



## WINTER 2014

### New Year, New Programme

Happy 2014! The year has got off to a great start with standing-room only at our first 2014 meeting (Andrew Baxter and the Edge Hill Light Railway) while the archaeology continues to delight and puzzle with each new discovery (see page 2).

We have an almost full programme for the year, with a couple of slots still to fill but a big focus for 2014 will be the WWI centenary. As well as a talk from top author Alan Reed about the Christmas Truce, entitled 'Meet at Dawn, Unarmed', we are aiming to do a project gathering memories and research about family members who were alive during this period. These accounts will be shared at our October meeting and should be put on the group website before the end of the year. We're hoping to involve as many villagers as possible, as well as our members from further afield.

On Sunday July 13th, we are holding our annual archaeology open day at the National Herb Centre. Every year draws a bigger crowd, with last year's event being one of the busiest days in the Centre's history. It would be great to see even more people from Warmington coming along to share this village event. Our programme includes two outings this year. The first, in April, is to Upton House where we will be exploring the untold history of the buildings and grounds. The second, in August, will see us going further afield to St Albans with its fascinating mix of Roman and medieval history.

Membership of the Heritage Group is only £10 a year, with visitors charged £2 a meeting. Unusually we combine active archaeology with local history, outings and research and we have members from four counties! To find out more about the group and its activities visit our website [www.warmingtonheritage.com](http://www.warmingtonheritage.com)



### First World War

During WWI, the Holbech family of Farnborough moved to Warmington Rectory while the Hall was used as a hospital for recovering soldiers. These convalescents could often be seen in Warmington in their bright blue uniforms, having strolled over to visit the shop.

By way of return traffic, Mrs Holbech, Mrs Sally Bennett and several other women from Warmington would cycle over to Farnborough Hall daily to help with the nursing.

Geoffrey Holbech, who still lives at the (now National Trust) property, was born in Warmington Rectory on November 11th 1918 - Armistice Day.

### Upton Visit

The Manor of Upton has changed hands many times over its lifetime with each owner making huge changes – the first of which was to sweep away the settlement. Most recently, the house built in the Palladian style in about 1695, was enlarged for Lord Bearsted in the late 20's and is now presented as a 1930's showcase for his art and porcelain collection.



We will have an opportunity to view the house and remarkable collection of old masters, investigate the site's archaeology and what it reveals about the history of Upton and look at the garden and how it accommodates a 1930's over-lay on its long history.

NT members free; normal charge for non-members. Early expressions of interest will help us put together a programme of walks and talks tailored to the group.

### Contact Details

If you would like to submit an article for the newsletter, or if you think there is something we've missed out please contact Liz and Harriet Newman by phone on 01295 690641 or by email on [alecnewman@btinternet.com](mailto:alecnewman@btinternet.com)

### Dates for your diary

March's meeting of the Heritage Group will be a members' miscellany with items on the Warmington Priory and the changing face of farming. Drinks served from 7.15pm on Monday 10th March.

If you think you will be able to come on our outings to Upton House (12th April) or St Albans (16th August) please let us know well in advance - it does help with planning.

This year WHG will be running an information point about the group at the annual Open Gardens afternoon on Sunday 22nd June.

In the late 1980s, before construction started on the M40, a major rescue excavation was carried out between the B4100 and Northend. Publication of the final report looks set to happen in the next few months - watch this space!

Our website [warmingtonheritage.com](http://warmingtonheritage.com) keeps an up-to-date list of forthcoming events both for the group and other societies further afield. If you have any events you would like publicising please let us know.