

Lustleigh Society

Programme 2023

January 25th – Sue Knox – “General Lawrence and his tower” The History of The Haldon Belvedere

Sue Knox is a retired doctor. She has been a Red Coat Guide for the City of Exeter for 15 years. She has been a trustee of the Stringer Lawrence Memorial Trust which owns Haldon Belvedere.

February 22nd – Clive Charlton – The Amazing Ten Days.

The “Ten Amazing Days” was the short but dramatic period the “fallen emperor” Napoleon spent in Plymouth Sound in the summer of 1815, following his surrender to the British in the wake of the defeat at Waterloo. The talk will include Napoleon’s surrender, his journey from Rochefort on board HMS Bellerophon, the excitement, controversy and tensions of his stay in the ship just off Plymouth, and his departure into exile on St Helena. There will also be coverage of the career of HMS Bellerophon, by 1815 a battered and much travelled man-of-war.

March 29th – Helen Watson

“The Remarkable Pinwill Sisters”

The Pinwill sisters, Mary, Ethel and Violet, worked as woodcarvers in Ermington and then in Plymouth from about 1899. They set up their own company ‘Rashleigh Pinwill & Co which is ranked amongst the best in the West Country. By 1957, when the business folded after the death of Violet Pinwill, their carvings featured in over 185 churches in Devon and Cornwall.

Helen’s presentation will focus on their work in Dartmoor churches, including Manaton and Buckland-in-the Moor.

April 26th - Dartmoor Search and Rescue

“Dartmoor Search and Rescue”- Alan Pewsey.

Alan Pewsey, a Hill Party Leader at the volunteer charity will present an entertaining and informative talk on the work of this important service. He will include film footage from behind the scenes and callouts.

Do you know how a Search Dog finds a missing person? Did you also know that the volunteers at Dartmoor Search and Rescue Ashburton respond to over 30 callouts a year to assist the Police and Ambulance service treat the injured, and find the lost, missing and vulnerable not just on Dartmoor, but across Devon and to Major incidents nationally.

May 17th May – Chris Smart

Romans in Devon: Ipplepen: the impact of Rome on the native community in South West Britain

Speaker – Dr Christopher Smart

This talk will present a review of ten years of excavation at Ipplepen and show how life in this rural community persisted through the Iron Age, Roman and early medieval period.

June 21st Trip – Beer Quarry and Pecorama Railways.

July 19th Trip – Tony Clarks walk around Okehampton Ranges.

September 27th – Jacqueline Sarsby

Title **“A Dartmoor Farmer, his daughters and diary.**

William Dunning, a Dartmoor Farmer, kept a diary from 1910 -1950. This and a wealth of family documents still exist, but what can they tell us? Coupled with public records, local newspapers and oral history about life for men and women in the community on the edge of the moor in a time of war and peace and of great changes in the countryside.

October 18th – Mark Bailey – War Graves Commission

Title **“The Origin and work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission”**

The presentation will explain the important work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Its work to ensure the permanent commemoration of the Commonwealth war dead from the First and Second World Wars.

The talk will also guide us through how to use the Commissions website to find and research the many war graves to be found in Devon’s cemeteries and churchyards.

November 29th AGM