examined the accounts and bank records of the Rugby National Trust Association for 2023-24 and consider that, in my opinion, the Income and Expenditure Account, as presented above, gives a true and accurate report of the Association's finances at 30 September

Ian Stimson, Independent Examiner

Financial report

Report from the Treasurer for 2023/24

The account shows an increase in funds at the end of the year with membership fees bringing in the same total as last year. The main contributor to the profit shown was from trips and visits but this may not continue with fewer trips next year. Speakers' fees and postage costs continue to rise.

Thanks are due to Ian Stimson who is willing to continue as the Independent Examiner of Accounts.

We are able to keep membership fees at £10 for a single member and £15 for joint members for the next 12 months.

Tim Seakins, Treasurer

Membership News

Our membership numbers stand at 240 which includes a significant number of people who have not yet paid their subscription for this year. They were due on 1 October so, if you don't pay by standing order, please make your payment to me at a meeting, by post or bank transfer to:

Rugby National Trust Association, sort code 54-41-00, A/c no. 43070566

We are very pleased to welcome the following new members who have joined us this year. We hope they enjoy the programme we offer.

Peter & Mo Steer

Valerie Mitchell

Joan Roberts

Paul Clark

Jennifer Coy

Sylvia Booth

Marion Kendrick

David & Diane Gelsthorpe-Hill

We have lost a few members mainly due to age. However, we would like to mention two couples who contributed a lot to RNTA in the past and gave up their membership due to age and infirmity. We are sad to see them leave as they gave a lot of time and energy to the roles they held.

Adrian Futter, Membership Secretary

Cont ..

Charles and Muriel Paterson were members for many years and, in 1997, Muriel became Secretary until 2002. Charles took the role of talks organiser and later became Chair of the Association between 2001 and 2007. In addition, Charles developed talks around the photographs he took of various regions they visited which he presented to the Association and many other organisations donating his fees to RNTA.



Muriel and Charles on the Chester holiday in 2006 which he organised

Likewise, **Ken and Jean Kortegas**, were long time members – Jean being Membership Secretary or Deputy for a long period 2003 – 2013 which, at that time, also entailed co-ordinating the distribution of the Newsletter.



Ken and Jean at a fund-raising tea party in a member's home in 2000

Charles and Ken were both involved with organising very successful outings and holidays.

We owe them all a big thank you.

Isobel Palmer

A reminder of a past activity

Battle of Trafalgar—200th Centenary



Lunch at the Grosvenor Hotel
October 2005

The committee and key organisers of activities

PROGRAMME of OUTINGS for 2025

Kedleston Hall, Derbyshire

Thursday, 15 May, 2025

By coach departing from Bilton Church at 9.15 am

Organised by George Brunavs (01788 811701, mobile 07885 586165)

Supported by Val Brunavs

Kedleston is a showpiece, intended to impress. The entrance front, with a massive pedimented portico, looks over sweeping pasture land, and has two rectangular side pavilions, linked to the central building by curved corridors. A medieval church tower is visible behind the west end, all that remains of a village swept away to create the vast parkland.



Sir Nathaniel Curzon, 1st Lord Scarsdale, started the house in 1759 as a setting for his paintings and sculpture collection, and as a place for reception and entertainment for important visitors. The family lived in one of the side pavilions. Building was started under the direction of Matthew Brettingham and James Paine, but by 1760 both were superseded by the brilliant and up-and-coming Robert Adam. He transformed a rather conventional Palladian design into one much more lively and interesting; the superb interiors are entirely Adam's. The radical change in style is best seen by comparing the traditional Palladian north front with Adam's south elevation, so full of life and "movement" (one of Adam's favourite terms). Inside, the stunning Marble Hall, the spacious and beautiful adjoining rotunda, known as the Saloon, and all the reception rooms show Adam's personal and inimitable style to great effect. The many remarkable furnishings and artworks are perfectly set off against the superb decor.

Kedleston Hall cont.

A visit to the adjoining church is also well worth making, especially to see the Curzon family monuments, outstanding amongst which is the gleaming white marble one from after 1925 to Lord Curzon and Mary, Countess Curzon.

