

HARDINGSTONE SOCIAL CLUB ANNUAL REPORT

I would like to begin with a thankyou to the Hardingstone Parish Council for their generous grant which has allowed us to continue. Also thankyou to the Committee for their work.

In April 2023 Geoff Lambert came to talk about the amazing work of the Medical Detection Dogs. This was followed in May by Colin Rowe showing us the romantic Orient Express and its journey across Europe. Ruth Thomas returned to us in June to talk about Entertainment in Northampton from 1850 to 1970. This included tales about music halls, theatres, dance halls, cinemas and pubs. There is no meeting in July, August saw us being entertained by the Rev Martin Swan who gave us insights into the behind-the-scenes personal protection service in his Time with the American Government. We all were fascinated by the skill, patience and artistry of Lucy Swales in her work with Madame Tussauds creating such life like heads of famous people and the processes of making the whole figure. October was when Paul Howard, a freelance photographer, came to explain his Story behind the Photo Story published in both local and national press. November found us examining Medieval Arms and Armour brought along by reenactor Corin Brearley. He impressed us with his knowledge, enthusiasm and ability to wear and wield his personal collection of reproduction gear.

Our Christmas celebration this year was a delicious meal from GJ Catering followed by excellent entertainment from the Hardingstone Players. In January we had a fun social evening organised by Nigel Ancil with a quiz and wine tasting. Paul Howard returned to us to talk about How I Became a Photographer, a story of skill, luck and good opportunities. In March we benefitted from the long, careful research into Victorian Asylums by Cathy Smith. It showed us the journey attitudes have taken in how we see and deal with mental health issues. Owen Jones came to talk to us about his personal voyage to Losing My Addiction to drink. May will see us looking forward to hearing Graham Evans from the Battlefields Society explaining and recounting the Battle of Northampton.

It has been a successful year with varied speakers and social events. We are pleased to welcome six new members and would like to encourage more people to join us on the first Tuesday of the month going forward.

Regards, Lynn Kitchen (chairman)

