

A large, multi-story stone building with a classical facade, featuring a portico with columns on the left and a balcony on the roof. The building is set against a backdrop of trees and a cloudy sky. In the foreground, there is a green lawn with a red playground structure on the right.

**The Rugby
National Trust
Association**

Autumn Newsletter 2024

Talks Programme

Christmas Lunch

www.rugbynationaltrust.org

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The walk

Baddesley
Clinton to
Packwood

20 June '24
led by
Adrian Fut-
ter



Printer Cartridges and Mobile Phones

We are still collecting these for the NT scheme

A collection box will be available on a table at the back of the hall

Report – September 2024

Welcome to a new season of Rugby National Trust activities! Looking back to last season, 2023-24 was a period of consolidation and relative stability for us; attendances at our talks have continued to grow, with all talks being interesting and well received, and the programme of Summer 2024 visits, though not as extensive as in the past, being very successful.

So overall we are still in fairly good shape. But the warnings about our immediate future which we gave a year ago still apply; to make sure that we prosper through and beyond the next two or three years we need to recruit more people to the Committee, particularly to the positions of Secretary and now, with the recent retirement of Pauline Springett, the vital role of Visits Co-ordinator. Other present Committee members may also be thinking of retirement in the near future. On the positive side, Alain Foote has joined us to edit the RNTA website, a transition which he has performed smoothly and efficiently. Many thanks to Alain for that.

With our current finances being in a healthy state, we shall be considering how to re-start, albeit maybe in only a small way, making donations to local NT properties; we shall keep you posted on the progress of that. In the meantime, we have a full and varied programme of talks ready for 2024-25, and plans are in the early stages for the Summer 2025 visits. The latter will most likely be no more extensive than in 2024, and we should like to repeat that we hope some of you can offer to think of and run some new trips. As always, do talk to any Committee member (listed on the inside front cover of this Newsletter) to enquire about this or helping out with other Committee functions.



We thank you once again for your continued support and help (not least with setting up and clearing away of chairs, tables and other equipment for the talks at Dunchurch Village Hall), and welcome all your thoughts and suggestions.

*Compiled by George Brunavs
in consultation with all other
Committee members*

Whitchurch Silk Mill
11 June 2024
Organised by Jan Elliott

Membership News

The number of members of the association has remained little changed this year at about 250. I'm pleased to report that we've had 16 new members over the last year but unfortunately a similar number have dropped out, usually because they become too elderly and infirm to participate in our activities. To keep our numbers at its current level we need to continue to attract new members as several current members have already indicated to me that they are unable to continue into 2024/25.

Membership fees for the year which starts on 1 October remain unchanged at £10 for single membership and £15 for joint membership. If you pay by standing order this will be paid automatically. Otherwise, the payment can be made to me by post, in person at the meetings in DVH or by bank transfer directly to our account "Rugby National Trust Association" sort code 54-41-00 A/c no. 43070566 after 1 October.

Adrian Futter, Membership Secretary

The RNTA Database

Full details of our membership are kept on personal computers for the purpose of membership subscriptions, circulation of Newsletters and the management of coach trips and other activities of the Rugby National Trust Association. Such details will not be disclosed to any third party.

Bolsover Castle on 10 July '24 – Led by George Brunavs



The Small Castle

THE RUGBY NATIONAL TRUST ASSOCIATION
Minutes of the 36th Annual General Meeting

held in the Dunchurch Village Hall on 18th January 2024 at 2.30pm

George Brunavs took the chair and opened the meeting by welcoming 66 Association Members. George requested members to collect the spring 2024 newsletters from the table at the side of the hall before the AGM as they contained the agenda and summary of the accounts.

1. **Apologies** had been received Alain and Rose Foote.
2. **Minutes of the 35th Annual General Meeting** were printed in the Spring 2024 Newsletter and were not read out at this AGM.

Val Brunavs proposed that the minutes be approved, seconded by Janet Frankl and George Brunavs signed them as a true record.