We shall aim to arrive at Kedleston by 10.45 am to be greeted by a member of NT staff. After an introduction, the rest of the day is free for you to explore and lunch.

We leave for home at 3.45 pm, and should be back in Rugby before 5.30 pm.

Remember to bring your National Trust membership cards!

The talk on 6 February 2025, at 2.30 pm, about Lord Curzon of Kedleston, will be a good "taster" for this visit.

The Saloon >



Kedleston is also featured on the cover

Trips and Visits

We would like to remind all members that our outings can be quite demanding . We often visit places with old and uneven floors, stairs that can be difficult with no lift options and gardens and tours that may involve quite a lot of walking. Always check with the organiser if you have mobility problems. Members who need assistance should bring a companion.

Departure Point for Coach Outings

The Committee has made arrangements with St Mark's Church, Bilton for the use of their car park so, *unless stated*, we depart from there. We try to use as little space as possible, so please park on the side away from the church and as close together as possible.

Association Committee

Chedham's Yard, Wellesbourne. CV35 9QT

Thursday 12th June, 2025

By car, to arrive by 2pm

Organised by Pam Southern (01788 813657, mobile 07903 991456)

Chedham's Yard was a derelict forge, brought back to life by an enthusiastic group of volunteers. It is usually only open on Saturdays so is opening especially for us. It is one of only a few combined blacksmiths and wheelwrights workshops remaining in the UK.

It consists of three adjacent barns and a small tearoom so the visit will take less than two hours. You may like to extend the day by visiting Charlecote NT which is not far away.

For our visit there will be a blacksmith, wood turner and tour guides. Tea/coffee and cake are included in the price.



Parking is available near the sports ground a ten minute walk away and maps will be included when the booking forms are returned in March. You will need to be able to stand whilst watching the demonstrations

We are disappointed to have fewer outings on offer this summer.

If you have ideas for outings and/or feel able to offer help in organising one, please contact members of the committee and please come to our Visits Planning Meeting on 9 April 2025 in Dunchurch Village Hall.

Hatfield House, Park and Gardens, Hertfordshire

Thursday, 17 July, 2025

By coach departing from Bilton Church at 8.45 am

Organised by George Brunavs (01788 811701, mobile 07885 586165)

Supported by Val Brunavs

Hatfield House is one of the most important Jacobean mansions in England. A magnificent prodigy house, it was built by Robert Cecil (1563-1612), Secretary of State, Lord High Treasurer, and Lord Privy Seal, succeeding in that role his father, William Cecil, the most powerful statesman in Elizabeth I's England. The house and park have been owned by the Cecils (Lords Salisbury, including the late Victorian Prime Minister) up to the present day.

Built 1608-11, it has its main block running west to east, with side wings projecting southwards, thus being a departure from the more usual previous Tudor and Elizabethan courtyard plan. The exterior presents an elegant composition, and the interiors retain their early Jacobean sumptuous and spectacular decor. Particularly stunning are the Marble Hall, Grand Staircase, Long Gallery, Library, Chapel with its stained glass, and many other rooms. All are not to be missed.

The gardens and park are also well worth exploring; the gardens still remain true to their Jacobean design. Nearby is Old Hatfield Palace (which may or may not be open to visit on our day) where the young princesses Elizabeth and Mary lived at various times during Henry VIII's reign.

We shall aim to arrive at Hatfield at 10.30 to 10.40 am, and will be welcomed by a member of Hatfield staff; this should give us time for toilet and/or cafe visits before we assemble for guided tours starting at 11.00 and 11.15 am (i.e. divided into 2 groups). The tours should last about 75-90 minutes, after which the day is free to explore everything further, and have lunch as you wish. (Food and drink are not included in the cost.)

We shall leave Hatfield for home at 4 pm, and so should be back in Rugby around 5.45 pm.



The Charterhouse, London Road, Coventry CV1 2JR

Date to be confirmed

By car, to arrive by a time to be confirmed

Organised by Sheila Richards

Whilst planning this we received the exciting news that the National Trust is taking over the management of the Charterhouse from Historic Coventry Trust at the end of 2024. We shall have to wait for the new team to set up their booking arrangements and opening times for 2025.

