

# Outreach

The newsletter of the Friends of The National Archives

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## Update on incorporation

Tony Wakeford reports on progress made so far.

Time slips by very quickly and it is now several months since I wrote to all members outlining the trustees' intention to incorporate the charity and become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). We held several meetings to explain the rationale and had discussions with several members, although the overall response was limited. However, those who responded were all positive and supportive of the proposed change.

We are in no hurry, preferring to adopt a methodical approach without setting unrealistic deadlines. There is a lot to consider, not least approving a new constitution. In many ways, this is an ideal opportunity as the current constitution is 30-years old and has been revised and updated several times over the years. The requirement for a new document has given us the chance to consider how it can be more effective in meeting the current needs, responsibilities and obligations of the Charity.

I have spoken to numerous colleagues in the charity sector who were all pleased that they had taken the step to incorporate, 'converting' from an unincorporated association status. However, they were unanimous in their frustration over the work involved, and its complexity, to convert an existing charity.

Through our membership of the Small Charities Coalition, the Wise Owl Partnership (WOP) was recommended to us to assist with the application process to the Charity Commission. We appointed them in January to undertake

the application process on our behalf. The WOP provides services for small charities and is conversant with the incorporation application process. Despite our thirty years we have to go back to square one and apply as a new charity. Hopefully, this might be read by someone in the Charity Commission and conclude there must be a simpler and more effective means of upgrading charities seeking the benefits and advantages of incorporation.

Although the trustees have the power within the current constitution to set up a new charitable body, it requires the members to agree to dissolve the current charity and transfer all assets and liabilities to the new charity. I have said there is no hurry but for neatness and keeping costs to a minimum we hope to be in a position to send out ballot papers, to vote on dissolving the Charity, with the AGM notice and papers in early May. A copy of the new constitution will also be included together with a form to indicate your agreement to support the new incorporated charity and become a member.

We are in discussion with WOP about constitutionally transferring members to the new charity. There are conditions set in law for becoming a member of a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Each member has to affirm a willingness to support the charity in some way. The law does not stipulate how this should be achieved, leaving it for the member to decide. However, there are numerous ways in which members, within their capacity to assist, can provide support. It need not necessarily be time consuming

## Recruiting and Information Desk



Howard and his team have had a facelift with a newly fitted red table cover. It looks very smart and is now hard not to notice!

such as volunteering to help in the management of the Charity, its governance or activities. It could involve telling friends and colleagues about the work of the Friends, leaving our publications and promotional material at our local library, supporting our events and activities or providing information to share with members in our publications or website. It is all very much open to individual interpretation.

When the papers are circulated in due course your prompt response will be very much appreciated. In the meantime if you have any questions or queries please do get in touch.

**Tony Wakeford**  
[chairman@ftna.org.uk](mailto:chairman@ftna.org.uk)

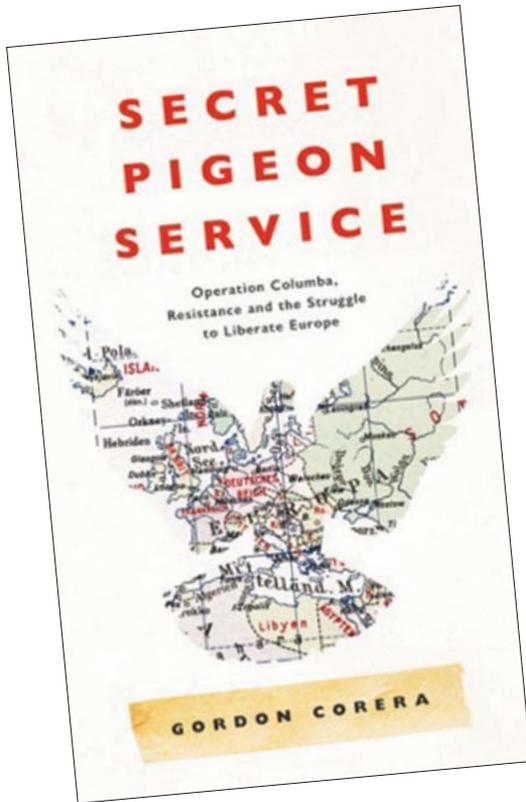
**MEMBERSHIP COUNTER**

1121

## Members' Event

### Join Gordon Corera for a talk and book signing

6pm on Tuesday 5 March in the Event Space (first floor) at TNA.



#### Operation Columba, MI14 (d) and the Secret Pigeon Service

An unusual file in The National Archives – whose cover included a cartoon of Hitler and a pigeon – opened a window into the world of MI14(d). This was a wartime intelligence group that ran Operation Columba – the Secret Pigeon Service – which dropped homing pigeons behind enemy lines in World War II to seek intelligence from ordinary people and resistance groups in Occupied Europe. One of those messages made it all the way to Churchill but led to the death of those behind it. BBC Security Correspondent Gordon Corera will explain the secrets of the Operation and how he discovered them.



**FREE** for members, guests (max two per member) at £5 each (plus Eventbrite booking fee). The £5 is refundable (not the booking fee) if a guest joins to become a member of the Friends at the event.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/operation-columba-mi14-d-and-the-secret-pigeon-service-tickets-56236531981>

## Joint Event with West Sussex Archives Society

### Sussex Military Heritage: Exploring The Royal Sussex Regiment in the Archives 1701 - 1966

Monday 20 May 2019, 10.30am – 4pm, at West Sussex Record Office, Orchard Street, Chichester PO19 1DD.

In partnership with the West Sussex Archives Society we are pleased to present a one day symposium focussing on the collections and research at The National Archives and West Sussex Record Office. Members of both organisations will be able to come together to find out more about the national and local archives, the military history of the county and the rich and varied heritage of the Royal Sussex Regiment.

