

# Newport local history group



**ANTHONY TUCK,  
CHAIRMAN**

In a summer which will long be remembered for once-in-a-lifetime events - the Diamond Jubilee, the Olympic Torch procession, and the Games themselves - and for once-in-a-lifetime wet weather, the Group did not organise its usual programme of excursions. We had a visit to the Whitechapel Bell Foundry, but because we had to book up nearly a year in advance we later discovered that the visit would coincide with the Olympic Torch procession through the village. This was disappointing, but the visit itself was well worth while. The Foundry has cast bells for churches and other institutions all over the world, and it combines the industrial process of casting with the delicate task of tuning each bell. It also produces sets of hand bells.

Over the weekend of September 8th-9th we held an exhibition in the village hall, consisting in large part of the photographs, artefacts and other memorabilia from Terry Searle's collection, which had not been on display to the public for several years. Saffron Walden Museum also lent us some exhibits with a Newport provenance, and we are very grateful to the Curator, Carolyn Wingfield, for her help. Over the two days about 200 people visited the exhibition and also took the opportunity to visit the Grammar School Library, which was opened especially for the occasion to show some of the material from the school archives. Our thanks go to Mary Wilcox, Assistant Headteacher and to Keith Huddleston,

Honorary Secretary of the Old Newportonian Society, for their help in arranging this. The weekend was the first time Newport had participated in the annual Heritage Open Days festival, the largest heritage event of its kind in the country, which attracts over a million visitors nationwide each year.

In September we had a talk from Malcolm White, formerly Town Clerk of Saffron Walden, on the place names of Saffron Walden. He included some Newport place names, and gave us an interesting insight into the way in which names for new roads and features are chosen: something to be borne in mind, perhaps, if there is substantial development in Newport. In October David Sherlock is returning to Newport to talk about the conservation of Prior's Hall Barn, Widdington, and at the end of November Rachel Clarke, from Oxford Archaeology East, will talk about Tilty Abbey, near Dunmow. We hope to arrange a visit to what remains of the Abbey sometime before the talk.

We have arranged a full programme of talks for 2013, which appears in the panel on this page. The talk in October 2013, by members of the Newport Victoria County History Group, will give members and visitors a chance to hear about some of the work the Group has been doing, and particularly the light they have thrown on some of the most interesting people from Newport's past. Much of the VCH project is approaching completion, and by the end of the year we hope that the process of editing will be under way. **NN**

## Programme of Meetings for 2013

**Thursday 31 January.** Georgina Green: Dick Turpin.

**Thursday 28 February.** Iain Stevenson: Postal Services in the Newport area from 18th century to present day.

**Thursday 21 March.** Liz Allan: Saffron Walden in the 15th and 16th centuries.

**Thursday 19 September.** Maria Medlycott: Historic Landscapes and Settlements in Uttlesford.

**Thursday 24 October.** Members of the Newport Victoria County History Group: New Light on Newport's History.

**Thursday 21 November.** Vic Gray: "My Darling Daisy" - The Countess of Warwick and her circle.

**All meetings are at 8.00pm in Church House.**

**Admission is £2, but free to members.**

**Please contact Anthony Tuck, telephone 543833 for further information.**

[www.chandlerhair.co.uk](http://www.chandlerhair.co.uk)

**HAIR AT SPARROWS HILL LIVERY, NEWPORT,  
SAFFRON WALDEN, ESSEX, CB11 3TU**

**SIMON CHANDLER 07732 461953  
chandler354@btinternet.com**