3. There were no **Matters Arising**
4. **Treasurer's Report**

Tim Seakins gave the following Treasurer's report:

The accounts show a small increase in the reserves at the end of the year but membership numbers have dropped slightly. More members are coming to meetings and raffle receipts are up. A small profit was made on trips and visits.

Speakers' fees, hall hire and printing continue to become more expensive.

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. I am always available to answer any members' questions!

Chris Freeman asked why there were three separate accounts.

Tim explained that we have the main working account, the visits account and a business account for excess money to earn interest.

Ken Monk proposed that the Treasurer's report be approved
seconded by Roy Deacon

5. **Committee Report**

George Brunavs gave the following committee report:

We once again wish all our members the best of everything for 2024, and reflect on the previous year. Membership still remains gratifyingly steady, with very welcome new members joining. Our talks programme is proceeding as well as ever, although there was Storm Ciaran forcing the cancellation of one talk in early November. Highlights of last year were “Treading the Duckboards” with Kate Wills, “The 1st Duke of Devonshire and Chatsworth” by Gillian White, “Re-appraising William Morris”, with Rowan Roenisch, and “A Norfolk Journey”, by the ever-excellent Keith Holmes. Audience numbers have remained steady at around the 50 mark.

Despite the trials of ageing and vacancies in important roles, the Committee is pushing on to ensure that we make your membership a happy and worthwhile experience, and we also appreciate very much the extra help that some of you have given us with setting up and organising our meetings. Nevertheless, we have had to curtail our Sales Table quite drastically. But good news is that Alain Foote is willing to join the Committee as Website editor, to be elected at this AGM. We are sad to have Pauline Springett retiring, however; she has been our efficient and tireless Summer Visits Co-ordinator, and we cannot thank her enough for her painstaking work and careful attention to detail in this most important role in RNTA. So now we have two major vacancies to fill: a new Visits Co-ordinator, and a new Secretary.

Financially we are still sound, but static: income struggles to exceed outgoings. Hence it is still unwise at the moment to make any real substantial donations to local NT properties, no matter how much we should like to. We have to repeat again that our biggest income is from the summer trips, and since we lack enough organisers for these, that difficulty will remain. In 2023 for example, only one coach trip materialised. The situation this year is a little better, with 6 outings, 4 of which are by coach; still well below the number of a few years ago. We must continue to appeal for volunteers to help with this – please talk to Pauline, Pam Southern or me to find out more, or come to the Visits Planning meeting at DVH next April.

Rona Townsend proposed that the Committee report be approved,
seconded by Pam Southern

6. *Election of Officers and Committee*

George Brunavs advised the membership, that for the election of the committee for 2024, some of the people standing for re-election have already served for a full 8 years. According to our constitution, after 8 years in order to authorise their re-election, we require signatures from at least 10 of the main

RNTA membership to relax the constitution rule which specifies that people need to stand down for at least one year before being eligible for re-election. George was pleased to report that 10 members had signed the form, at the start of the AGM, in order to relax this clause for the year 2024. Alain Foote was standing unopposed as Web Editor. Therefore, the following members of the committee offered for election or re-election were elected:

Chairman:	Vacant
Secretary:	Vacant
Treasurer:	Timothy Seakins
Membership Secretary:	Adrian Futter
Meetings Sec/Vice Chair :	George Brunavs
Bookings Secretary:	Pamela Southern
Visit Co-ordinator:	Vacant
Web Editor:	Alain Foote
Publicity Officer:	Vacant
Newsletter Editor:	Isobel Palmer
Sales Table:	Malcolm Tennant

Jean Black proposed the above members be elected to serve on the committee for the year 2024 seconded by Roy Deacon

7. *Appointment of Independent Examiner*

The Treasurer advised that Ian Stimson had agreed to continue to examine the accounts for 2024

Val Brunavs proposed that his appointment be approved, seconded by Ken Monk

8. *Subscriptions*

George Brunavs reiterated to the members present that subscriptions would remain unchanged for a further year.

