

## **JUNE 20<sup>th</sup>: A GUIDED AFTERNOON WALK AROUND FAVERSHAM**

A guided walk around England's oldest market town following in the footsteps of kings and queens. Faversham is home to nearly 500 listed buildings, with architecture spanning many centuries and picturesque Abbey Street, which has been described as "One of the finest medieval streets in Britain."

The tour will bring the town to life with tales of murder, royal visits, civil war, tax avoidance and much more.

## **Annual General Meeting**

The first meeting of the year will be preceded by a short Annual General Meeting.

This will be an opportunity for you to have a say in what you would like the Society to do for you.

The Society Accounts are on the web site

**[www.bridgehistory.org.uk](http://www.bridgehistory.org.uk)**

## **Membership**

There is no charge for Membership. Members join by subscribing on the web site:-

**[www.bridgehistory.org.uk](http://www.bridgehistory.org.uk)**

Newsletters with advance notice of the next events will be sent out by email to all who subscribe.

## **Bridge and District History Society**

The Society was formed in 1995 to promote interest in aspects of local history in and around the villages of Bridge, Barham, Bishopsbourne, Bekesbourne, Kingston and Patrixbourne.

The evening meetings are informal and sociable and include refreshments. Transport and/or escorts can usually be arranged with other members living nearby.

On trips by member's cars, those without transport can usually be accommodated in spare seats. Please contact the organiser of each event for arrangements.

Please contact any Society officer or committee member if you need any help.

## **Committee**

**Chairman:** Alan Walton tel: 832351

**Secretary:** Jenny Vye tel: 830983

**Treasurer:** John Corfield tel: 830976

Alan Barber tel: 831956

David Gilmour tel: 634541

Rosemary Whatley tel: 832284

Viv Pritchard tel: 830685

Joan Hill tel: 830215



## **PROGRAMME**

**2023 - 2024**

**SEPTEMBER 21<sup>st</sup>: CHAIRMAN'S REPORT  
by Alan Walton  
"CANTERBURY SINCE 1500, A CHANGING  
SOCIETY" DOREEN ROSMAN**

This talk charts 500 fascinating years in Canterbury's history. It describes how major events from the dissolution of the monasteries to the Second World War, its aftermath and beyond, changed the lives of its citizens. The later expansion of higher education and tourism was about to bring further change, giving the city we know today.

**OCTOBER 19<sup>th</sup>: "FOUNDING AMERICA,  
AND THE MAYFLOWER VOYAGE"  
MARTIN CROWTHER**

Martin will explain the religious intolerance and upheaval of the 16th and 17th centuries in England. The persecution and martyrdom of Radical Christians - called the Separatists - created a desire for a new start in a place where they could set their own conventions. This led to a group we call the "Pilgrim Fathers" planning a new start in the New World.

**NOVEMBER 16<sup>th</sup>: "SMASHING UP THE  
CATHEDRAL" PROF. JACKIE EALES**

There were two key periods of image smashing in Canterbury Cathedral when medieval windows, statues, altars, textiles, books and manuscripts were defaced or destroyed. First in the 1530s during the Reformation and a century later during the English Civil Wars. Jackie will consider why such images were seen as offensive and will make parallels with the toppling of statues of Stalin and Lenin and the objections to statues of slave traders in more recent times.

**There is an entrance charge of £4 for each  
talk – 7.30pm in Bridge Village Hall**

**DECEMBER 21<sup>st</sup>: SOCIAL EVENING:  
"GHOST STORIES" WITH GEOFF DOEL**

In his essay "Christmas Ghosts," Charles Dickens mentions "Telling ghost stories round the Christmas fire and other good comfortable things." Geoff will explore Christmas ghosts through stories, songs and old traditions.

The Committee invites you to join them in the Village Hall for a pre-Christmas social with complementary mulled wine, sausage rolls and mince pies.

**JANUARY 18<sup>th</sup>: "CARVE THEIR NAMES  
WITH PRIDE" JULIETTE PATTINSON**

Using personal accounts, official documents and film, the talk examines the role of the 39 female members of the Special Operations Executive (SOE) that worked with the Resistance in WW2. Juliette follows their story into the infiltration of occupied France, exploring their operations and, for some, their arrest and incarceration in concentration camps. She also looks at their post-war portrayals.

**FEBRUARY 15<sup>th</sup>: "THE POWERS BEHIND  
THE THRONES - WOMEN OF THE FIRST  
MILLENNIUM" IMOGEN CORRIGAN**

Many think that it was only in the 20<sup>th</sup> century that women came into their own. The truth is that our Anglo-Saxon sisters had a surprising freedom in law. They could own land, make wills, sue and be sued. In this talk we discover the influential woman of the first thousand years AD.

**MARCH 21<sup>st</sup>: "THE PILGRIM INNS OF  
CANTERBURY" DAVID GILMOUR**

Pilgrimage was an important part of medieval Christian life and one of the most popular pilgrimages was to the shrine of Thomas Becket in Canterbury Cathedral. David's talk will encompass all the Inns used by the pilgrims, but concentrate on "The Checker of the Hope" where it is believed Chaucer's pilgrims stayed.

**APRIL 18<sup>th</sup>: "THE BATTLE FOR CAEN HILL  
112" FRED ROSS**

Hill 112 saw one of the most brutal battles of WWII, following the D-Day landings in 1944. The talk follows the experience of local veteran Gunner Albert Figg who campaigned for a memorial to his colleagues who fell during this battle which achieved a major breakthrough for the Allies in securing Normandy and eventually winning the war.

**APRIL 25<sup>th</sup> SPRING SOCIAL at the Red Lion**

Our traditional Christmas Social is moved to the Spring. You are reminded that you need to have subscribed to the Society beforehand if you would like to attend.

**MAY 16<sup>th</sup>: "HISTORICAL MAPS OF  
CANTERBURY" Dr. ALEX KENT**

The new Historical Map of Canterbury was published by the Historic Towns Trust in 2021 in a joint venture with Canterbury Archaeological Trust and Canterbury Christ Church University. This talk explains the cartographic aspects of bringing this new visualisation of the city to life and outlines the plans for its future.