

Chelmsford & District NT Supporter Group



in support of **National
Trust**

Autumn 2020

No 91

Newsletter

**Tony Tuckwell has agreed to talk to us via Zoom on the
23rd September 2020 at 7:30pm. – see P 7**

All members and friends welcome

Chairman's Message

Thank you for electing me as Chairman. Since shortly after the AGM we have all been in unprecedented times because of CV and I would express condolences to any member who has lost a loved one and wish a speedy recovery to anyone suffering any symptoms of CV.



Many thanks to Jackie Arnot who retired as Chairman at the AGM after nearly 10 years of leadership, and as I said then she has given an enormous amount of time & dedication, present at virtually all events, including Eastern Region and Chelmsford committee meetings, the week-long annual September holidays visiting NT properties, thanks here also to Paul & Janet Chaplin for all their years of organisation. I am glad to say she has agreed to stay on the committee. Thank you to East of England Regional Director Paul Forecast for his interesting presentation of the state of the E of E NT at the AGM.

Jackie was invited to speak about C&D NT SG on Rotary Round Up on Chelmsford Community Radio, 104.4 FM, which was broadcast between 10 & 12noon on Sunday morning 19th July-20 for those of you who missed Jackie's

interesting account you can access it on 'catch up' on Chelmsford. Mildmay Rotary Club website & follow the links.

The committee have been active meeting twice by e-mail aided by telephone conversations. Letters were sent see page 3 to the Board of Trustees to raise awareness of Supporter Groups and their contribution. Similarly, e-mails have been sent to office holders in the East of England and the NT Annual Handbook Editor.

The Director General Hilary McGrady has been invited to speak at our meeting on 13th October 2021 and it is in her calendar. In the same e-mail Chris made several suggestions for helping Groups.

I have put members on e-mail into contact groups of circa 30 each which has enabled me to send out several e-mails bcc over the last months, now however with thanks to members Ron Freeman, Colin Jay and Sue Almond this is coming to you by Mailchimp.

Members not on e-mail have been telephoned by committee members to provide contact and information and in several cases provided or updated their e-mails.

All office holders and committee members have listed/ updated their roles and duties and this will be helpful for the future especially as Treasurer Alan Arnot and the Examiner of Accounts Laurie Boyle will be standing down at the next AGM, please consider if you could fulfil either of these roles or know a member who would and contact us. We also need a Secretary – can you help?

Thanks to President David Simmonds who has devised and produced hand out yellow cards, on one side outlining our aims & objectives, and on the other side our future meetings, a useful publicity and recruitment aid, many being placed on notice boards etc.,

Regrettably, because of CV all the Summer and the Autumn outings have been cancelled and the September holiday - although Paul has arranged a 2021 hotel stay in Caernarfon from 20th to 24th September 2021. However, our Autumn meetings are available by Zoom, see page 7 and we begin with Tony Tuckwell speaking about Tudor Education and KEGS at 7.30 pm Wed. 23rd September 2020. Thank you to Paul Chaplin for setting up the Zoom arrangements.

It has been very disappointing to have only limited visiting to NT properties, and the huge loss of income from the paying public for the NT, however I hope many members have enjoyed the e-mails sent out from NTHQ especially the virtual 125th Birthday Party video featuring Prince Charles & the Director General Hilary McGrady.

In order to receive these e-mails, e-mail: nationaltrust@emails.nationaltrust.org.uk Many of us are currently enjoying - National Trust unlocked with George Clarke - viewed at 9 pm Sunday evenings on Channel 4 TV or on 'catch up'.

The media has carried many recent reports about the state of the NT, and the DG has been interviewed on TV/ Radio including BBC 2 Newsnight, however it will be interesting to see the actual changes and developments and members will have an opportunity to be involved, subject to the format, of the online broadcast on Saturday 7th November 2020.

Please look at our website for up to date information and thanks to Keith Otter for all your input.

I would like to thank all the committee members for their various contributions in a very unusual period and encourage members to publicise our group to their friends and others to look to the future enjoyment of all the NT has to offer as we will come out of this exceptional time. Keep well. Chris



Letter to NT Director General and the Trustees from the committee

This is a letter from concerned Longstanding Members of the National Trust living in Chelmsford and the surrounding area.

14th July 2020.

For the attention of: Hilary McGrady, Tim Parker, and members of the Board of Trustees.

We are a group of long-standing members of the National Trust, a few of us for 50+ years. Some of us have also been Volunteers, serving on our local Supporter Group committee for 15 to 30 years. In that time, we have raised thousands of pounds. Over the five years to February 2019 we donated **£22,042**. These contributions have paid for part, or all, of the cost of many, many items and projects, at lots of different properties in this area.