Ken Monk proposed that subscriptions remain as agreed, seconded by Jan Elliott

9. *Any Other Business* - None

10 *Date of the Next Annual General Meeting*

The 37th Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 16th January 2025
at 2:30 pm at Dunchurch Village Hall

AUTUMN/WINTER LECTURE PROGRAMME

Beguiled by Bridges (part 2—Europe)

Thursday 3 October 2024

Dunchurch Village Hall 2.30pm

Speaker: Keith Holmes

In this, the second of his talks on bridges, Keith shows those from his travels in Europe. The French connection includes the sights along the banks of the River



Seine in Paris and in southern France, the engineering genius of the Millau viaduct. There are tales to be told about the bridges in Amsterdam, Lisbon, Seville, Rome and Venice with a few surprises along the way. Keith blends history and engineering with the beauty and delight of the bridges and their surroundings.

Welcome to Japan!

Wednesday 16 October 2024

Dunchurch Village Hall 2.30pm

Speaker: Laura Malpas

Have you ever dreamed of visiting this magical country, and wondered what it might be like? Laura has visited Japan regularly over the last 15 years, and her talk is illustrated with many photographs showing what a visitor might expect. Highlighting the “must-see” elements of Japan, and the exciting differences between the Japanese and English cultures, this interactive talk gives a fascinating introduction to a unique country which respects its past whilst embracing the ultra-modern.



The Restoration of 78 Derngate, Northampton

Thursday 7 November 2024

Dunchurch Village Hall 2.30pm

Speaker: Robert Kendall

78, Derngate, Northampton is the only house in England modernised and designed



by the great Arts and Crafts architect and artist Charles Rennie Mackintosh, for the highly successful model-maker W J Bassett-Lowke. The talk will describe the painstaking restoration of the house in the first years of this century, bringing the highly original interiors by Mackintosh back to life.

Capability Brown: Hero or Hooligan?

Wednesday 20 November 2024

Dunchurch Village Hall 7.30pm

Speaker: Michael Brown

Lancelot “Capability” Brown was probably most famous garden and landscape designer. Was he the vandal some people say? Did he beautify or destroy natural landscapes? After Michael’s talk, you can decide for yourselves.



The
Rotunda
at
Croome
Court



The Life and Rhymes of John Betjeman

Thursday 5 December 2024

Dunchurch Village Hall 2.30pm

Speaker: Mark Temple

Betjeman (1906-1984) was arguably one of the greatest ever English poets, certainly one of the most popular. He was Poet Laureate from 1972 until his death, a founding member of the Victorian Society, and a passionate defender of Victorian architecture, helping to save St. Pancras station buildings from demolition.

Mark Temple will take us through his life, starting out as a journalist, through his poetry and as a much-loved figure on British television.



RNTA Annual General Meeting

Thursday 16 January 2025

Dunchurch Village Hall 2.30pm

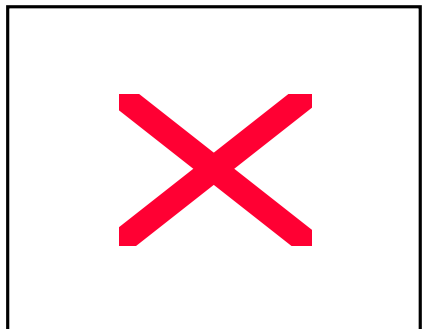
(See AGM Agenda on page 4)

Followed by.....:

The Impossible Railway—The Canadian Pacific Railway

Speaker: Anthony Addams

In just four years, between 1881 and 1885, Canada was forged into one nation by the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway. Anthony Addams illustrates the incredible achievement against amazing odds, building 3000 miles of track through mountains, prairies, swamps and rock.



Canadian Pacific Railway
- 'yesterday'

Lord Curzon of Kedleston

Thursday 6 February 2025
Dunchurch Village Hall 2.30pm
Speaker: Danny Wells



George Nathaniel Curzon (1859-1925) was one of the most talented, colourful and controversial of British statesmen.

