

WT U3A Local History Group Meetings from February to April 2017

I am now able to confirm the WT U3A Local History Group meetings out to the end of July 2017. I plan to have the month of August without a meeting and start with talks again in September 2017. I hope that there is sufficient variety of topics that you will find interesting.

Tuesday 28th February 2017

Adrian Randall has agreed to give us a talk on **“The Royal Observer Corps Early Warning Bunker that existed in Weston Turville”**.

Not many of you may know that Weston Turville had a role in the Cold War of the 1950s/1960s. The ROC bunker was opened in 1959 and closed in 1969 and was manned by volunteers. Adrian has been able to track down one of the people who manned the station and has gathered a lot of interesting information about our bunker and the ROC in general. It is a fascinating story.

Meeting is in the WT Chapel Room from 10:30 – 12:30pm. Entrance of £3.

Tuesday 28th March 2017

Barry Tomlinson has agreed to give us a talk on **“The History of RAE Bedford”**.

Construction of RAE Bedford began in 1947 with wind tunnels for testing up to Mach 5 and new airfield. Many of the well known aircraft, including Tornado, Jaguar & Harrier Jump Jet, as well as helicopters were tested at RAE Bedford. It has thus played an important part in our aircraft history and is a fascinating story.

Meeting is in the WT Chapel Room from 10:30 – 12:30pm. Entrance of £3.

Tuesday 25th April 2017

Hugh Grainger has agreed to give us a talk entitled **“Wild, Wild Women”**.

After a talk in March on “boy’s toys” I thought it was only right to give the ladies amongst you a more female orientated talk. The topic covers:

How did Mary Reade and Anne Bonny become pirates? How did Mary Frith become Cut-Purse Moll? Why was Katherine Ferrers known as the Wicked Lady, All will be revealed.

Hugh has spoken to us previously and is an entertaining speaker.

Meeting is in the WT Chapel Room from 10:30 – 12:30pm. Entrance of £3.

Tuesday 23rd May 2017

Some of you may remember that in 2013 we had a talk by Keith Harry entitled **“The History of Grafton Regis”**. Keith and his wife Kathy have been back in touch and have updated their talk. I looked at the list of people who attended in 2013 and we have a significant number of new members and some of those who came in 2013 are no longer with us. It is a great story and involves; “The White Queen”, Richard III and Henry VIII and his divorce from Catherine of Aragon and much more. Lots of intrigue and a fascinating story.

Meeting is in the WT Chapel Room from 10:30 – 12:30pm. Entrance of £3.

Tuesday 27th June 2017

Several of you at the last meeting expressed an interest to go back to the Aylesbury Museum Archives in Halton. I was fortunate to meet with Will Phillips of the museum a couple of weeks ago and asked him about the possibility of visiting the archives. He said that it was possible and I mentioned to him this date. The maximum they could take on this day would be 10.

However he said that if we could go on Monday 26th June there would be 4 archivists available and we could increase the number to 20. There would be 4 groups of 5 and they would rotate the groups around. It would be a half-day session. If more than 20 people want to come along Will said they could then do an afternoon session with up to another 20 people.

Could you let me know by the end of February if you would be interested in going to the Archives and if you would be willing to meet on a Monday rather than the Tuesday? Once I have an idea of numbers I will firm this up with Will and let you know times, costs etc.

Tuesday 25th July 2017

Visit to Grafton Regis

To complement the talk on 23rd May I have arranged with Keith and Kathy Harry to have a guided walk around Grafton Regis. As it is a summer month they will be able to get many of the actors who dress up in costume and meet us around the village to tell their story. We did this in 2014 and although we did have a little rain it was a great visit. The visit starts with tea or coffee on arrival, a talk in the Grafton Regis Village Hall, then a walk down to the Church to learn more about the history. Finally we go back to the Village Hall for soup and bread and drinks. The cost of this is £8.50 per head and is excellent value.

I plan that we meet in the 5 Bells car park at 9pm and we would be done by around mid-day. I will start collecting names at the end of February and you pay on the day.

Tuesday 22nd August 2017

No meeting

Glynn