



Langton Matravers Local History and Preservation Society October/November 2024

www.langtonmatraversmuseum.org

The Society has been very busy since the last report, with several successful talks at the Village Hall. We enjoyed hearing from Ilay Cooper about sculptor Mary Spencer-Watson. The following week, it was the turn of the wider 20th Century artistic community in Purbeck, when Gill Clarke introduced a packed village hall to some of the highlights of the exhibition at the Russell-Cotes Museum in Bournemouth, ‘**Artists in Purbeck - The Spirit of Place**’. The exhibition runs until 16th March 2025, and is well worth a visit, featuring pictures from Corfe and other local museums, and two from our very own museum; there are also items from national and private collections. A local highlight is a Purbeck Marbler’s certificate awarded to Robert Bower, the father of Mrs Jasmine Cattle of Langton. In early November farmer Alan Smith entertained us with information, artefacts and reminiscences about local farms, ably assisted by several others who shared their memories. As we go to press, Louise Haywood will be showing pictures of Corfe past and present. Please note the dates for future talks at Langton Village Hall over the winter. All evening talks are at 7.30pm, doors open 7pm. Everyone is welcome to attend: £3 for members, £4 for non-members.

Wednesday, 11th December. AFTERNOON talk – 2 for 2.30pm. John Mowlem by Audrey Pembroke.

Thursday 23rd January, 2025: Ball Clay Mining and the Railway, by Peter Sills.

Thursday, February 20th, 2025: Discoveries on Arne Moor, by a representative of Wessex Archaeology.

Thursday, March 20th, (title tba.) a talk by Nick Reed.

We welcomed a school group from Leeson House to the museum in early November, and look forward to welcoming more when the museum re-opens next Spring, hopefully to tie in with our upcoming blacksmithing exhibition, to include a real blacksmith. Our archaeology project in conjunction with the ‘Dorset Diggers’ is now shut down for the winter, but there are interesting finds which require analysis: we hope these will help us to understand when the site was first settled. The plan is to re-start in the Spring: if you are interested, please use our website contact form to find out more.

Membership fees were due on 1st September. If you would like to join the Society, or renew membership, this can be done at talks or through the website. You can download the application form at: <https://www.langtonia.org/membership.html>

We will have a Christmas Tree at the festival in Langton (30th-Nov-2nd Dec) – do go and have a look and enjoy the festive forest.

A Happy Christmas to you all !

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