

# History Society Talks 2026

CHESTERFIELD AND DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



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**February 16**

**'Shell Shock! A Historical Perspective**  
with **Jill Brunt**

Examining the diagnosis and treatment of shell shock in the context of the First World War, also the prevailing situation of psychiatry and the growth of the asylum.

**March 16**

**The Folklore of Derbyshire**  
with **Simon Unsworth**

A fascinating journey into the rich folklore of Derbyshire and the Peak District; its stories, traditions, legends and mysterious places.

**April 20**

**Treating the Soldiers of the Crimean War**  
with **Danielle Burton**

Mary Seacole, Betsy Cadwaladr and Florence Nightingale, who went to nurse injured soldiers in the Crimean War, despite prejudice.

**May 18**

**The Textile Arkwrights: a surprising family of musicians, politicians & artists.**  
with **Cliff Lea**

We all know about the first fortune made by the Arkwrights at Cromford, but what happened in successive generations?

**June 15**

**Living from Art**  
with **David Charlesworth**

The well known Chesterfield artist talks about his life in art.

**July 20**

**The Gentry of Scarsdale and their Houses: 1660-1830**  
with **Philip Riden**

Local expert historian tells us more about the squires, gentlemen and Dukes of the 71 villages and towns of North East Derbyshire.

**August 17**

**Murder in 19<sup>th</sup> Century Derbyshire**  
with **Gay Evans**

Tales of local homicides and executions

**September 21**

**The Rise of the Cavendish Dynasty**  
with **John Taylor**

Charting the rise of this remarkable dynasty from a sleepy village in Suffolk of the same name and a sheep farm in rural Derbyshire to the very pinnacle of the nobility and beyond.

**October 19**

**Lady Arabella Stuart - The Queen that Never Was**  
with **David Templeman**

Revealing the granddaughter of Bess of Hardwick, who was born to be a Queen

**November 16**

**Rare Wild Flowers of the Peak District**  
with **Byron Machin**

Featuring the many wild flowers to be found on our doorstep, including some that are unique to our county, illustrated via Byron's wonderful photographs. .

# CHESTERFIELD AND DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Monthly meetings are held at The Olde House, Loundsley Green Road, Newbold, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, S40 4RN, on the third Monday February to November inclusive. You will find us in the Large Function Room.

Talks are free to members and students under 22 in full time education.

Non-members are very welcome. Admission £3.

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