

HISTORY IN THE VALE – Newsletter 1

Events taking place **1st May – 31st October** 2024

Here is all the information we (at Vale & Downland Museum) have received from local history societies, village museums and archivists, who were invited to a second 'History in the Vale' meeting in Wantage on March 20th.

We continue to anticipate production of two editions per year of this Newsletter.

East Hendred Heritage Trust

Hendred Museum at Champs Chapel, Chapel Square, East Hendred has reopened its doors for the 2024 season. It will be open to visitors every Saturday and Sunday afternoon, 2.30 – 4.30, until the end of October.

Come and visit our **current exhibition** from the series "The Street where you live" which features St Mary's Road. This exhibition looks at the history of events and the lives of the people who have lived there over the last 150 years. It contains some fascinating information and is well worth a visit.

The historic building which is home to the Hendred Museum is a small stone chapel which dates from 1453 when a group of Carthusian monks from the monastery of Jesus of Bethlehem at Sheen in Surrey arrived in the village. The building alone is worth a visit without seeing the artefacts and collection of photographs that the museum cares for, which relates to the village of East Hendred and the surrounding area. Hendred Museum is one of the smallest accredited museums in the country.

This year the museum trustees are organising their bi-annual fundraising **Open Gardens** event on **Sunday 9th June**, 11.00 – 5.00, where 20 village gardens are open to the public. This event enables the many to see what normally only the few will see - what lies behind the garden wall! Afternoon tea will be available from Hendred House, and the pubs will be open for lunch.

St Augustine of Canterbury's faceless clock is one of the oldest working tower clocks in the country. In 2025 the clock will have been marking time in East Hendred for 500 years. The clock was designed and installed by renowned clockmaker John Seymour of Wantage in 1525. It sits in a small room up in the bell tower with an equally precious large mechanical music box known as a carillon. The original mechanisms in both the clock and the carillon are still intact and until 2015 were working until the carillon broke and the clock stopped working. After extensive restoration which it is hoped will be finished in time for its 500th anniversary St Augustine's clock will again be alive and ticking! The clock rings out the hour using the tenor bell and the quarters using the treble and 2nd bell. It also sounds out canonical time at 3.00, 6.00, 9.00 and 12.00. After the canonical hour has been chimed it uses all six bells to play the 'Angels Song' by Orlando Gibbons. St Augustine's Church and Clock Tower will be open to the public for tours as part of the Open Gardens Day on 9/6/24.

Grove Garden & Local History Club

May 11th - **Annual Plant Sale**, Grove Village Hall from 10am to 12 noon

May 22nd - **'Wharfs, Wheelhouses and Watermen - The History of Hobbs of Henley'** - talk starts at 8pm

June 5th - **Garden Visit** - Lime Close, Drayton - 2pm - Private 1.5 hour tour of the gardens.

August 28th - **'Gardening in the 2020's'** - talk starts 8pm

September 7th - **Summer Show** - Old Mill Hall, School Lane from 2pm to 3.45pm

September 25th - **'History of Brewing in Oxford'** - talk starts at 8pm

October 23rd - (NB earlier start time of 7.30pm) - AGM followed by **'Green Therapy - The Creation of a Community Garden'** - Talk by head gardener of

Parkinsons.Me garden at West Lockinge

November 27th **'How the English Fell in Love with Tea'** - talk starts at 8pm

Our evening meetings are held in Grove Village Hall in Grove Main Street, OX12 7JY.

Doors open 7.30 pm, for the speaker at 8.00pm.

Members' entry fee is just £2.50 (unless stated)

Visitors very welcome – just pay £5 at the door.

Free refreshments and raffle around 9.15

Annual Membership is £10 and you can join at any time at the meetings

Our website is **ggalhc google sites** and follow the Hyperlink
or at sites.google.com/view/grovegardenandlocalhistory/home

Harwell Parish History Group

Our meetings are held on Wed at 7.30 pm in the Charry Hall at the front section of Harwell Village Hall. Cost is £3 for non members payable on the door & free to members.(Cost £12 pa)

Our next meetings are

Wed May 15th **Capability Brown at Radley – a landscape rediscovered** - speaker Clare Sargent

Wed Sept 18th – **Trench Humour in the First World War** – speaker Stephen Barker

Wed 16th Oct - **English style bells & bell ringing (historical development)** – speaker John Harrison.