We have spent hours preparing for, and running stalls of goods and home-baked refreshments in Open Gardens, on Northey Island, and at the Essex and Young Farmers' Shows, where one year we sank nearly up to our car axles in Essex clay, and wrestled with putting up a tent in high winds and driving rain.

Numerous day Coach Outings have been organised, Group Holidays arranged to visit so many beautiful places all over our country, very often to NT properties, as well as attending Christmas Fairs where we sell beautiful handicraft items and preserves, all made by enthusiastic NT members.

We have done all this gladly, and most of the time enjoyably, because we are 'Doers'. We believe in being pro-active, we do not sit back and expect everything to be done for us. Inevitably we are all getting older, but we keep going because **we believe in supporting the work of the Trust.**

However unfortunately, for some unfathomable reason, the Trust does not give us the support we **really** need. Yes, we appreciate your thanks for raising money, but what we **urgently need** is for our Supporter Groups to be given the **recognition, and the publicity**, that will **make our activities known to new, and long-standing members of the Trust. People who have been Members for years do not know that Supporter Groups exist!!!**

We feel very badly 'let-down' by the Trust over many years. New and younger NT members are not attending our activities for the simple reason that they know nothing about Supporter Groups, and what they have to offer. Now that our Committee members are coming up to retiring, **there is a huge lack of volunteers to take their place.** If the Trust had regularly publicised information about Supporter Groups in the past, we would not be in the unfortunate state that we find ourselves in today.

It is a great shame that the work of Danielle Albrecht has been unavoidably suspended, but it means any progress we had hoped for, will probably not take place for another 18 months to 2 years. **Where will the new volunteers come from if they do not know Supporter Groups exist?**

Because of the effect of the Covid-19 pandemic the NT needs all the support it can get.

Please Help us to Help You!

From:

David Simmonds

Pat Tate

Shirley Deering

Jackie and Alan Arnot

Laurie Boyall

Beryl Furley

Colin Jay

Pam Hunnable

Paul and Janet Chaplin

Susan Almond

Reply from NT Director General

Mrs P A Tate
1 Kingston Crescent
Chelmsford
CM2 6DL

By email to multiple recipients

Dear Mrs Tate and members of the Chelmsford & District Supporter Group

Thank you for your letter of 14 July. I am responding on behalf of Tim Parker and our Board of Trustees to address your concerns for the future of our supporter groups.

It's true to say that members of National Trust supporter groups are some of our most ardent supporters; they have been lifelong members of the National Trust and some have been active members of their own groups for decades. As you say, you are a group of proactive 'doers' who find ways – at times through wind, rain and the Essex clay – to support the places you love. Last year you raised over £3,800 to benefit nine of our properties and, since 1987, when our database records began, you have raised over £117,000. This has helped dozens of your special places over the years including Anglesey Abbey, Danbury Commons, Hatfield Forest and Ickworth. Thank you for all your hard work and generosity.

Throughout this crisis, we have been thinking of supporter groups alongside our staff, volunteers and members, and we have tried to keep you connected and updated. We know that, when lockdown started, the activities of all our supporter groups had to be paused, so our Supporter Group Development Manager, Danielle Albracht, was furloughed for a period of time on the government scheme. This decision to furlough 80% of our staff helped us retain vital funds when we needed them most. The gradual reopening of our places has meant that staff are being brought off furlough; Danielle has recently returned and would be delighted to get back in touch with Chelmsford & District Supporter Group. Prior to this crisis, she was working to address all the points you raised in your letter, and she is now resuming that work, but looking through the lens of Covid-19 and changes ahead for our organisation.

We sincerely value all our supporter groups, and we will continue to need your support as we reset ourselves and face into our 'new normal' while still looking after our special places for everyone, for ever.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to write, and for your longstanding support of the National Trust.

Yours sincerely



Hilary McGrady
Director-General

Copies by post to:

Beryl Furley
Shirley Deering

Do you like asking Questions?

Would you like to tell the top officials of the National Trust what you think of their running of the organisation and ask what plans they have for the future? On Saturday 7th November you will have the opportunity to go online and do so!

The National Trust is a membership organisation and in normal times holds an Annual General Meeting (AGM) at Swindon each year. As at our own AGM, various reports are presented, elections take place for Council and resolutions can be considered and voted on. There is also an opportunity to question officials.

This year, of course, is not normal. Given the difficulty of holding a meeting while observing social distancing, the Trust obtained permission from the Charity Commission not to hold an AGM in 2020. There will not be elections and resolutions will be held over until next year. The powers-that-be, however, say that they are anxious to hear and respond to the opinions and questions of members and so there will be an online members' broadcast on Saturday 7th November. This will enable us, as members, to hear reports from the Trust's Chair, Tim Parker, and the Director-General, Hilary McGrady and question them. Further details on how to participate will be issued nearer the date on the Trust's website at: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/annual-general-meeting.

