

Tuesday 22nd September

"Pirates of the Caribbean"

In the late 17th and 18th centuries"



The true "Golden Age of Piracy" in the Caribbean roughly spanned the years from the 1650s to the 1730s. In war times, many countries utilised privateers — pirates officially authorized to attack enemy ships and coastal towns.

During times of peace, these sailors often turned to unauthorized piracy. **Doug Smith** will be along to tell us all about it.

Tuesday 27th October

"Gunpowder, Treason and Plot"

Muskets, powder and shot stockpiled in Worcestershire cellars, horses hidden in isolated country barns and the whispered talk of treason held in secret meetings. **Paul Harding** will explain the oft-forgotten part the County played in the Gunpowder Plot of 1605.



Tuesday 24th November

"Three Orphans in Worcester"



Dave Andrews will tell the story of his grandmother and her two brothers during the First World War, with death, excitement, politics, intrigue and untold stories.

Tuesday 15th December

"Lo Saturnalia"



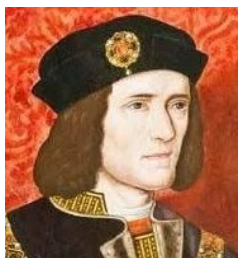
How the Romans celebrated the midwinter feast of Saturnalia. Long before the Christians adopted this week-long festival for their own purposes, it was a time associated with much merrymaking, eating and drinking and of course gift giving! Local Roman Geminus will be pleased to show how the household is making preparations for the feast and to share some favourite family recipes of the food that they have prepared especially for Saturnalia.



Paul and Alex Thompson will make it happen and seasonal refreshments will be served. It will be free to members with an optional festive raffle but also open to visitors for the usual £3 entry fee.

Tuesday 26th January 2026

"Richard III and the Princes in the Tower"



Following the discovery of Richard III's body in Leicester and interesting developments on the mystery of the two Princes in the Tower, the time is right for 'Part Two' of Richard's story. From a list of characters and possibilities, are we any closer to knowing what happened to the two princes; or that Richard was innocent of their supposed murder; or did they survive the Tower?

Max Keen will try to sort it out in his traditional way.

Tuesday 23rd February

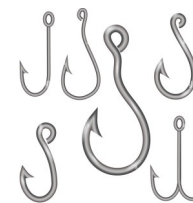
"Tales from the Town Hall"

Gay Hill's talk will feature stories and famous people who have visited Kidderminster Town Hall, including royalty, politicians and other personalities, together with some of the stories behind various parts of the building.



Tuesday 23rd March

"Needle making in Worcestershire and Warwickshire"



Needle-making was the trade that gave the area around Redditch, on the Worcestershire and Warwickshire border, the name of 'the 'Needle District' and was the main reason for the growth of Redditch from an insignificant

hamlet to a prosperous and famous industrial town. **Richard Churchley** will talk us through a history of over three centuries – from 1640 to 1940 – through slides and his own research.

Tuesday 27th April

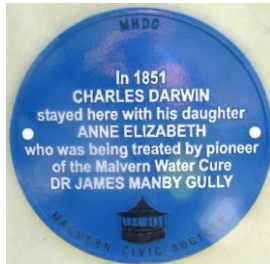
"Eleanor of Aquitaine"

Eleanor was one of the most powerful and influential women of the Middle Ages. She was the only woman in history to serve as both **Queen of France** (as wife to Louis VII) and **Queen of England** (as wife to Henry II). **Howard Robinson** will describe a remarkable life.



Tuesday 25th May

**“History of Malvern
through its blue plaques and green plaques”**



Many famous people made their mark in Malvern and since 2006, the Civic Society there has been putting up Blue Plaques to identify where they stayed in the town. Green plaques are another interesting story.

Marguerite Collins will explain everything.

Tuesday 22nd June

“The Social History of the Teddy Bear”

Dr. Gillian White will be telling us about the fascinating history of the last century from Teddy Roosevelt and King Edward VII, illustrating how what was a simple toy became linked to some of the most influential people of the times.



Tuesday 20th July

“Bessie Blount of Kinlet”



Robert Hodge will detail the life of Elizabeth (Bessie) Blount, a native of Kinlet. As a maid-of-honour to Catherine of Aragon, she became King Henry VIII's first and longest-lasting mistress. In 1519, she gave birth to Henry Fitzroy, the

King's only acknowledged illegitimate child.

A short AGM will precede the talk.

The main aim of the Wyre Forest Historical Research Group is to actively promote the history and heritage of the Wyre Forest area. In order to achieve this we:

Support and promote local studies centres

Transcribe and preserve records

Publish papers of local and family history

Establish relations with other organisations with mutual interests

Publish a regular newsletter

Membership entitles you to:

A copy of our newsletter “Forest Clearing”

The opportunity to network with people who have similar interests

Reduced entry fee to meetings and events

Wyre Forest Historical Research Group

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Wyre Forest Historical Research Group



2026 ~ 27

Programme of Events

All meetings start at 2.00 pm and will be held at

Trinity Methodist Church Centre

3, Churchfields

Kidderminster DY10 2JL.

Entry is £2 for Members - Non Members £3

to include Tea and Biscuits