



Langton Matravers Local History and Preservation Society June 2025

www.langtonmatraversmuseum.org

Have you seen the new Blacksmith Exhibition yet? It's now available to view in the Local Studies room at the Coach House museum. Before the advent of hardware stores, the smith didn't just shoe horses: the exhibition shows the diversity of work undertaken at a forge, and the smith's role in the ongoing life and trades of a village over time. There are examples of domestic items such as keys, latches and a griddle pan, farming implements including scythes, sheep gelders and horn trainers, and a vicious-looking thatching needle used by local thatchers. The smith also had a very important role in the stone trade, maintaining the sharp edges of the chisels used by Purbeck stonemasons. The museum is open every day except Sundays and Mondays, and we'd love to see you there.

The Society are in the process of planning for the upcoming series of talks over the winter, both in the afternoon and evenings. We will hope to explore the role of the Pellatt family and their 'Durnford Diamonds' in the life and fabric of Langton Matravers, and a short afternoon historic 'armchair stroll' up Langton High Street, is also likely to be offered. Watch the website and future Dubbers for further details of other topics and dates.

We are very pleased to welcome new volunteers to expand our loyal team. We need people to put up posters, set out chairs for talks, make tea, help with museum duties, including new custodians, and in many other ways. If you think you might be able to support us for an hour or two, please contact our Chair, Daryle Pearson, who would love to hear from you. She can be found at daryle.pearson@btinternet.com or you can get in touch through our website contact form.

LMLHPS/DDCAG Archaeological Dig

Would you like to try your hand at being a Digger? The Society, in collaboration with the Dorset Diggers Community Archaeology Group, are undertaking a dig to explore medieval remains at a site in the locality. We are trying to find out how long the site was lived in, what the house structures were like, and any traces of the people who lived there. The dig is led by a professional archaeologist, and the team meet twice a week, usually on Wednesdays and Sundays. Volunteers can join in for half or a whole day: guidance and tools can be provided. The only requirement is that you are a member of the Society (necessary for insurance). For further information, contact lmlhps23@gmail.com

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