

STOW & DISTRICT CIVIC SOCIETY

PROGRAMME 2014 – 2015

Friday, 3rd October 2014

“Meet at Dawn, Unarmed” – Andrew Hamilton

Captain Robert Hamilton served with the Royal Warwickshire Regiment in the first months of the Great War and our speaker will tell his grandfather’s account of his experiences. It is a graphic account of a new type of warfare - its dangers, discomforts, all-pervasive mud and tragic losses yet it also interweaves many examples of the humour, comradeship and loyalty of fellow soldiers faced constantly by adversity. The highlight of the talk is Captain Hamilton’s account of his instigation of the iconic Christmas Truce described in his diary as “A Day Unique in the History of the World.” The RSC’s winter production is “The Christmas Truce” which is using material from Andrew and he will also explain his participation in a special “Songs of Praise” programme on the Truce taking place at the 1914 location.

Friday, 24th October 2014 - ***“Annual Lunch”- The Mill House Hotel, Kingham***

Friday, 5th December 2014

“Lord Nuffield and the birth of the Motor Industry” – Robert Harris

After leaving school at 15 and working in Oxford as a repairer and maker of bicycles, this is the story of William Morris, later Lord Nuffield, who at one time was Britain’s richest self-made man. Owner and creator of his company Morris Motors Ltd., from his first Morris Oxford of 1913 to the post-war Morris Minor, his Morris and MG cars were known around the world. But this is also the story of Britain’s greatest ever philanthropist who despite his enormous wealth couldn’t have had a more modest lifestyle and who gave away £30 million of his fortune (£700 million in today’s money) to further medical research.

Friday, 6th February 2015

“How old is your House?” – Paul Clark

Just how do you set about trying to date a building? And have you ever wondered what secrets the buildings surrounding us in Stow have to reveal? Our speaker, architectural historian and Chairman of the Oxfordshire Buildings Record, is particularly fond of buildings in the Cotswolds and we are delighted he will be illustrating his talk with examples of cottages and houses from Stow itself and our local area which he has very recently researched.

Wednesday 7th Match 2015 – *Theatre trip, Cheltenham - 12 Angry Men*

Friday, 27th March 2015

“The original Brideshead – a history of Madresfield” – Brian Jauncey

Madresfield Court, hidden away on a 5,000 acre estate of the foot of the Malvern Hills, is the ancestral home of the Lygon family, occupiers of this 12th century moated house for a thousand years. The Lygon line provided the Earls of Beauchamp and in the 1920’s the family famously befriended the novelist Evelyn Waugh; their story, thinly disguised, proved a source of inspiration for his novel “Brideshead Revisited.” Our speaker is a current guide at Madresfield who can tell us the history both of its colourful characters and the sumptuous interior decorations contained in this treasure-house of 160 rooms.

Tuesday, 12th May 2015

Organised Trip - Outing to Worcester Cathedral & Madresfield Court, Worcestershire

Friday, 5th June 2015 – *A.G.M. – please note this starts at 7 p.m. followed at 7.30 p.m. by:-*

“Barley, Beer and Barrels” – Martin Way

This is a potted look at the ‘mystery’ of brewing and covers the brewing of beer from harvesting the hops through to the Coopers craft and the unique tools of his trade. Our speaker uses references to our own local breweries and will bring various items and artefacts to illustrate his talk.

Wednesday 16th July 2015 – *Theatre trip, Cheltenham - Absent Friends*

Thursday 17th September 2015

Organised Trip – Outing to Bath.