As Queen Victoria's last Viceroy of India, his dramatic resignation signalled the end of an era; as Foreign Secretary, he was an important figure on the international stage following WW I. His work on conservation of historic buildings was of great importance, both in England and India.

Curzon was mocked as "a most superior person" even as an Oxford undergraduate. His ruthless ambition, commanding intellect and fervent imperialism drove him relentlessly. Plagued by ill health, he was a man of prodigious energy; yet his life has been described as "an unparalleled blend of triumph and disappointment". Danny Wells will tell us why.

This talk will also provide a taster for RNTA's proposed visit to Kedleston Hall, the Curzon seat, in May.

The Great Fire of Warwick 1694

Wednesday 19 February 2025
Dunchurch Village Hall 7.30pm
Speaker: Gillian White

On Wednesday 5 September 1694, much of the centre of Warwick was devastated by a great fire. In the immediate aftermath the town's leaders gathered to bring relief to the citizens and then, as the urgent crisis passed, they rebuilt Warwick to be one of the most modern and elegant towns in the Midlands. The talk tells the story of the fire and the actions of the town's leaders, and then looks at some of the most impressive post-fire buildings still standing in the town.



Where the fire started

The Calke Abbey Story

Thursday 6 March 2025

Dunchurch Village Hall 2.30pm

Speaker: Stephen Hartley

Calke Abbey is a relatively unknown great eighteenth-century stone mansion standing in the middle of its large enclosed park. It lies in a hollow, on the site of an Augustinian priory, and was built by Sir John Harpur in 1703. The National Trust presents it as a unique country house in decline. How did it become like this? The talk highlights how the house developed, from its early days to the time of the Harpurs and the Crewes, and the reasons for its serious decline.



Cactus and Canyons

Wednesday 19 March 2025

Dunchurch Village Hall 7.30pm

Speaker: Roger Butler



This illustrated talk will explore wild landscapes and iconic National Parks in the south-west of the USA, with spectacular geology and panoramic scenery. High-lights include deep gorges, huge canyons and windswept arches; tall cacti, colourful flowers and varied wildlife.

Christmas lunch



My exploration of suitable venues was curtailed by my spell in hospital



My best suggestion is **The Countryman at Staverton, NN11 6JH**

They will not be able to publish their Festive menu until much nearer the date.

I understand they will be charging £33 for two courses. This is certainly not cheap but I think their food is quite good. Let's hope so! They will ask us to make our choices beforehand to help the kitchen which is not large.

In order to reserve some tables please could you let me know by the **end of September** if you are interested.

I am pencilling in Thursday 12th December from 12noon

Pam Southern

email: psouthern223@btinternet.com

10, Ecton Leys, Hillside, Rugby, CV22 5SL



Val Brunavs
at **Wrest Park**

Organised by Pauline Springett 24 July '24



Janet Frankl at Bolsover
Never too old for a bit of fun!

Dates for your Diary in 2024-25

Date	Title	Time
Talks		
3 Oct	Beguiled by Bridges (part 2—Europe) Speaker: Keith Holmes	2.30 pm
16 Oct	Welcome to Japan! Speaker: Laura Malpas	7.30 pm
7 Nov	The Restoration of 78 Derngate, Charles Rennie Mackintosh Speaker: Rob Kendall	2.30 pm
20 Nov	Capability Brown: Hero or Hooligan? Speaker: Michael Brown	7.30 pm
5 Dec	The Life and Rhymes of John Betjeman Speaker: Mark Temple	2.30 pm
12 Dec	Christmas lunch at the Countryman, Staverton	12.00 pm
2025		
18 Jan	RNTA 36th 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



in support of **National
Trust**

Compiled and edited by Isobel Palmer
The Rugby National Trust Association 2024
Printed by Steers Printing
Cover photo of Calke Abbey