JUNE 20th: 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

Membership

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

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.

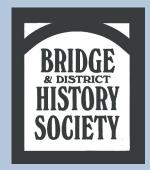
On trips by member's cars, those without transport can usually be accommodated in spare seats. Please contact the organiser of each event for arrangements.

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 21st: 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 19th: "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 16th: "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 21st: 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 18th: "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 postwar portrayals.

FEBRUARY 15th: "THE POWERS BEHIND THE THRONES - WOMEN OF THE FIRST MILLENNIUM" IMOGEN CORRIGAN

Many think that it was only in the 20th 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 21st: "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 18th: "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 25th 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 16th: "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.