



DAWLISH LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

PROGRAMME for 2018-19

Meetings are held at 2.30pm in the Manor House

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MEMBER NAME

DLHG Membership Secretary

Tuesday April 3rd 2018

‘Dawlish Memories’ by Jimmy Hill.

Jimmy will present slides of Dawlish which have personal memories for him, which he will share with us. Jimmy is the proprietor of Swiftprint, which now produces most of our publications. He is a lifelong Dawlish resident and has accumulated an excellent collection of historic images.

Tuesday May 1st 2018

Visit to Christow Station, the Nobody Inn and

Doddiscombsleigh Church. 2.00pm. The former goods yard at Christow station is the home of the Exeter and Teign Valley Railway reclamation project. After exploring what’s there we’ll proceed to the historic Nobody Inn at Doddiscombsleigh for refreshments and then to the 15th century church, which has wonderful medieval stained glass windows. A varied afternoon out. Car sharing will be organised.

Tuesday June 5th 2018

‘West Country Building Stone’ by Peter Dare.

An illustrated talk on the most popular types of stone used in construction in the south west. Peter is very well qualified on this subject – he was master mason at Exeter Cathedral 1969-85, held a similar role at Brisbane Cathedral, and has undertaken conservation work throughout this area.

Tuesday July 3rd 2018

Visit to Honiton: Museum and Town Walk. 2.00pm. We will start with a talk on the history of the town, followed by a tour of the museum, which has a large collection of Honiton lace, Honiton pottery, a Victorian doll’s house, war memorabilia and children’s toys. A guided walk in the town will follow, and tea will be taken somewhere. Travel by train is recommended.

Tuesday August 7th 2018

'The Stover Canal' by Roger Harding.

The canal opened in 1790 and was built to transport clay mined in the Bovey Basin and granite from quarries on Dartmoor to the head of the Teign estuary, for onward travel to Teignmouth docks. The Stover Canal Society was formed in 1999 to promote its preservation and restoration. This has now merged with the Stover Canal Trust, of which Roger is a director.

Tuesday September 4th 2018

Visit to the William Pengelly Centre and Buckfastleigh Caves.

Starting with a short introduction to the Centre we will visit the museum to see how the caves developed and understand the geology of the area. Then we'll visit a small selection of the caves including the Joint Mitnor which has an extensive deposit of bones from hyena, bison, elephants, etc that lived here about 125,000 years ago. This outing is for a maximum of 20 people. Car sharing will be organised.

Tuesday October 2nd 2018

'Devon Country Houses' by Hugh Meller.

Traditionally a country house might be defined as an impressive building supported by its own estate and owned by one family over several generations. This talk will examine how they fare in the 21st century. Among approximately 400 survivors in Devon half remain in private hands, and a few are still owned by the families who built them, although with reduced estates. Hugh spent 26 years working for the National Trust in Devon with responsibility for its historic buildings, and 15 years researching his 2015 book 'The Country Houses of Devon'.

Tuesday November 6th 2018

‘The Ferris Brewery and its Public Houses’ by Suzanne Jones.

A look at the history and development of the Ferris Brewery in High Street, Dawlish, which for some time was the largest employer in the town. The talk will include a picture tour of the public houses, where they were and what they are being used for now. Suzanne is one of our members and has recently come to live in part of the old brewery buildings.

Tuesday December 4th 2018

‘A Quiz for Christmas’ by Dave Strawbridge.

Following the success of his 2017 quiz Dave will present another set of brain teasers with some seasonal elements. A keen quizzier and bridge player, Dave is a member of the History Group committee.

Tuesday February 5th 2019

‘South Devon Newspapers’ by Alan Brunton.

This talk will focus on the South Devon Weekly Express, which was published in Chudleigh between 1854 and 1954. Alan will show several old newspapers with some interesting and amusing articles. He is currently chairman of the Chudleigh History Group and is an author of books on local subjects.

Tuesday March 5th 2019

‘Devon Violets’ by Joanne Bickel.

Until the 1960s violets were an important commercial farm crop in and around Dawlish, and provided much seasonal employment. This talk will explore various themes in preparation for the publication of a book on the subject. Joanne has a degree in historical conservation, and since moving to Devon has worked in Dawlish and Topsham libraries.