Langton Matravers Local History and Preservation Society
October 2026

www.langtonmatraversmuseum.org

Calling all people of Langton and Acton ! Does your home have a story to tell ? As part of our work on reviewing our documentary archive, we're gathering stories about homes in the parish where interesting people lived, or things happened, or finding documents which show, perhaps, when or how a particular house was built or changed. We've found letters, centuries-old shopping lists, tales of marital misbehaviour and fraternal fall-outs, legal documents and even a carer's bill for an elderly parishioner from 1894. These all help to tell us more about the past life of our village. You could help us to expand this knowledge and understanding by sending any information about the past history of your home, its residents and their lives. The 20th Century is as important as earlier times. Go to our website www.langtonmatraversmuseum.org and contribute your history through our contact form, giving your home's address at the start. To do this, click on the 'About Us' drop-down menu and go to 'Contact Us'. We are hoping to develop an interactive map of the village which can include images of some of the documents which tell these stories, and also, following David Olusoga's lead on the television, are preparing a talk on 'Cottages Through Time' (working title) to bring some of these stories to a wider public. Watch this space !

The Museum closed its doors for the Winter at the end of September: we've had lots of interest and positive feedback, with more groups of walkers etc. Many thanks to all our wonderful custodians who make this possible, welcoming visitors throughout the season. Could you join the team next year, or perhaps help with chairs, teas etc. at one of our talks ? For further details, make contact via the website as above.

The first of our Winter series of talks was 'History in the Purbeck Landscape', by Brian Margetson. Louise Haywood follows on Thursday 19 November with 'Corfe - then and now'. Ben Buxton will talk on 'Secrets of Sandford and Holton Heath' on 21 January 2027. Further dates for 2027 will follow in future newsletters. We hope that Mary Sparks's new booklet, 'Mapping the Manors' will be available to purchase at these talks, as will the full range of other booklets. The latest edition of 'The Stone Quarries of Langton Matravers' by Reg Saville, with new additional material, will shortly be going to print: watch out for this. Autumn is the time to renew your membership, or think about joining us ! We are always pleased to welcome new members. Annual Membership is £10.00 for individuals or £15.00 for family/joint membership. For just £100 you can become a member for life. Subs are payable by BACS (Langton Matravers LH & PS, **Account number:** 69042977 **Sort code:** 55-61-19) or in person at the talks (Contactless or Cash). An application form is available online, or you can join at one of the talks.

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