

STOW & DISTRICT CIVIC SOCIETY

PROGRAMME

2012 – 2013

Thursday, 4th October 2012

“A Cotswold Wool Merchant in Action: John Heritage 1470-1535” – Professor Christopher Dyer

This late 15th / early 16th century Cotswold wool merchant lived in Moreton but did a large amount of his trade in Stow. Our speaker, a professor at Leicester University recently researching this local individual, has gathered a lot of new information about Stow in that period – including Thomas Davies, who paid for the church clock, Thomas Alen, who owned a cup made from a coconut & the quarrels between the people of Stow & the villagers of Mangersbury! We are also pleased to have Stow's own wool weights on display for this talk.

Thursday, 6th December 2012

“Organising the World's Biggest Military Airshow: an Insider's View from Fairford” – Tim Prince

Each year the US Air Force does something in the Cotswolds that it doesn't do anywhere else in the world! It hands over the keys to one of its airbases so that a group of civilians can pitch up & stage one of the biggest & most exciting aviation spectacles on earth. Each airshow takes a year of planning, requires the help of more than 1,500 volunteers & features more than 250 aircraft. How did a once small airshow, first staged in 1971 by a group of aircraft enthusiasts at North Weald airfield, establish itself as the premiere international gathering for air forces from around the globe?

Monday 17th December 2012

Christmas Dinner – “The Old Stocks Hotel”, Stow-on-the-Wold
Speaker: Martin Sirot-Smith – “A Tudor Christmas”

Thursday 7th February 2013

“The Remarkable John Bellamy: the story of a Gloucestershire travelling showman” – Dr Steven Blake

This Gloucestershire-born Victorian travelling showman spent his early years as a servant & also disguised as a Spanish Minstrel! He discovered he had a talent for making & selling models of local buildings gaining commissions from the local gentry (including the Pittville Pump Room in Cheltenham) & ultimately enjoying Royal patronage - going on to build a model of Windsor Castle which took him 10 years to finish. As his collection grew he covered thousands of miles taking his exhibition to almost every sizeable town in England, Scotland & Wales. Come & hear more about this remarkable man!

Thursday 4th April 2013

“Coaching Inns & Traffic in Georgian Gloucestershire” – Dr. Nicholas Herbert

The importance of Stow as a centre for trade & travel is plain to see as it sits at the junction of six travel routes. Our speaker will explain the importance of road transport for communities, what we might have encountered on the local roads of the period & take us round the many coaching inns where it was busy, noisy & uninterrupted sleep was almost impossible.

Monday 13th May 2013

Organised Trip – “Outing to Broughton Castle, nr. Banbury” – enjoy a fully guided tour conducted by one of the family of this fascinating Castle, historic house and home of the Fiennes family.

Thursday 6th June 2013 – AGM

“Chedworth Roman Villa: Rediscovered” – Susie Scott

Have you been to Chedworth recently? You might be surprised at some of the new discoveries made & exciting developments taking place both on-site & behind the scenes there. Our speaker from the Roman Villa will reveal just what has been going on.

Wednesday 10th July 2013

Organised Trip – “The Lord Leycester Hospital, Warwick” - a fascinating guided tour by the Master of this historic group of timber-framed buildings & garden. This is a medieval treasure in the heart of Warwick.

All Meetings in the Baptist Church Rooms, Stow: 7.15 p.m. for 7.30 p.m.

www.stowcivicsociety.co.uk