



Langton Matravers Local History and Preservation Society December 2025

www.langtonmatraversmuseum.org

With the museum closed for the winter, we are now into our season of talks. These are an opportunity to get together and learn about a range of subjects in a friendly atmosphere. Our first talk, 'Durnford Diamonds', about the Pellatt family and the prep schools of Langton, was well-supported and enjoyed. It was good to see so many members and friends. We're now looking forward to the November talk on smuggling – see details below. As our usual 'third Thursday' date is so close to Christmas, we decided not to schedule a talk for then, as we know how busy you will be: we've added an extra date in April instead.

Dates for your Diary.

Thursday, 20th November, 2025: Brandy for the Parson, Baccy for the Clerk – Smuggling on the Coastline of Dorset, by Mike Randall.

Thursday 15th January, 2026: Geology of the Quarry to Castle Trail and Two Years of Radar in Worth Matravers and Leeson House, by Patrick Corbett.

Thursday 19th February, 2026: Stone Mason – a talk by Jonathan Sells.

Thursday 19th March, 2026: Quarrying – a talk by Chris Suttle.

Thursday 23rd April, 2026: The Deserted Medieval Village at Afflington - a talk by Chris Tripp, 'Dorset Diggers' Community Archaeology Group.

All talks are held at Langton Village Hall at 7.30pm, doors open 7pm. Everyone is welcome to attend: £3 for members, £4 for non-members.

The April talk will be a chance for the leader of the dig, Chris Tripp, to update us on findings so far, and explore the history of the deserted village (actually a hamlet). The dig is a joint project between the 'Dorset Diggers' and the Society, and several members have taken an active role: do get in touch if you'd like to try your hand with a trowel next Spring! The second season has just finished, with some interesting new finds which help us to understand more about the settlement, who lived there and when. It's very exciting to be part of a project which is helping to 'make history', and we look forward to what next year's explorations may unearth.

We are also excited to announce a new Society publication: Mrs Jasmine Cattle has kindly allowed the Society to publish her mother Cecily Bower's memoirs of life in

Langton in the mid 20th Century. Called 'Use the China', the booklet provides a fascinating 'oral history' of the everyday ups and downs of living in the village, and gives a vivid picture of what it was like during WW2 and after. The booklet will be available at talks, or you can buy a copy through the website

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As we move into the busy pre-Christmas season, look out for the Society's Christmas Tree at the St Aldhelm's Christmas Tree Festival on 6th-8th December at St George's Church, Langton. We wish you all a very Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year, and look forward to seeing you at future talks.

Daryle Pearson and Mary Sparks, Publicity and Communications, LMLHPS.