We do not hold meetings in June, July or Aug but do issue a mini mag on relevant anniversaries /subjects to our members.

Oxford Family History Society

All OFHS meetings take place on a Monday evening. Some are online (Zoom) only and open, free to members of the Society. The others take place in Exeter Hall, Kidlington and simultaneously streamed online.

May 13th - **'Leave No Stone Unturned'** with John Vigar. Online, members only. Talk starts at 8pm.

June 10th - **'Ancestors on the Margins'** with Janet Few. Online, members only. Talk starts at 8pm.

June 24th - The Society's **AGM** and talk '**The Great Fire of Warwick**' with Charles Eldridge - Doors open 7:30pm talk follows AGM

July 8th- '**Writing your Family History**' with Gill Blanchard. Online, members only. Talk starts at 8pm.

July 22nd - '**James Sadler - The King of all Balloons**' with Mark Davies - Doors open at Exeter Hall, Kidlington at 7:30pm talk start at 8pm

August 12th - '**The Great War - was nothing learned?**' with Simon Gregor. Online, members only. Talk starts at 8pm.

September 9th - '**RMS Titanic - made in the Midlands**' with Andrew Pound. Online, members only. Talk starts at 8pm.

September 23rd - '**Chastleton to Kiddington and Enstone (VCH)**' with Simon Townley - Doors open at Exeter Hall, Kidlington 7:30pm talk starts at 8pm

October 14th - '**Conserving your Family Archive**' with Sue Gibbons. Online, members only. Talk starts at 8pm.

October 28th - '**Oxford City Cemetaries**' with Trevor Jackson - Doors open at Exeter Hall, Kidlington 7:30pm talk starts at 8pm

November 25th - '**Meet at Dawn Unarmed**' with Andrew Hamilton - Doors open at Exeter Hall, Kidlington 7:30pm talk starts at 8pm

Details for all talks can be found on <https://www.ofhs.uk/events/category/events>

If you are not yet a member, you can join OFHS for only £10 per annum (UK household). <https://www.ofhs.uk/become-a-member>



Oxfordshire FHS Family History Fair

Saturday 26th October 2024
10am – 4pm
Free entry, free parking

**Cherwell School (North),
Marston Ferry Road, Oxford, OX2 7EE**

Wheelchair and child friendly

Get help with your research – particularly in Oxfordshire but also in other counties and countries. A variety of subject experts will be present, browse and buy books, CDs, maps, postcards and materials from specialist companies.

Refreshments available (until 3:15 pm)



Visitors have previously said:

"Great to chat with various stallholders. Love the range of stalls and products."

"Very helpful guides/society members"

"Excellent! Lots of help from lovely people"

For more information including advice on how to get to the fair visit: www.ofhs.uk/fair2024

email: fair@ofhs.uk
Tel: OFHS Helpline: 01865 358151



Registered Charity Number 275891

Oxfordshire Local History Association

The Oxfordshire Local History Association is going to have a **Study Day in Chipping Norton on Saturday 18 May** concentrating on protests in Oxfordshire. Details can be seen at <https://olha.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/OLHA-Study-Day-flyer-Chipping-Norton-18-May-2023-1.pdf>

There will be another Study Day in November, probably concentrating on Migrations from Oxfordshire. Details will be published later.

The Oxfordshire Local History Association (OLHA) gives small grants to deserving projects. See <https://olha.org.uk/small-grants/> for details.

