

STAFFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

LECTURE SEASON 2018-2019

28th September 2018

Dr Richard Bifield

1709-2009: Celebrating the 300th anniversary of the Birth of the Industrial Revolution at Coalbrookdale

1709 refers to the date when Abraham Derby first perfected the technique of smelting iron using coke from coal as opposed to charcoal the traditional fuel. From the innovation stemmed a whole series of technological firsts that made Coalbrookdale the world's most important iron making district by the end of the 18th century.

Richard qualified as a Town Planner working at Lincoln, Newcastle upon Tyne, Reading and finally before retiring Wrekin as Conservation Officer. Since retirement Richard spends his time between Publicity/Education Officer for Shropshire Historic Churches Trust, Wellington Literary Festival and other voluntary organisations.

12th October 2018

Nigel Page

Recent Investigation at Baginton Warwickshire

Nigel has worked in commercial archaeology for 30 years, starting as a site assistant on large scale excavations in South Wales and then working his way up to Head of Field Operations with the Dyfed Archaeological Trust. Following a move to Norfolk he worked across the east and south-east of England, before spending some time as a consultant in the north of England. Following a spell as an independent self-employed archaeologist, he joined Archaeology Warwickshire in early 2017.

26th October 2018

Dr Malcolm Dick

Slavery, Anti-Slavery and the Black Presence in the West Midlands 1700 to 1838'

After 1700, the West Midlands became increasingly connected with a global economy after 1700. One dimension involved the export of manufactured products to Africa and the West Indies as part of the transatlantic slave trade - and one result was the arrival of black individuals in the area. By the late-eighteenth century, however, local people were also actively participating in the abolitionist movement. This presentation will explore and evaluate these aspects of the region's history with particular reference to Staffordshire evidence.

Malcolm is Lecturer in Regional and Local History at Birmingham University.

He is also Editor in Chief of the "History West Midlands Project". His research work is predominately covering the West Midlands in all its aspects as well as being a prolific author.

9th November 2018

Shane Kelleher

Staffordshire Matters

Shane is Staffordshire County Archaeologist having recently taken up post. He was previously at Ironbridge. The talk tonight will encompass the forthcoming World War II "Stop Line" HLF Project an update on Chase Through Time HLF Project together with an over view of the Archaeology at Ironbridge.

23rd November 2018

Dr David Freke

Mind the Gap: 2500 years of high level activity at Warmington, South Warwickshire

The talk describes the ten years of community investigation of a south Warwickshire prehistoric and Roman site in its landscape context. The "gaps" in the title are topographical, chronological, artefactual and interpretational, and they are as intriguing as the material revealed at the site, which includes 2 Roman coin hoards, a Neolithic burial, a massive iron age earthwork and much more.

David Freke MA DipAD FSA MCIfA has 50 years of experience of archaeological investigations, principally in England and the Isle of Man. He lives on a smallholding in South Warwickshire , which includes a DMV and 70 sheep.

7th December 2018

**Annual General Meeting
This will commence at 7.30pm**

Mike Glasson

Walsall, Town of a Hundred Trades

A celebration of the remarkable diversity of trades which have been practised in Walsall over the past 800 years- everything from handbags and saddles for the Queen to wheelbarrows, whips, and washing machines. Lloyd George thought that Walsall had more trades than any other town of similar size in the country, and he was probably right! The talk will explore some of these trades in detail, and examine the themes of ingenuity, excellence, adaptability and diversity which have characterised the local manufacturing tradition.

Mike Glasson is a graduate of York and Leicester universities. He was curator of the Walsall Leather Museum for 30 years and Head of Walsall Museums Service until his recent retirement. He lives in Walsall.