A series of RSR archives and museum objects will be on display during the day. We will meet at 10.30am for tea/coffee and biscuits before Wendy Walker, County Archivist for West Sussex, introduces the symposium at 10.55am.



Speakers are Dr. Tony Wakeford, chairman of the Friends of The National Archives, on TNA sources for the RSR; Matthew Jones, Assistant County Archivist, on the RSR Archive at West Sussex Record Office and the RSR Heritage Project; Paul Evans, Historical Projects Officer, Army Museums Ogilby Trust, on using military collections and the work of the Trust; Barry Lane, Royal Sussex Regiment Museum

Trust, on the RSR Museum collections.

There will be an hour for lunch. The Chichester Inn and the Crate and Apple pubs are nearby, with restaurants or cafes in the town. There are no lunch facilities at the Record Office.

**Booking opens on 1 March:**

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sussex-military-heritage-tickets-57109416803>

## Paddy Ashdown

### Tony Wakeford reflects on a sad loss

It was with great sadness that I was alerted by text message last December to the news of Paddy Ashdown's death. I had spent a lot of time with Paddy discussing how he could help and promote the Friends. He had finally agreed to fit us into his already busy life and officially joined us in June last year at the AGM. We were looking forward to his contribution and in particular a talk, about his new book, that was scheduled for March.

On behalf of the trustees and members I sent our condolences to his wife Jane and family. I received

a handwritten reply that highlighted Paddy's passion for the Archives and the work that we do in support. He is greatly missed – we have lost a good friend.

For the moment the position of president will remain vacant until the work and procedures around incorporation are complete. We will then seek a candidate who is well known, a regular user of TNA and is well placed to champion our cause. I would welcome suggestions for suitable candidates to consider.

[chairman@ftna.org.uk](mailto:chairman@ftna.org.uk)



## Update on the visits programme

Our visits coordinator Maggie Deighton updates us on the 2019 visits. Please note that the information is still provisional at this stage but there is much to look forward to!

### London - Friday 26 April

Morning tour of Methodist Central Hall and lunch in their cafe  
Afternoon visit to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office

**London:** During the last two weeks of May (date/time to be confirmed)  
Tour of the Reform Club building and visit to the archive

### Windsor - Monday 3 June

Afternoon visit to St George's Chapel and Archives

**London:** During the fourth week in July (date/time to be confirmed)  
Institution of Civil Engineers archive and special exhibition on Joseph Bazalgette

### Leeds - Tuesday 30 July

Morning visit to Marks & Spencer company archive followed by optional walking trail

### London - Friday 23 August

Afternoon visit to the National Theatre archive

### London - Tuesday 10 September

Afternoon visit to the Royal Hospital for Neuro-disability Archive

### London - Monday 30 September

Morning guided visit to Spencer House

## Out & About

We are keen to expand the visits programme but the work involved is too much for one volunteer to reasonably manage. If anyone is interested in organising an additional visit to a venue of their choice then please get in touch to discuss. Maggie would be happy to give some help and guidance to a member who would like to organise a visit. For example, the visit to the M&S archive in Leeds has been kindly organised by Elaine Crosthwaite who suggested this visit and will be able to lead it.

[visits\\_events@ftna.org.uk](mailto:visits_events@ftna.org.uk)



## NEW DATES FOR 2019

**A Friends**  
of The National Archives

**NEXT TOUR IS 1 MAY  
AND THERE ARE PLACES  
STILL AVAILABLE**

Your invitation to see  
behind the scenes at  
The National Archives

### Come on a guided tour behind the scenes.....

- Explore the vast repositories and see how documents are stored and retrieved.
- Experience cutting-edge preservation work taking place in the Collection Care department.

As a membership benefit you can book a free place on a tour to see the work of The National Archives behind the scenes.

To book email: [FriendsCo-ordinator@p.gov.uk](mailto:FriendsCo-ordinator@p.gov.uk)  
or call +44 (0) 20 8876 3444 ext. 2405

Tours start at 11am and last for approximately two hours.  
They are run twice a year on:

- the first Wednesday in May
- the last Friday in September

The maximum group size is 10, and places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.



## CAR PARKING

A reminder that parking charges are now in force.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

### Do you enjoy meeting and helping new people?

If so, and you can spare some time (on a regular or occasional basis), you could be just the person we need to be part of our team that supplies volunteers to help with various functions at The National Archives.

These include stewarding at conferences, helping with family days and other TNA and Friends events, **and especially helping staff our recruitment / members enquiry stalls (Kew Desk, or the 'pressgang')**. Which kind of activity you wish to be involved in, and how often, is up to you. To find out more about what the team does and how you might fit in please contact Howard at the email address below:

[recruiting@ftna.org.uk](mailto:recruiting@ftna.org.uk)

or drop by at one of our stalls to have a chat. The dates when the team are available can be found under the **Kew Desk Tab** (via Contact Us) on our website.

## EASYFUNDRAISING

We have raised over £2,160 with grateful thanks to the 63 members who subscribe to this scheme. Please join us and help to raise even more funds to help support projects and activities at The National Archives.

Go to [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) and create an account. Select the Friends as your charity. When you shop online go via easyfundraising who will link you to the online retailer of your choice (there are over 2000 of them!). When you have completed your purchase in the usual way, the retailer will make a donation to easyfundraising (usually between 1 and 6 per cent of the purchase price).

**A Friends**  
of The National Archives

**Friends of The National Archives.**  
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The Friends of The National Archives is a registered charity (number 328630), established in 1988.