

WT U3A Local History Group Meetings from January to April 2017

I hope that you all had a Wonderful Christmas and will have a Great New Year. I have been working on the programme for 2107 and can confirm the talks for January through April. I am working on the reminder of the year for talks and visits. Remember if anyone has any suggestions please let me know as it is getting more difficult to come up with new speakers and talks. If there is anyone you would like to hear again please let me know.

Tuesday 24th January 2017

Roy Smart is coming along to give us a talk on.



Another Icarus : *The rise and fall of Percy Pilcher ... and the Art of Flight*

The tale of aviation pioneer **Percy Sinclair Pilcher** and his wonderful sister, **Ella**, whose noble quest for flight ended tragically on the banks of Shakespeare's Avon; the first Englishman to die in the cause of 'the conquest of the air' when on the cusp of becoming the most famous name in aviation history. Roy Smart presents this magnificent man, his flying machines and the historic, but as yet unheralded achievements, of the redoubtable **Ella Sophia Gertrude**, in a colourful context of music, poetry, Greek myth, art and the beginnings of flight.

Roy gave a very entertaining talk on *David, 1st Earl Beatty*, First Sea Lord, Statesman, and renowned public hero of the Great War earlier in 2016.

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

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

In progress.

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