

HAMPSHIRE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY



Celebrating Our Hampshire Connections: Discover, Share, and Celebrate Hampshire's Rich Heritage!

Marc Heighway

As well as running his own digital marketing consultancy, Marc has what he calls 'a side gig'. He speaks at historical societies and museums. All his talks relate to Second World War history, aviation, and New Forest history and he has been a guest on Dan Snow's History Hit podcast. He loves doing this, but sadly, history talks will never be a full-time occupation and won't pay his mortgage!

"Hidden in Plain Sight: Reminders of WW2 in the New Forest"

During the Second World War the New Forest area saw a huge amount of activity. It was home to several airfields, training areas, D-Day camps and an embarkation point, a secret spy school, a POW camp, traps were set for invading armies, and it was also the scene of the biggest ever bomb dropped on UK soil. This presentation takes the form of a photo tour and talk on areas of the New Forest you will be familiar with, but showing you things left over from the war you might not have noticed before, and the stories behind them.

Laurie Page

Laurie lives in Warsash, so quite local, and has been a teacher of Genealogy for 20 years. He regularly gives talks in Hampshire and surrounding counties covering topics such as migration, palaeography and using maps in genealogy.

"The Saxon Family Tree (from arrival to 1066)"

This is the story of the Kings of Wessex and later England, and the rise of their capital, Winchester.

Neil Spurgeon

Following a 30 year Royal Navy career, Neil worked as a Computer Science Lecturer at both Further Education and Higher Education levels, as well as an IT Manager. Now retired, Neil remains actively engaged in his community. He is the enthusiastic Chairman of the Havant Local

History Group and the Havant Borough Heritage Festival Consortium, where he continues to share his passion for history and heritage.

1830 Swing Riots – Insurrection in Havant & Emsworth

The Swing Riots were a series of protests by agricultural workers in 1830, driven by poor working conditions and economic hardship. After a talk on the Swing Riots at a Heritage Open Day event in September 2023, Neil and Havant historian Penny Munday independently recognized the importance of researching men from the Havant area—eight individuals in total—who played a role in this turbulent period. In this presentation, Neil will share the journey they took to establish their research group, the key steps involved, and how their work led to the creation of an exhibition now on display at the HGS Conference Day.

Jane Glennie

Based in Southampton, Jane is an actress and historian with 30 years' experience bringing history to life in museums, theatres and heritage sites. She has been presenting popular and entertaining theatrical talks for the past 12 years in Hampshire. She is a joint partner in the company "Pedlars and Petticoats" which offers living history and story-telling activities to museums and schools. Her talks are stand-alone theatrical performances in which she appears in costume and often uses original and replica objects to illustrate them.

"The Friendship of Jane Austen & Martha"

Martha Lloyd, "experimental housekeeper" and Jane Austen's best friend gossips with her neighbours as she packs up their house in Castle Square, Southampton. Using original letters by Jane Austen we will find out about her close friendship with Martha and their happy time living in Southampton.

Steve Rogers

Steve grew up in Emsworth, served in the Royal Navy for 32 years and now runs his own small gardening business. He is the founder and co-ordinator of The War Graves Photographic Project. As an ex-serviceman, he understands the need to provide a facility for families of those who have not made it home. His belief is that ALL the graves and memorials to war dead and particularly those of the Commonwealth should be recorded for posterity. The War Graves Photographic Project have undertaken the immense task of recording, archiving and making available to the descendants, images of the graves or memorial listings of every service casualty since the outbreak of the First World War. He now lives in Catherington with his wife Sandra where they have become greatly involved with the local residents' association.

"The War Graves Photographic Project – it all began in Hampshire"

Steve will tell us about the inspiration for his project and how it all began. He will mention his grandfathers (both Royal Navy) from Emsworth, one of whom was awarded the DSM at Dunkirk, and bring us up to date with more recent information about a Rogers war casualty whose family he met for the first time when they came over from America last Autumn.