

Deddington and District History Society

Programme for 2023-24



2023

Thurs 19th October

Vaughan Jones: Why did Russia invade Ukraine?

Vaughan has visited Ukraine many times. He was there before the invasion began, to promote his English language textbooks and has been there since the invasion for humanitarian purposes, so he will be able to speak with first hand knowledge.

Thurs 16th November

Rowena Archer: The Rise and Rise of Alice Chaucer, Duchess of Suffolk (d. 1475)

Alice Chaucer was born a commoner, married three times and died a wealthy and powerful woman. The speaker, Dr Archer, is an Oxford academic who has increasingly specialised in wealthy aristocratic women in the late medieval period.

Thurs 21st December

Simon Wenham: James Murray and the OED

Simon, who lectures at Oxford University Dept of Continuing Education, will tell us about the trials and tribulations behind the creation of the Oxford English Dictionary first edited by James Murray.

2024

Thurs 18th January

Jo Eames: Major-General Hobart

Why has the name of unsung war hero Major-General Hobart been given to Hobart Way off the Hempton Road, Deddington?

Jo, who is an author and former solicitor, will tell us, basing her talk on an unexpected personal discovery.

Thurs 15th February

Martin Buckland: Canal People

There are very many who can be described as 'Canal People' including ancient Egyptian canal builders, civil engineers and navvies of the Industrial Revolution. Martin will look at how canals affected a large number of people.

Thurs 21st March

Melanie King: Can Onions Cure Headaches?

Find out about medical advice from the 1700's.

Melanie is an established historian of unusual aspects of British life, including spas, hot drinks and dyeing. She will almost certainly bring along some of her books, including the one on which her talk is based.

Thurs 18th April

Stephen Barker: Soldiers, Saints and Sinners of the Civil War in Oxfordshire

Stephen is a military historian particularly interested in Oxfordshire. He has already given us a talk on the Battle of Cropredy Bridge and this time he will tell us more about some of the people involved in the Civil War (1642-46) from both sides.

Thurs 16th May

Sheila Allcock: Homes Fit for Heroes?

Sheila is an amateur local historian. Her talk is about the hundred year history of council houses in the country concentrating on the Oxford area. It will be based on personal experience and research.

Thurs 20th June

Stephen Wass: Voyages to the House of Diversion, 17th Century Water Gardens and the Birth of Modern Science.

Stephen's talk is based on 'The History and Archaeology of the Park and Gardens of Hanwell Castle.' He is a landscape archaeologist who has explored the development of the grounds of 'big houses' through time. A few years ago, he led us on a walk round the water gardens of Farnborough Hall.

The Deddington & District History Society exists to foster interest in the history and archaeology of this area.

Meetings take place in ***Deddington Primary School at 7.30pm on the 3rd Thursday of the month*** from October to June and all are welcome.

Membership for the season is £34 for couples, £18 for singles or £4.50 at the door for non-members.

Enquiries to Jean Dipper, Secretary (email jean.dipper@btinternet.com)