I feel it is important to be aware of this key meeting and, if practical, to participate by watching the proceedings and, if you wish, ask a question. Given the adverse impact that the Covid-19 pandemic has had on the Trust, I am sure there will be much of interest to hear on 7th November.

David Simmonds
President

We hope to be present at
**Chelmsford Cathedral Christmas
Market on
Saturday 5th December 2020
with four tables as usual
Please come and support the
event if it goes ahead.**

Keep an eye on our website!

**NOTICE of AGM
Wednesday 10th March 2021
At 7:45pm**

**Assuming the Cramphorn Theatre will be
operating again, possibly with social
distancing & face coverings.**

**Agenda and details will be in the Spring
Newsletter**

**Any nominations or items please send to
our minutes secretary:**

**Pat Tate
1 Kingston Crescent
Chelmsford, CM2 6DL
01245 250654 please leave your return
telephone no on answerphone.**

**We would be delighted to hear
from you to join the committee**

Newsletter Editor's Note

All members who have given us their e-mail address will receive this News Letter electronically and members without e-mail will receive this as a paper copy. We look forward to your feedback and we will review how members feel about this in the Spring and from time to time. Please feel free to print off your copies and if you do not wish to keep it pass it on to a friend or neighbour. During the lock down the Committee have been busy communicating with the NT management and our correspondence is given above which Chris has covered.

We have arranged where possible Zoom evening meetings on the same date with a start time of 7:30pm. Please make a note of the dates and the Zoom ID and Password will be the same for each meeting. If you are new to Zoom feel free to give Paul a telephone call and he will give you some guidance.

**For all meetings the Zoom ID is:
And the Password is:**

**For 2021 please see our web site. For those without the internet we will
either telephone or send out information.**

Saturday 12th October

The outing to Kent & East Sussex Railway and Bodiam Castle has also been cancelled due to Covid19.

Return of deposits

I have held on to the deposits in case the October outing can go ahead which is now not possible. At the end of this Newsletter is a cut off slip asking if you would like your deposit(s) to be retained for C&D NT Supporter Group funds, a refund less £5.00 for our funds (ie you will receive your total deposit less £5.00) or a total refund.

With regard to the NT Holiday deposits the cheques have been shredded as well as the application forms. The shredded paper has now been wetted up and pressed to form briquettes to burn on our log burner when they are fully dried out!



Shredding two cheques



Shredded cheques and application forms

AUTUMN and WINTER MEETINGS

WEDNESDAY 23rd SEPTEMBER 7:30pm

Zoom meeting with Tony Tuckwell on '*Tudor Education including KEGS*' which promises to be an entertaining and informative meeting.

Tony after graduating trained as a teacher and became head of KEGS in 1984. After retiring he indulged his love of history and has written five books:

- The Honourable and Gentlemanlike House: a History of King Edward VI Grammar School. Chelmsford 1551-2001; Free Range Publications 2008
- New Hall and its School: a True School of Virtuous Demeanour; Free Range Publications 2006
- Coming of Age: The Life and Times of Chelmsford Cathedral 1914-2014: Xlibris 2013
- Small is Beautiful: the story of Messing Village School 1837-2014: New Hall publications 2014
- Life is for Living: the story of Acorn Village, Mistley; Matthew James Publishing 201

WEDNESDAY 7th OCTOBER 7:30pm

Charlie Haylock felt unable to give his presentation via Zoom so we have arranged an alternative.

We are delighted that **Ros Mercer** as retired Geologist has agreed to step in give us a talk on **Flint**. **She gave this talk recently to Chelmsford U3A group and it was very well received**

Ros will take us into the phenomenal story of flint, its composition and features, modes of formation, occurrences and uses. The humble pebble, tool of early humans, that you find in your garden.

WEDNESDAY 6th NOVEMBER 7:30pm

Isambard Kingdom Brunel

Zoom presentation by **Richard Pusey** who has a reputation for excellent presentations.

Richard is a retired surgeon

Interests include Medical History Past President History of Medicine Section, Royal Society of Medicine

Volunteer Hunterian Museum

At present training to be Green Badge Guide City of London

Also, Chairman Ingatestone and Fryening Historical & Archaeological Society

Past commodore of the Blackwater Sailing Club

WEDNESDAY 9th DECEMBER 7:30pm

Anita Marie Sackett has agreed to give her talk '*Christmases Around the World*' on Zoom. In her words I will give it a try! We look forward to Christmas themed talk.

