

Deddington & District History Society

Programme 2019/20

*The Society meets at **Deddington Primary School** on the **3rd Thursday in the month**. See programme for details.*

The Society exists to foster interest in the history and archaeology of this area. Our regular talks cover a wide range of topics.

*Meetings (except in June) are at **Deddington Primary School** from 7.30, and all are welcome. Membership for the whole season is £23 for couples, £12.50 singles, or £3.00 at the door. Enquiries to **Barrie Smith, Chairman** 01869 337813 smithinsight@btinternet.com*



The Exhibition/Three Horseshoes Inn, High Street, in 1947. Just after this the roof fell in!

2019

Thur 17th October: **'The Air Transport Auxiliary'** – Bill King

During World War II, huge numbers of planes were produced in factories all over the UK. When finished, they had to be flown to dispersal bases from where they were then sent to their operational bases. Most of this work was done by women, who could not then fly in combat. Bill King, who gave us a fascinating account two years ago of the local defence lines, will once again visit us and tell us more about these very brave women.

Thur 21st Nov: **'Stranger in the House'** – Julie Summers

We are incredibly lucky to be able to welcome the author, broadcaster and historian, Julie Summers. She specialises in the stories of ordinary people, overlooked too often when studying the past. In her talk, she will look at the problems families faced when their menfolk returned at the end of World War II. They had to renew relationships with partners with frightening memories and injuries. This talk will be of interest to a wider audience, so do spread the word!

Thur 19th December: **Christmas Social and Quiz Night**

2020

Thur 16th January: **'Old Mettle'** – Stephen Wass

Old Mettle was the nickname of William Castle a celebrated Banbury 'character' of the first half of the C19th. There are no official records of his life apart from his birth in Adderbury and death, but there is a wealth of contemporary references to show that he made quite an impact on Banbury and Banburyshire. Stephen Wass led members of the Society on a walk around the water gardens of Farnborough House. He is a local historian, archaeologist and a folklorist. He is also an engaging speaker.

Thur 20th February – **"Home of Lost Causes and Forsaken Beliefs? The History of the University of Oxford"** – Chris Day

Chris was the highly regarded chairman of the History Society for many years, and needs no further introduction. We have all admired the college buildings in Oxford, but how many of us know how and why they were established in the first place. Chris has the answers delivered in his inimitable dry style.

Thur 19th March – **"Portrait of a Nobel Laureate: Robert Edwards, the Pioneer of Human IVF"** – Professor Sir Richard Gardner

Sir Robert Edwards, in collaboration with Patrick Steptoe and Jean Purdy, enabled the birth of Louise Brown, the first test tube baby. Richard Gardner worked closely with Edwards, first at Cambridge and later as a Royal Society Professor at Oxford where he studied embryonic stem cells. His pioneering work led to a greater understanding of some of the problems in IVF, the process of cloning, and possible uses of stem cells in regenerative medicine. Now retired, Professor Gardner lives in Deddington.

Thur 16th April: **'What did Granny do in World War I'** – Dan Allen

Dan gave us a rousing talk on soldiers' women, sweethearts and wives two years ago to general acclaim. He returns to talk to us on what were the contributions of women to the war effort in the First World War. Looking at the arithmetic, these women must have grandchildren who are now 70 odd years old, so it will be of real interest to many of our members!

Thur 21st May: **'Alice in Waterland'** – Mark Davies

Mark Davies lives on a canal boat and organises various walking tours around Oxford. Tonight he looks at the river and canal context for Lewis Carroll's Alice stories. If you become interested, he organises an actual walk based on this theme.

18th June: **'Drovers' Roads in Oxfordshire and Beyond'** – Tim Healey

Tim Healey is a freelance writer and broadcaster who has presented many programmes on BBC Radio 3 and Radio 4. A frequent contributor to the *Oxford Times*, he also directs the 17th-century costume band The Oxford Waits with whom he appears in period attire. While researching material for the group's shows Tim developed an abiding interest in the social history of the era. This time he will explore the routes taken by drovers taking their herds considerable distances from their grazing grounds to cities and towns to be sold or milked.

July (date to be arranged): **Trip to Hook Norton Brewery**

This is our nearest traditional brewery which still uses old technology to produce a variety of pretty mean pints. Tours are available in the afternoons (Seniors £12 others £15) or in the evening by special arrangement at £20. While it would be good to have a Society party, this might encourage members to see for themselves.

Summer Break