



Langton Matravers Local History and Preservation Society February 2026

The Village Hall was packed for Jonathan Sells' talk about his 'Wareham Market' sculpture, and I am sure that, by the time you read this, there will have been a similarly-enthusiastic audience for Chris Suttle's presentation about his family's life in quarrying in Purbeck over the generations. Our final talk of the winter is all about the ongoing archaeological dig at Afflington, which is supported by the Society and now in its third season. Mary Sparks will introduce the topic, giving a brief account with maps of the spatial and historical context of the site and explaining the research questions. Chris Tripp, leader of the Dorset Diggers Community Archaeology Group will then tell us all about what has been found, and how it advances our understanding. The team have made some exciting discoveries! If you'd like to get involved in the dig this year, do get in touch for more information via the website, or come to the talk and find out more.

Dates for your Diary.

Thursday 16th April, 2026: The Deserted Medieval Village at Afflington - a talk by Chris Tripp, 'Dorset Diggers' Community Archaeology Group, with introduction by Mary Sparks.

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.

Museum re-opening: Tuesday April 7th. Note change from previous date given.

It was decided to slightly delay the museum opening to give us time to prepare over the holiday period. We have a wonderful team of volunteer custodians who give up two hours a week (or fortnight) to greet visitors and help them to make the most of their visit. It's a hugely valuable contribution which means we can keep the museum open over the summer. However, are again looking for new custodians: if you feel this could be you, or to find out more, please contact Keith Coombs or go to our website and use the contact form.

The editorial committee are making good progress: a new edition of 'Old Swanwic', with additional material on the medieval period, is nearly ready to go to print. A full list of our current publications can be seen on the website, and you can buy in person at the museum. www.langtonmatraversmuseum.org The Society has also been asked by the Dorset Family History Society to contribute an article on the Purbeck Stone industry for the next edition of its Journal, which will feature the Isle of Purbeck.

We look forward to seeing you at the final talk of the season, in the Museum or perhaps at the Afflington dig in the next few months.

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