

**Sat 19<sup>th</sup> January 3 pm West Dean Centre GL15 6JW**

**Joyce Moss**

**‘Tradition, Reformation and Reaction in the Forest Deanery’**

*This talk will look at the church in the pre-reformation and Tudor periods, extending into the reign of Elizabeth. During the c16 every village and town was mentioned many times within the diocesan records, whilst many inhabitants were cited in the court records. In exploring Reformation in the Forest we will discover how Foresters reacted to the great changes involved. Some of the more interesting consistory court cases and village happenings will be outlined, while also touching on the very interesting Lydney Lollards. There is even a possibility that the Lydney area is the birthplace of Tyndale...*

**Sat 16<sup>th</sup> February 3 pm West Dean Centre GL15 6JW**

**Brian James and Christine Martyn**

**‘A Look Back at the History of Lydney Grammar School’**

*Lydney Grammar School, which was located near The Cross in Lydney, opened in 1903. It served many pupils through its 70 year history, before closing in 1973, to be replaced by Whitecross Comprehensive (now Dean Academy). Brian James, treasurer of the Lydney Old Grammarians Association, is joined by fellow former student Christine Martyn, to present a talk focussed on the development of the school, and some of the key achievements of the school and its pupils across this period. Two booklets about the school will be available for purchase at this talk.*

**Sat 9<sup>th</sup> March 3 pm West Dean Centre GL15 6JW**

**Andrew Hoan**

**‘Trees, people and archaeology: understanding ancient trees in the Forest of Dean’**

*Work has started at Speech House to identify, record and understand the “tree archaeology” around this important place in the Forest. There are hundreds of ancient hollies and tens of veteran oaks, beeches and other trees alongside memorials to royalty, foresters and verderers. This together with the archaeological remains of industry, farming and tourism helps us to understand the evolution of the Speech House landscape through time. This talk will provide the background to this project and just what “tree archaeology” is. Before tea, Lydbrook School will give a short presentation on their involvement with Foresters’ Forest,*

**Sat 13<sup>th</sup> April 3 pm Yorkley Community Centre GL15 4RS**

**Mary Sullivan**

**‘More on notable early members of the LHS and the society’s early years’**

*Having found out about the people who founded the society in 1948, this talk will follow on from there about important people who joined the committee in the early years and the activities that the society undertook.*

**Fri 26<sup>th</sup> April 7.30 pm Blakeney Village Hall**

**Phil Cox**

**‘Newport Mediaeval Ship’**

*The Newport Medieval Ship is a unique artefact, found in the summer of 2002 on the banks of the River Usk. She was recovered and is currently undergoing the final stages of conservation in an industrial unit in Newport. There are emerging plans for her reconstruction and display in Newport City Centre for which major funding is being sought. Built around 1450, this Ship pre-dates Henry VIII’s Mary Rose by over 60 years, and is the only recovered 15<sup>th</sup> century vessel in the world. Her story is captivating with links to international trade, profits, English nobility and probably piracy.*

**Sun 19<sup>th</sup> May**

**Cherry Lewis and Ian Standing**

**‘In the footsteps of Mushet’**

*A day tour visiting sites associated with the geology, metallurgy and mines of David and Robert Mushet. Starting at New Fancy view point for an overview of Forest geology, we will visit the Whitecliff Ironworks, Bixslade Valley, the Oakwood Valley and Darkhill, all of them places where we will explore the Mushets’ story and achievements using the evidence on the ground and information from documents of the day.*

*The coach pick up point will be 9.30 from the car park at New Fancy view point (take signed turning off B4234, half a mile south of the Speech House). Bring a packed lunch and let us know if you will need a lift to and from New Fancy. The tour will end at New Fancy at 4.30.*

*Stout footwear is essential for walking on uneven and rocky ground.*

*The tour is limited to 25 places. Prior booking essential.*

*See the February 2019 Newsletter for booking form & further details.*

**Sun 9<sup>th</sup> June 1.45 pm Westbury Court Gardens**

**Gardens Tour by Jerry Green, Head Gardener**

*Laid out between 1696 and 1715, Westbury Court Gardens had fallen into disrepair by the time of its rescue by the National Trust in 1967. A comprehensive renovation programme has led to the gardens now being a feast for the senses, with many plants being authentic to those grown in the early 1700s. Meeting at the Gardens at 1.45 for a 2.00 p.m. start, we will enjoy a guided tour from resident head gardener, Jerry Green. There will be time after the tour to enjoy the grounds at your own pace.*

***Please note, pre-booking will be required, as there is a 30 person maximum on the tour. Entry fee / tour costs will be made available nearer to the date of the visit.***

**Sun 21<sup>st</sup> July 2.30 pm - 4 pm approx**

Meet at the bottom of Mill Hill, Bream on the Bream to Sling road.