If you are interested, please show the number of people on the booking form. Then we will contact you with more details.

The Charterhouse is an historic building over three floors set beside the River Sherbourne, in a beautiful green space filled with wildlife. It is one of Coventry's most important heritage sites.

A grade 1 listed building, it was founded in 1381 as a Carthusian monastery, home of a silent order of monks who lived peacefully off the land. It then became a private house with several famous inhabitants including Robert Dudley, a favourite of Queen Elizabeth I, and John Whittingham who cultivated the nursery and walled garden to produce exotic fruit for wealthy locals.

The last private owner, Colonel William Wyley, died in 1940, his wife having pre-deceased him and his only son killed in the Battle of the Somme. He bequeathed Charterhouse and much of the surrounding land to the people of Coventry wishing that the site become a centre of history, culture and learning for all to enjoy.

There is a large car park just off London Road (A4114), a 200m walk away. We do not know what facilities the NT will make available but this year there has been a lift available to all floors.

The London Road Cemetery designed by Joseph Paxton otherwise known as Paxton's Arboretum, and the Anglican Chapel are nearby should you wish to explore further.



The Paxton Memorial

Photo By Robin Stott (Wikipedia)

Catteralls of Southam Day Trips 2025

Catteralls, the company we use for our coach trips, have sent a brochure of coach trips they run. We have no experience of these and cannot be held responsible in any way, nor do we provide a courier or organiser or take bookings.

They do have a pickup point in Rugby

If you are interested or would like a brochure, you should contact them directly:

Tel: 01926 813840

or via their agent at The Visitor Centre at Rugby Library

Some suggestions are:

Blossom Trail	Thursday 3 rd April	cost £22
Hampton Court Tulip Festival	Wednesday 16 th April	cost £54
Birmingham Botanical Gardens	Thursday 17 th April	cost £26
Severn Valley Railway with lunch	Thursday 8 th May	cost £49

Pam Southern
RNTA Bookings Secretary

I know people who went on one of their outings last year (to Oxford) and had a thoroughly good day out.

Isobel Palmer

Other volunteering roles with the National Trust

Jean Dibben, Pam Southern and Isobel Palmer receiving Long Service Awards at Canons Ashby House



Dates for your Diary in 2025

Date	Title	Time
16 Jan	RNTA 37 th Annual General Meeting The Canadian Pacific Railway Speaker: Anthony Addams	2.30 pm
6 Feb	Lord Curzon of Kedleston Speaker: Danny Wells	2.30 pm
19 Feb	The Great Fire of Warwick 1694 Speaker: Gillian White	7.30 pm
6 Mar	The Calke Abbey Story Speaker: Stephen Hartley	2.30 pm
19 Mar	Cactus and Canyons Speaker: Roger Butler	7.30 pm
9 April	Visits Planning Meeting	7.30 pm

Outings

Thurs, 15 May	Kedleston Hall by coach	9.15 am
Thurs, 12 Jun	Chedham's Yard by car	to meet at 2 pm
Thurs, 17 Jul	Hatfield House by coach	8.45 am
TBA	The Charterhouse, Coventry by car	

Talks

Thurs, 2 Oct	Sulgrave Manor Speaker: Martin Sirot-Smith	2.30 pm
Wed, 15 Oct	From Morris to Mackintosh—the Rise of Modernism Speaker: Rob Kendall	7.30 pm
Thurs, 6 Nov	Death in the Garden Speaker: Michael Brown	2.30 pm
Wed, 19 Nov	The Floating World—the Culture of Japan, past and present Speaker: Laura Malpas	7.30 pm
Thurs, 4 Dec	Tales from a Dairy Farmer's Wife Speaker: Jane Barnes	2.30 pm



in support of **National
Trust**



Compiled and edited by Isobel Palmer

The Rugby National Trust Association 2025

Printed by Steers Printing

Photo of Kedleston Hall by Isobel Palmer