

STOW & DISTRICT CIVIC SOCIETY

PROGRAMME

2017 – 2018

Friday, 6th October 2017

“King of all Balloons. James Sadler: Oxford pastry cook and first English aeronaut” – Mark Davies

In 1784 Oxford pastry cook James Sadler became the unlikely first Englishman ever to fly. He continued to make balloon ascents for another 30 years whilst applying his design genius as the Navy’s official Chemist during the Napoleonic Wars. His son Windham also made the first ascent ever seen at Cheltenham, in 1813, at the age of only 17. The adventurous lives of both men constitute a courageous and inventive – but ultimately tragic and little-appreciated – early chapter in the history of aviation as told by local Oxford historian, Mark Davies.

Friday, 10th November 2017 - “Autumn Lunch”- Wyck Hill House Hotel, nr Stow

Speaker: Dan Szor – Founder and CEO of The Cotswolds Distillery

Friday, 24th November 2017

“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 Anglo-Saxons to the present day. And how topical a subject this will be – following the recent Brexit Referendum vote!

Friday, 2nd February 2018

“Medieval Coinage of the Cotswolds” – Roger Box

Come and enjoy a whistle-stop coin tour of the Cotswolds from early medieval times through to the Civil War with retired forensic archaeologist, numismatist and war crimes investigator, Roger Box. Examples of local rarities will be detailed with local discoveries ranging from the King Alfred penny to the Western-sub-Edge Civil War coin hoard, silver pennies from Gloucester, Bath, Malmesbury and Winchcombe as well as the specially minted ‘Stow tokens’ and through light-hearted anecdotes we will discover the story of local coins – both lost and found! Roger will also be happy to look at any coins members may wish to bring along with them in person on the night.

Friday, 6th April 2018

“Lady Lucy Houston DBE” – Miles Macnair

This is the story of the beautiful, eccentric and deeply patriotic Lady Lucy Houston DBE. In the early 1930’s, when the RAF was struggling for its very existence because of the government’s disarmament policies, this lady’s generosity allowed Reginald Mitchell to develop the iconic Spitfire fighter just in time for the Battle of Britain. Her own incredible life story, however, was also one of great tragedy and romance. Whilst studying for a science degree at Oxford, our speaker flew as a Pilot Officer with the University Air Squadron where he won the aerobatic competition and developed a life-long interest in aircraft design and his talk will coincide with the 100th anniversary of the RAF.

Friday, 20th April 2018 – Spring Quiz – St. Edward’s Hall

May 2018 – Organised Visit - Outing to Old Campden House and Chipping Campden

Friday, 1st June 2018 – A.G.M. – please note this starts at 7.30 p.m. followed at 8.00 p.m. by:-

“The Sherborne Princesses” – Dr. Diane Lovell

Did you know that two princesses, a daughter and grand-daughter of Lord Sherborne, grew up on the Sherborne estate in the late 18th and early 19th centuries? The drama-filled lives of these Russian princesses could be a soap opera! Bitter lawsuits between family members, mental illness, sudden deaths, fleeing from Napoleon’s armies and assassination of the Czar are just some of the events of the lives of both women who are buried and portrayed in a monument in Sherborne Church. We’re delighted that American history professor Dr. Diane Lovell, whose year is divided between Cotswold life at Sherborne and lecturing in the USA, will share her local research with us.

July 2018 – Organised Visit – Outing to Berkeley Castle

***** 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