

STOW & DISTRICT CIVIC SOCIETY

PROGRAMME

2013 – 2014

Friday, 4th October 2013

“The Transformation of Great Witley Church” – Howard Robinson

The present Great Witley Church started its life in 1735 as a plain yet imposing version of a late Baroque Church with little or no decoration. 12 years later the Church began to change from a caterpillar into a beautiful butterfly – one of the most astonishing interior transformations of a church anywhere in the country. Our speaker is an enthusiastic steward & guide at Great Witley Church & we are very pleased to have the chance to visit the Church ourselves in Spring 2014.

Friday, 6th December 2013

“The Renaissance of the Cotswold Canals” – Mrs. Elizabeth Payne

A brief history of the Cotswold Canals – the 36 mile long waterway which links England’s two great rivers, The Severn and The Thames – from its 19th century heyday to 20th century decline. Our speaker is Vice-Chairman of the Cotswolds Canals Trust – formed in 1972 and working during the last 41 years to halt this decline. We will discover how a recent Heritage Lottery Grant has made a huge difference to the pace of restoration.

January 2014 – date & venue to be advised - ***“New Year” Dinner***

Friday, 7th February 2014

“Leading to Love – Private Theatricals at Blenheim & other Oxfordshire country houses in the Golden era of Georgian theatricals in the late 18th century” – Allan Ledger

This is the story of a love affair at Blenheim Palace between an Oxford vicar and the 4th Duke of Marlborough’s daughter, Lady Charlotte Spencer. It became a cause célèbre and led to Lady Charlotte being no longer welcome at the Palace.

Friday, 25th April 2014

“Greyfriars, Leicester and the Search for Richard III” – Dr. Richard Buckley

In August & September 2012 a team of archaeologists from the University of Leicester set out to search for the final resting place of Richard III in a car park in central Leicester. Against all the odds, the project proved to be successful in locating a potential candidate to be the king - & his identity was subsequently confirmed beyond reasonable doubt after an extensive programme of scientific analysis, generating huge press interest from all around the world. We are delighted to welcome our speaker, lead archaeologist from the University on the “Search for Richard” project; he will tell us just how events unfolded!

Thursday 22nd May 2014

Organised Trip - Outing to Witley Court and Great Witley Church nr. Worcester

Friday, 6th June 2014 – A.G.M. -

“Hidcote back to Lawrence Johnston” – Andrew Hunt

Who better than Hidcote Manor Garden’s own Head Gardener to take us through its history & development – growing from a field high up on a Cotswold escarpment into one of the country’s most influential 20th century gardens which is particularly well known for its colourful & intricately-designed ‘outdoor rooms.’ (Private evening tour of the garden also arranged.)

Tuesday, 15th July 2014

Organised Trip – Outing to Frampton Court & Garden, nr. Frampton on Severn

Wednesday, 17th September 2014

Organised Trip – Outing to The National Memorial Arboretum, Staffordshire
