



Northampton LAMs NEWSLETTER

Spring Edition September
2018

Newsletter - Number 4

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Visit our Website

<http://www.northampton-lams.org.uk/>

Contact Us

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Important Date for your Diary

AGM May 2nd @
11 30 am

N.B. We need
new committee
members.

Nomination forms
available from
Sandra our
secretary.

Welcome to the 4th Edition of our Newsletter

Dear Members please remember that the aim of this newsletter is to keep everyone informed so please take a copy to those who are unable to attend our coffee mornings and lunches.

A Visit “below stairs” at Audley End House



What a treat we had on a wet October day exploring the workings of this stately home.

Most of us are familiar with life of the aristocracy from books and TV series like **Downton Abbey** and **Victoria**. But maintaining such a lavish life style required a large retinue of servants who worked long hours in the kitchen, laundry, gardens and stables etc.

Our tour began in the kitchen and laundry. Only later did we enter the main house to admire treasures such as Holbein and Canaletto, sit in the sumptuous library and drawing rooms, ending our visit in the Nursery where 8 children were nurtured.

Most of us do not connect domestic servants with our lives today, but we accept Eastern European cleaners /carers and delivery drivers dashing to deliver us takeaway meals; many of them working long hours on minimum wages with limited opportunities to control their own destinies.

If this makes us feel uncomfortable we need to remember that many Victorian servants may have been similarly treated but were better protected by those “upstairs” as they were looked after by their employees who made sure they were well fed and cared for while in their service. How they fared when this ended is debatable!

Get to know

Jackie Stanton

When did you become a Lam?

In the early 80's. I became a committee member & served as Chair & Secretary.

What is your earliest memory?

Driving in my grandparents' car every Sunday on the same outing. I was a bored 6 year old.

What is your guiltiest pleasure?

FOOD! Like lots of my family I love to cook.

When were you happiest?

Finding my husband Colin. We have been married 61 years.

How do you relax?

Music; particularly singing. I was a member of Gilbert & Sullivan for 27 years & loved it.

What makes you angry?

People who are eaten up with jealousy.

What is the most important lesson life has taught you?

Tolerance-accepting people as they are

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR raised £439 50p - Thank you to all

CHRISTMAS LUNCH STANWICK BELL RINGERS



On St Nicholas day (December 6th) we were entertained by the bell ringers. The haunting sound of the bells created the Christmas atmosphere and encouraged us to join in the Carol singing.

Family Lunch January 2018

This took place on Sunday 28th January and was attended by around 60 people comprising of Lams members, their families and guests. After the word of welcome by the Chair, LAMs were asked to stand for a minute silence in recognition of the recent passing of our President Joy Roblin. Gillian Wood said Grace.

The lunch was enjoyed by the Provincial Grand Master RW Bro Max Bayes and his wife Barbara, both of whom strongly support the work of LAMs. After an appetising three course lunch, the toasts were to the Queen, proposed by Sandra Russell and to Family and Friends, proposed by myself. I then gave the Chairs' speech to which my husband W Bro Mike Howells responded.

The raffle raised **£205** and was run by Gillian Wood and Sue Cooper so that many members and friends went home with superb prizes.

On a personal note I think that the afternoon was a huge success and I would like to thank the catering staff and the waiters for doing a grand job throughout the afternoon.

Betty Howells
Chair Person

Sad Farewells

Three of our members have recently passed away.

Joy Roblin Chairman in 1988 and President until 2018. She was an active member until the last years when poor health restricted her support.

Stephanie Stevens (Steph) a loyal supporter with a warm and happy smile.

Zoe Saffil an active members for a number of years until she moved to be near her daughter in Letchworth.

May they rest in peace