



July 2017 Newsletter

### St Kenelm's Feast and Drones over the Church



On Monday (please note day) July 17th on St Kenelm's day we will celebrate with an evening picnic feast in St Kenelm's church in Church Enstone (see below left. The evening will start at 6pm and everyone is invited to bring their own picnics to the church where tables, chairs, candles and flowers will be grouped in the currently empty church. Brian Pennington has kindly offered to set up a bar so that those who do not wish to bring their own drinks can purchase a glass of wine or a soft drink. Nigel Hammett, the conservation architect working on the church's renovation will reprise his recent successful talk on the history of the building's architecture; this time with the bonus of being able to point out everything in situ. We will also be joined by Mark Abrey who will talk about the work he is doing with drones to record the benefice churches and graveyards (see upper left and St Kenelm's graveyard centre left). Not only is a record being made, but Mark is linking the photos to data and records from the county archives that will put everything together on line as a search tool making it much simpler to trace ancestors and their graves compared to the fragility and difficulty of reading the 1550 Enstone burial record ( see right).



If the evening proves exceptionally warm and sunny, we can move our picnics out into the graveyard. Though we have ample space, please let Anne Francis know if you and guests are coming so that we can set up enough tables etc.



## A Walk Round Churchill



There will be a second meeting in July; on Wednesday (again note day) July 26th when we are invited by the Churchill Heritage Centre to learn more about Churchill's famous sons like Warren Hastings and William Smith on a 2 hour walk around the village guided by Oliver Green. This will start from the William Smith monument at 2pm (see picture below right). Coming in to Churchill from Chipping Norton there is a treacherous left hand bend, and the monument is on the green on the right immediately after the bend. There is parking down Hastings Hill (right turn on the bend), or in the Village Hall car park, the turning for which is almost directly opposite the green, ie first left immediately after the bend. Those who enjoyed the recent talk about William

Smith's life and times, can see more of the place where he was born and examine documents relating to him brought along specially by Oliver Green. The walk will finish at 4pm at the Heritage Centre (see left) in a former small church where refreshments will be served. As there is no water at the centre, members are advised to bring along a flask of tea though soft drinks will be available. The old graveyard outside the Heritage Centre is worth examining. Please let Anne Francis know if you are coming to this.



## Village Show

As usual the society will be having its marquee at the village show at the end of August and the committee is discussing ideas for a historical display of local interest. Anyone who has any suggestions as to what this could be, please contact me.

## In the Fast Lane 2

Following our very enjoyable evening at the Renault F1 HQ , Martin Cummings has kindly offered to host another similar event in the autumn when their present building work has been completed. The date will be Tuesday November 14. Although this is a long way off please let Anne Francis know if you would like to attend. Even if you went to the first evening and would like to come again, let Anne know and you can be wait listed as it may be possible to have a slightly larger group than last time.

## War Memorial

I have had a request for any information on World War 2 casualties listed on the Enstone war memorial. This is part of a wider project on recording the war casualties across Oxfordshire. If anyone has any information on any of those

listed or know if there are any living relatives still in the area, please let me know.

#### History Talks in Woodstock

The SOFO museum in Woodstock has issued its list of coming talks which are worth noting in the diary for the coming months. Tickets are £10 and can be booked on 01993 810201/[www.sofa.org.uk](http://www.sofa.org.uk) or at the gift shop. Doors open at 6.45 for 7pm and refreshments are available. Wednesday July 12, The St Nazaire Raid with Nick Beattie. The St Nazaire Raid or Operation Chariot was a successful British amphibious attack on the heavily defended Normandie dry dock at St Nazaire in German-occupied France during the Second World War. The operation was undertaken by the Royal Navy and British Commandos under the auspices of Combined Operations Headquarters on 28 March 1942.

Wednesday September 13, Paul Beaver on The Spitfire in Oxfordshire. Historian and broadcaster Paul Beaver will tell the story of the most famous aircraft in British aviation history, the people who built and flew the plane and its links with Oxfordshire airfields.

Wednesday 11 October, Peter Hart on Gallipoli. One of the most famous battles in history, Gallipoli forced Churchill from office, established Turkey's iconic founder Mustafa Kemal ('Ataturk') and marked Australia's emergence as a nation in its own right. Drawing on unpublished personal accounts by individuals at all levels and from all sides – not only from Britain, Australia and New Zealand, but unusually from Turkey and France too – Peter Hart combines vivid personal stories with a strong narrative to bring a modern view to this military disaster.

Meanwhile next door..

Neighbouring SOFO, the Oxfordshire museum has a new exhibition from the Jorvik Viking Centre in York running from 1 July- 1 October: The Heroes of the Viking World which will give people of all ages the chance to discover some of the real-life 'celebrities' of the Viking world, such as last King of York Eric Bloodaxe, King Cnut the Great and Harald Hardrada – the thunderbolt of the North. Visitors can explore how they were celebrated and what the archaeological evidence can tell us about them. Their stories are told through a series of display panels, replica objects and Viking Age human remains displaying the battle injuries of a warrior. On display will also be Viking remains from Oxfordshire's county collections excavated from St John's College, Oxford.

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Diary Dates:

Monday July 17, St Kenelm's picnic feast in the church.

Wednesday July 26, afternoon guided walk round Churchill and Heritage Centre visit.

