

STOW & DISTRICT CIVIC SOCIETY

PROGRAMME 2016 – 2017

Wednesday 14th September 2016 – Theatre trip, Malvern - Blood Brothers

Tuesday, 27th September, 2016 – Organised Visit - Outing to Slimbridge Wetland Centre

Friday, 7th October 2016– Open Talk, St. Edward's Hall

“Treading enchanted ground – celebrating Shakespeare’s birthday in Stratford-upon-Avon” – Sylvia Morris
Stratford’s annual celebrations of Shakespeare’s birthday on 23 April are famous the world over. So, to mark the special 400th anniversary year of Shakespeare’s death we’re delighted to welcome our speaker who will explain their beginnings, when David Garrick overwhelmed the small town with his 3-day extravaganza, through the royal opening of the 1932 theatre and the grand quartercentenary in 1964, and on to modern day celebrations when local people had to meet the challenge of retaining traditions while meeting new expectations worldwide.

Tuesday, 22nd November 2016 - Autumn Lunch - Wyck Hill House Hotel, near Stow

Speaker: James Houghton: Artist in Residence 2014 for HM The Queen at Windsor Castle; official artist London 2012 Olympics

Friday, 25th November 2016– Open Talk, St. Edward's Hall

“Who was John the Muffin Man?” and “Researching the ‘old man’” – Dr. Steven Blake

Our talk tries to unravel the stories behind two celebrated but elusive 19th century Cheltenham characters – one human and the other made of zinc! The first: a diminutive itinerant muffin seller who, remarkably, was the subject of a large number of small, anonymous watercolour portraits. Why were they painted – and who for? The second: the zinc chimney sweep’s trade sign that once hung outside a house in Cheltenham and is now a favourite exhibit in the Wilson Gallery. Who made it and what is known about the generations of chimney sweeps who lived in the house from the 1820’s to 1950’s?

Friday, 3rd February 2017– Open Talk, St. Edward's Hall

“The Howse that was so Fayre – discovering Old Campden House” – Mary Gray

In 1612 Sir Baptist Hicks, one of the richest men in England, began building his fabulous Jacobean House and Italianate renaissance gardens just down the road from us in Chipping Campden. What transpired was a story of immense wealth and ingenuity, drama, war and ultimately destruction. This talk tells the story of one of the most enigmatic houses of the 17th century, a house that existed for a very brief time, that left few contemporary records and no images, yet which has left an indelible mark on the town of Chipping Campden. Our speaker uncovers this remarkable story.

Friday, 7th April 2017 – Open Talk, St. Edward's Hall

“Storm and Spear – flying the Tornado and describing the Javelin” – Michael Napier

After joining the RAF our speaker spent 9 years flying Tornado strike/attack aircraft from RAF Bruggen; his career spanned the last days of the Cold War and beginning of operations over Iraq after the Gulf War. Michael will give an exciting illustrated talk about his own flying experiences, from routine squadron life in Germany during the Cold War, through ultra-realistic exercises in the USA and operations over Iraq culminating in carrying out laser-guided attacks on military targets. He’ll then tell the story of the Gloster Javelin, a fascinating plane from the mid-1950’s, which pioneered the use of air-to-air missiles and air-to-air refuelling; like the Tornado 30 years later, the Javelin formed Britain’s front line in the Cold War but was used operationally in a conflict far away from these shores.

Friday, 21st April 2017 – Spring Quiz – St. Edward's Hall

Mid-May 2017 – Organised Visit - Outing to Old Campden House and Chipping Campden

Friday, 2nd June 2017 – Open Talk & AGM , St. Edward's Hall please note this starts at 7.30 p.m. followed at 8.00 p.m. by:-

“Who do the English think they are?” – Derek Taylor

What makes the English so English? Where does English national identity come from? And are the English as special as they sometimes imagine? We’re delighted that local historian, journalist and Civic Society committee member, Derek Taylor, will take us on a journey to discover the history of English national identity from the Angle-Saxons to the present day. And how topical a subject this will be – following the Brexit Referendum vote!

Early/mid- July 2017 – Organised Visit – Outing to Chavenage House, near Tetbury

*** Regular theatre trips throughout the year – dates to be advised ***

All Meetings in St. Edward's Hall, Stow: 7.00 p.m. for 7.30 p.m. start
www.stowcivicsociety.co.uk