

## Friends of Oundle Museum



### Autumn 2023 newsletter

Hello – just to introduce myself, I am a new recruit to the volunteer team and I have been asked to put together this newsletter to keep you informed of what is happening at the Museum. I look forward to meeting you when you next call in at the Museum - Julie

### **October Book Sale – Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> from 10AM to 4PM**



This will be held in the Museum Entrance Foyer

We all have room on our bookshelf for “just one more” book. Please call in and browse through the titles that are on offer. Many have been donated recently and so there is fresh stock. Not all are history or Oundle related, but there will be something for everyone.

**CASH only** - Remember that the purchase of these books will support the Museum (and you fill that gap on the shelf).

### There is to be a **History Day, taking place on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October**

The venue is Oundle School’s Great Hall in New Street.

This is a Northamptonshire Heritage Forum event, a joint venture between Oundle Historical Society, Oundle Museum and Oundle School Archives. [Price per person, including refreshments is £27.50.](#)

#### **PROGRAMME OF EVENTS**

8.30 Displays to be erected

09.15 Attendees to arrive - Tea and Coffee will be available

10.00 Welcome

10.05 ‘From Wilfrid to Sanderson – an overview of Oundle's History’ with David Bond

10.50 John Piper and the Oundle School Chapel Windows with Colin Pendrill

11.30 Coffee

12.00 Oundle Historic Buildings with David Parker.

13.00 A buffet lunch will be available. [Please advise of dietary requirements when making your booking](#)

14.00 After lunch there will be tours of Oundle – further details available on the day

16.00 Tea and Cakes.

17.00 Depart.

#### **HOW TO BOOK – Closing date 4th October 2023:**

Please send your name(s), contact address, email and telephone number, together with any dietary requirements, with a prepaid self-addressed envelope (for tickets), and cheque for £27.50 each to: Northamptonshire Heritage Forum History Day c/o 47 Woodlands Road, Irchester, Northants. NN29 7BW.

Email: [northamptonshireheritageforum@gmail.com](mailto:northamptonshireheritageforum@gmail.com)

Website: [www.northamptonshireheritageforum.co.uk](http://www.northamptonshireheritageforum.co.uk)

Facebook: [Northampton Heritage Forum](#)

**At the Museum, on the last Saturday in October**, the Bamford stationary Engine and another engine will be running, together with items of farm equipment and tools on loan from Ramsey Rural Museum - these were vital tools to the farm workforce in the not too distant past – if you have photographs of local farming/agricultural activities please bring them along on **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October (between 1 and 4PM)**

**EXCITING NEWS** – a while back a metal detectorist came across an interesting patch and, after taking items along to the Northants Finds Liaison Office, was informed that he had found Bronze Age items, including hand axes. The whole process has taken quite some time, to ensure that the artefacts are carefully treated, and valued, and they have now been offered to Oundle Museum. Funding has been secured and we are most grateful to Oundle Feoffees and Nene Valley Archaeological Trust who have generously supported this purchase. We will update you on the next newsletter with details of the arrival of the collection.

#### **News about local groups:**

**MidNAG (Middle Nene Archaeological Group) has recently undertaken a dig near to Barnwell.** This is a site that was first dug in the 1970s and again in the 80s, but the plan was to excavate a further area and gain more insight into the activities of the Roman, and later the Saxons, who were living and working in this area. The Museum already displays items from the previous digs (see cabinets just inside the first room). I spoke with Jane, who had been on one of the earlier digs with John Hadman and Stephen Upex and she had found the four vessels that were buried together in a shallow pit, - it was her first time on a dig and at the end of a long day, but started her interest in archaeology. These items of Roman pottery can now be seen in the cabinet to the right of the entrance door.

#### **What was found in 2023?**

Some large pieces of pottery including Nene Valley colour coated ware, lots of bone (some with butchery marks), endless oyster shells (I cleaned a lot of these), a stone marker post, a few coins and a pair of Roman shoes – it is hoped that some of these items may come back to the Museum for display once they have been assessed.



The Committee aims to send out the next issue of the newsletter prior to the start of the 2024 Museum open season. As this will be the 30<sup>th</sup> year of Oundle Museum operating, we are considering ideas to celebrate and mark this anniversary (a pearl anniversary in wedding terms). The next newsletter which will contain details of the theme of the annual display, and updates on the Bronze Age items and the Barnwell finds.

**Ways to contact the Museum:**

Email (preferred method of contact) – [info@oundlemuseum.org.uk](mailto:info@oundlemuseum.org.uk) as the Museum is not “staffed” full time, we aim to respond to your message within 14 days.

Telephone – 01832 272735 answer machine is switched on and your message will be responded to within 14 days.

Where to find the Museum ... **What 3 Words ///aware.deny.bulldozer** is the entrance door of the Museum

The Courthouse                      Mill Road              Oundle              Peterborough PE8 4BW

**OPEN Saturday and Sunday between 1.00 and 4.00PM until  
29<sup>th</sup> October (re-opens March 2024)**