

# Hampshire History Network

A ONE-STOP RESOURCE FOR HAMPSHIRE HISTORY & HERITAGE

THERE is little doubt that Hampshire is one of the richest counties in terms of history and heritage.

It was the cradle for the emergence of the English nation. It was a significant part of the country during the middle ages – be it under Norman or Plantagenet. The Southampton-Winchester axis was a key asset. And when continental wars, especially against the French, dominated the country, Portsmouth came into its own.

Whether it is Army, Navy or Air Force, key contributions from the county are numerous. And the Solent has also nurtured a constant stream of ideas – the Schneider Trophy, the Spitfire, the hovercraft, and even the sailboard! On top of all this is a rich fabric of manor, church and village.

It is hardly surprising, therefore, that the county has a multitude of organisations that in one way or other are involved with researching, recording and promoting its history. Each has its aims and objectives, but there is a huge overlap in terms of knowledge, activities, research and enthusiasm.

The Hampshire History Network (HHN) is being set up to facilitate collaboration between these organisations in a way that seeks to maximise networking between them, whilst in no way impinging on their complete independence.

## THE PLAN

At the root of all activities concerned with the past are archives, not only the large public archives, but a huge variety of other archives of all sorts and sizes. Hence the Hampshire Archives Trust (HAT) is taking the initiative to set up the HHN on its own website, [www.hampshirearchivestrust.co.uk](http://www.hampshirearchivestrust.co.uk), which is rapidly becoming a popular first-visit site for enquiries concerning history and heritage in the county.

Initially, the plan is to create a “digital noticeboard”, so that each group can input information on a range of subjects. This is starting with an HHN Calendar of Events throughout the county. It will be possible to access the Calendar on the HAT website, so that the public can find out “What’s On” for given dates, or search for topics of particular interest, or by place.

Once this is up and running, the plan is to extend it to other subject areas. These will be developed in consultation with the organisations that agree to support the HHN, but they are likely to include items such as:

- Publications.
- Research & other projects.
- Membership.
- Queries/requests for information.
- Services
- Speakers

- Grants and fundraising.
- Internet news.

With suitable arrangements, co-hosting of the HHN on sites other than the HAT site may be appropriate in the future.

### **THE CONTRIBUTION REQUIRED FROM SUPPORTING ORGANISATIONS**

At this early stage, the Hampshire Archives Trust is asking for an agreement to:

1. Support the concept of an HHN.
2. Enter copy for the HHN Calendar of Events.
3. Inform its members of the existence and purpose of the HHN.
4. Consult on the development of the HHN and participate in shaping its future.

We believe that all organisations in Hampshire stand to gain from this proposal in terms of a wider reach than any single one of them can achieve.

For further information, please contact:

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