She was brought up in Northants. Taught English & PE in London, NZ, Jamaica & Maryland USA before coming to teach in the Chelmsford area. including poetry.

In retirement she has worked as a 'Poet in Schools' in England & Amsterdam, organised for over 10 years the Essex Young Poet of the Year Competition & gives poetry performances to local groups & on cruise ships. She also gives reminiscence talks about life in the 40/50s & has written a book about that period. Member of the Society of Woman Journalists & Writers. Married to Michael with children & grandchildren. She is a member of Chelmsford U3A.

The Unmasked Raiders

"Right, Fingers, let us check we've got everything we need for the raid on the Post Office."

"Sorry, boss, couldn't get face masks or rubber gloves anywhere. All the supermarkets and pharmacies are sold out because of the pandemic. "

"Did you think of trying for garden gloves?"

"All the garden centres have closed down."

"Oh, well, we'll just have to wrap scarves round our faces and wear socks on our hands. Did you get the plastic carrier bag?"

"Sorry, Boss, they're like gold dust these days, all I could get was a hessian shopping bag."

"But you got the cucumber?"

"Sold out. But I did manage to find a stick of rhubarb."

"I can make a stick of rhubarb in a hessian shopping bag look like a gun. We may have to rely on our mesmerising appearances to frighten the Post Office staff. I'll see what I can do with it whilst you put a sock on your hand and write the note."

"Boss, I can't write with a sock on my hand."

"Oh, for goodness sake, Fingers, its only one sentence in capital letters, not state-of-the-art calligraphy. We don't want the cops finding your dabs all over the paper and recognising your writing."

"Now let me see if I can do anything with this rhubarb and the shopping bag. H'm, not very effective, but as long as we don't let anyone get a good look at it, it might work."

"I've done the note, Boss."

"Let's have a look."

THIS IS A STICK-UP HAND OVR THE MUNY

"Fingers, your spelling is appalling, don't you know there is an 'e' in 'over'?"

"Sorry, Boss, shall I do it again?"

"No time, the Post Office is closing early during the lockdown so we'd better get a move on."

"Boss, I'm worried. I've got a bad feeling this is not going to go well and we shall be picked up very quickly."

"What makes you think that?"

"Because we're going to be so obvious. We'll be the only ones in the High Street not wearing a facemask and rubber gloves."

A Dip in the Economy

"Hi, Darren. How are you coping with the lock down?"

"Not well, Sam. The place is like a ghost town, all the restaurants and theatres closed, streets almost deserted, the few people who are about looking at each other with suspicion. I was coming up behind a fellow yesterday when he suddenly became aware of me and darted straight across the road. Nearly got run over but seemed to think that was the better option."

"I'm guessing this situation is having a serious impact on your income?"

"Abysmal, Sam. Only took home twenty quid last week. I've even started to scrutinise the pavements for dropped coins but I've only picked up five pence."

"Darren, that's really tough. I've heard the government is introducing measures to support the self-employed, why don't you see if you can get some help?"

"Tried it, Sam, useless. They just say there is no eligible category for pick-pockets."

Both stories by Shirley Deering

To pick up on the latest situation on our evening meetings or outings please
visit our website at:
www.chelmsfordntgroup.org.uk

Data Protection Act 2018.

Chelmsford & District NT Supporter Group will hold essential details (name, address, telephone number and e-mail) for newsletter distribution, outings and membership. **No information is transmitted to any third party.** If you no longer wish to receive the Newsletter and Outings information please let Colin Jay know by letter or email.

Large print copies of the Newsletter are available by contacting Paul Chaplin at 11 Mace Walk, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 2GE. Tel: 01245 260113.
Paulchaplin@talktalk.net

The Next C&D NT SG Holiday has been provisionally booked and is centred on **Caernarfon** North Wales from Monday 20th September to Friday 24th September 2021.

Chelmsford & District National Trust Centre - to prosper the work of National Trust which is a registered charity, number 205846



**Chelmsford & District NT Supporter Group
Response Form**

Your Name _____ Phone Number _____

Partners/Spouses Name (if applicable)

Address _____

e-mail: _____

I/We would like our deposit(s) to be donated to C&D NT SG funds.	
I/we would like all but £5.00 deposit(s) returned to me/us. The £5 going to C&D NT SG funds.	
I/We would like total amount of my/our refund returned	
I/We would like to receive the Newsletter by e-mail in future	
I/We would prefer to receive the Newsletter by post in future	
I/We have the following comments/contribution(s)	

Signed _____

Date: _____

Please return to: Paul Chaplin, 11 Mace Walk, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 2GE
Or email to: paulchaplin@talktalk.net
Or phone: 01245 260113