

Deddington and District History Society

Programme for 2025-26



Philcote Street

Deddington Online Gallery

2025

Thurs 9th October

Katherine Bradley: **Creative Women - the history of women involved in the Arts and Crafts Movement in Oxfordshire and the Cotswolds (including Jane and May Morris)**

This talk will focus on the multi-talented women who contributed to the Arts and Crafts Movement which flourished between 1880 and 1920, including William Morris's daughter the embroiderer and designer May Morris.

Thurs 13th November

Shaun Todd: **The history of afternoon tea and its etiquette**

Shaun will tell us about the different types of afternoon tea and the utensils used from the early days - but how should you hold the cup and should you pour the milk in first or the tea? Perhaps we will find out and why.

Thurs 11th December

Simon Wenham: **More than three men in a boat: the rise and fall of pleasure boating on the Thames**

The late Victorian period is often described as the 'golden age of the Thames'. It was the era of steam launch trips, Venetian fairs, regattas, picnics, carnivals and the novel 'Three Men in a Boat'. This talk covers more than 150 years of pleasure boating and shows why some common perceptions about the river's history are misleading.

2026

Thurs 8th January

Marie-Louise Kerr: **The Romans of Oxfordshire: Roman settlement and impact in the local area**

Marie-Louise is an experienced museum curator caring for a wide variety of collections. This talk covers the Roman invasion of Britain, life before and after the Romans arrived, and examples of Roman remains, archaeological finds, and sites of Roman occupation in Oxfordshire.

Thurs 12th February

Trevor Jackson: RAF Brize Norton - Over 80 years of flying operations

Trevor Jackson has served 29 years in the RAF and has a great insight into the workings of RAF Brize Norton. He will cover events from the base's early days in 1937, through World War II and the Cold War, up to and including current-day conflicts.

Thurs 12th March

Christopher Hotten: The Man who Saved England: James Lees-Milne

James Henry Lees-Milne (1908 -1997) was an English writer and expert on country houses, who worked for the National Trust from 1936 to 1973. He was an architectural historian, novelist and biographer. It was because of him that Snowhill Manor, Coughton Court, Hidcote and Charlecote are wonderful places we can visit.

Thurs 9th April

Carol Anderson: All that glitters: Woodstock's cut steel industry

Swords, scissors, buckles, buttons and jewellery made in Oxfordshire? Today few people would know that in the 18th century Woodstock was famous for high-quality cut-steel items produced by craftsmen working in the town. This talk will explore the origins, development and eventual demise of this unusual craft and the men who carried it out.

Thurs 14th May

Tim Healey: The Green man Trail in Oxfordshire

We welcome back Tim Healey who is a writer, journalist and broadcaster. Using a wealth of vivid pictures he will be telling us the story behind the mysterious leafy mask seen on our old parish churches, in 18th century garden ornaments and Victorian street architecture.

Thurs 11th June

Alastair Lack: CS Lewis and JRR Tolkien

Alastair Lack is a Green Badge Guide who leads a variety of tours in Oxford combining his knowledge of Town and Gown and enthusiasm for history. His talk on JRR Tolkien and his friendship with C S Lewis may be of particular interest to us as 2026 marks the 70th anniversary of Deddington library being opened by none other than JRR Tolkien.

***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 **2nd Thursday of the month** from October to June and all are welcome.*

Membership for the season is £20 or £5.00 at the door for non-members.

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

Ideas and suggestions for talks and speakers for the 2026-27 season would be welcome.