**Geoff Davis**

**Bream Heritage Walk - Noxon Park to Bromley Furnace**

*The walk will cover a section of the Bream Heritage Walk - part of the Foresters Forest project. We will walk through Noxon Park, passing close to large scowles and descend to China Bottom. We will then follow part of the route of the Dramroad that took iron ore from here to Parkend. Finally, after passing the site of Oakwood Mill, we will end our walk near the remains of Bromley Furnace. This walk will have un-even surfaces and will be muddy in wet weather. Distance 2 miles - includes an initial ascent of 150m on the Gloucestershire Way..*

**Wed 7<sup>th</sup> August** - Trip to Dyrham Park - details to be advised in newsletter/by email

**Fri 6<sup>th</sup> Sept 7.30 pm Blakeney Village Hall**

**Jerry Green**

**'Westbury Court Gardens – History and Plants'**

*Westbury Court Gardens survived virtually untouched for 300 years, before its care was taken over by the National Trust in 1967. It had suffered long-term neglect of the garden overall and of the fabric of the pavilion and canals within the grounds. It was here that the Trust carried out their first complete garden restoration. This represented a terrific challenge, made possible due to detailed archive material - including an engraving of the garden as it looked in 1707. This talk will explore the history of the Gardens, the renovation period and the plants now grown there, the selection of which has largely been based on the archive information, resulting in a garden that reflects its origins at the start of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century.*

**Sat 21<sup>st</sup> September 3 pm Yorkley Community Centre GL15 4RS**

**Jo Smith**

**'Forest Talk - 35 years of local service'**

*Forest Talk, the Forest of Dean's talking newspaper for blind and visually impaired people, celebrates its 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2019. Find out how talking newspapers were developed in Sweden, who was inspired to set up a charity in the Forest of Dean to provide a talking newspaper to visually impaired people in our community and how they went about it. We will also look at how the charity and its listeners have had to adapt to technological changes over the years.*

**Sat 5<sup>th</sup> October 2.30 pm West Dean Centre GL15 6JW**

**AGM**

**Pat Lacy**

**'Medieval Tintern'**

*An illustrated talk about Tintern, especially the world famous abbey, but also about its much earlier connections with 5th-7th Century Welsh saints. Christianity came to S.E. Wales during the Roman Empire and continued without a break into the Middle Ages. The Anglo-Saxons did not invade the area successfully until after THEY had been Christianised.*

**Sat 9<sup>th</sup> November 3 pm West Dean Centre GL15 6JW**

**Nigel Haig**

**'Newnham – a village that once was a town'**

*An illustrated talk looking back at the time when Newnham was a busy administrative centre with a wealth of shops, a town hall, a ferry, two busy churches and lots of places to provide employment. Also on offer will be a chance to leaf through 'The Newnham Historical Collection', an ongoing collaborative work on the history of Newnham which is being assembled over time in loose leaf form by members of the Newnham History Group. Copies will be available for sale.*

**Sat 7<sup>th</sup> December 3 pm West Dean Centre GL15 6JW**

**Richard and Carol Clammer**

**'Beachley & the First World War: the story of a shipyard, a railway and the transformation of a rural parish'**

*On 3rd September 1917 the inhabitants of the Beachley peninsula were given ten days' notice to vacate their homes in order to make way for thousands of Royal Engineers and prisoners of war to begin construction of a huge shipyard together with its associated railway system, housing schemes and camps. The yard was one of three intended to construct pre-fabricated merchant ships to replace those being sunk by the German U-boat campaign which was threatening to starve Britain into surrender. Although almost complete by the time of the Armistice, the yard never actually built a ship and post-war accusations regarding its cost and alleged mismanagement became something of a national scandal. After a period of abandonment, the site eventually became an Army Apprentices college and is still in use today by the Army.*