OLHA's website has details of talks throughout the modern county of Oxfordshire at <https://olha.org.uk/events/talks-and-meetings/>

Royal Army Chaplains' Museum



The Royal Army Chaplains' Museum, Faringdon Road, Shrivenham SN6 8EU tells the story of British Army chaplaincy from earliest times to the present day, with the help of archive material and historical relics from several centuries. Its collection is dedicated to the work of Army Chaplains throughout history in peacetime, under fire, and in captivity.

Admission is free and opening times are Monday to Friday, 1330 – 1700 or by prior arrangement.

Her Royal Highness Sophie, Countess of Wessex, whose great-uncle won the Victoria Cross as a padre in World War One, officially opened the new Royal Army Chaplains' Museum, at Shrivenham, Oxfordshire in May 2022.

During a tour of the museum, the Countess was shown an exhibit dedicated to her great uncle, Noel Mellish, who was awarded the VC for his actions in rescuing wounded soldiers from no-man's land in Belgium, in 1916. Three soldiers were killed while he treated their wounds but he saved more than 20 lives.

Visitors to the museum will be able to:

- See how clergy have accompanied the Army in times of war and peace.
- Hear how padres have guided and cared for the troops.
- Explore how, during difficult times, soldiers have wrestled with religion and belief.
- Remember and reflect on the biggest issues of life in the military.

The museum seeks to promote public understanding of the place and value of religion and belief in the military and to play a full part in Shrivenham life by hosting visitors to both the Defence Academy and the Armed Forces Chaplaincy Centre. Although an Army Museum, it portrays Faith in the Forces for all branches of the military.

- [07917 790916](tel:07917790916)
- racm1796@gmail.com
- royalarmychaplainsmuseum.business.site

Stanford in the Vale Local History Society

Unless otherwise stated all meetings take place in the large village hall starting at 7.30

Wednesday 8th May **The Victorian and Edwardian Industrial Buildings of Oxford**

Speaker: Liz Woolley

Wednesday 12th June **Elizabeth Wisdom, the Chipping Norton Murderess ?**

[Summer break]

Sunday 8th September at 4pm in the large village hall

Local Archeologist Dr. David Ashby on

Stanford in the Vale : The Archeological Hidden Past Revealed

Wednesday 9th October **Coleshill, Nerve Centre of Resistance**

Speaker: Gillian Cane

Uffington Museum



Broad Street
Uffington
SN7 7SE

FREE ENTRY

www.uffingtonmuseum.co.uk

FLIGHT **DV595** **UFFINGTON** **25/08/1942**

**The story of a
Wellington bomber
and her crew**

**30 March to 29 October
2024 2.00-5.00pm
Saturday, Sunday and
Bank Holiday Mondays**

Wednesday 15th May at 7.45 in the Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall, Uffington
‘The Story of Flight DV595’ by Jane Golding
Tickets £5 on the door from 7.15

Vale & Downland Museum, Wantage

Wednesday 1st May, 1.30pm - **My Nursing Life** - Afternoon Talk £7.50

Join retired nurse Hazel to find out about the challenges she faced during her nursing career, which began in Oxford in 1959.

Thursday 16th May, 7.30 pm - Friends of VDM Talk - **The Historic Ridgeway Project** Members £5 (requires password) Non-members £7

The Ridgeway is a wonderful part of our local area and it is enjoyed by so many but do you know about the historic side of it?

The Ridgeway was officially opened as a National Trail in 1973 so it celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2023. As part of the celebrations National Trails began the Historic Ridgeway Project to uncover the historic sites along the trail and share the stories of those sites.

Project manager Dan Bashford will be joining the Friends of the Museum to give an introduction to the work they are doing.

Wednesday 3rd July, 1.30pm - **Wantage Tales** - Afternoon Talk £7.50

Jim's Stores - The early days of a well-known grocery business in Wantage, along with tales of the mysterious Matron Elsie Gauion of Wantage Hospital (a possible WW2 spy) and other fascinating local historical stories

Next Newsletter – detailing what local societies will be offering 1/11/24 – 30/4/25 – copy deadline: Saturday 19th October

Giles Dawson, trustee of Vale & Downland Museum gilesvdawson@gmail.com