

Walsham le Willows Village History Group

Programme of Events 2023 – 2024

Date	Talk/Event	Speaker
Wed 15th March 2023 at 7.30pm Priory Room	The Rev John Heigham Stegall - a local boy who ran away to live with the gypsies but went on to live a remarkable life as a surgeon, sailor and soldier finally returning home as Parish Priest of Great Ashfield. also AGM	Pip Wright
Wed 19th April 2023 at 7.30pm Priory Room	An Evening with Queen Victoria - an event to celebrate the coronation of Charles III Queen Victoria visits Walsham to reflect on events that have occurred during her reign. Followed by refreshments to celebrate the coronation	Georgette Vale
Sun 23 rd April 2023 10.30am	St George's Day Spring Walk Meet at the Six Bells and enjoy a leisurely walk in the countryside followed by refreshments. Dogs welcome.	Walsham History Group
Wed 17th May 2023 at 7.30pm MVH	The Potted History of the Ant-terrorist branch of New Scotland Yard. Paul Jordan will give an insight into the formation of the anti-terrorism branch, focusing on incidents such as the Brighton and Harrod's bombings and drawing on his own personal experiences.	Paul Jordan Retired Forensics Officer with the Metropolitan Police.
Wed 21st June 2023 at 7.30pm St Mary's Church	Saints, sinners and symbolism There has been a church in Walsham for over a thousand years. This talk and tour of St Mary's will focus on how the present church has evolved over the centuries and reveal some of its secrets and stories. Followed by refreshments to celebrate Midsummer's Eve.	Walsham History Group
Wed 28 th June 2023	Outing to Hill Farm, near Sudbury Historian and farmer Ashley Cooper has a small museum with finds from the Roman Villa on his land, along with a collection of Victorian farming equipment. The villa is grassed over but the rooms are marked out.	Ashley Cooper
Wed 19th July 2023 at 7.30pm Priory Room	The Real Basil Brown A look at life and work of the Rickingham archaeologist who discovered the Sutton Hoo ship burial.	Sarah Doig
Sun 27th and Mon 28th August 2023	Walsham Open Gardens Display on the history of the village	Walsham History Group

Wed 20th Sept 2023 at 7.30pm MVH	Ackenfield The History Group is pleased to show this beautiful classic film made by Peter Hall, based on the book by Ronald Blythe, who died this year aged 100 years. The film tells the story of a Suffolk village and its inhabitants and celebrates a bygone way of country life. Also History Group Fundraiser.	Walsham History Group
Wed 18th Oct 2023 at 7.30pm Priory Room	The Story of the Suffolk Bevin Boys: Barbara McElroy tells the story of her father's experiences as a rural boy conscripted down the mines in Derbyshire during WW2. These young men were selected by ballot despite being told they would go into the armed forces and if they refused to go down they were put into prison. The talk draws on many anecdotes and the general story of the Bevin Boys.	Barbara McElroy
Wed 15th Nov 2022 at 7.30pm Priory Room	Bedrooms, banquets and balls The development of the English Country House following architectural tastes and fashions from the Medieval Hall House to the mid 20 th century.	John E Vigar
December Meeting	TBC	

Venue: Please check as these vary between the Priory Room, the MVH and St Mary's Church

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