



Langton Matravers Local History and Preservation Society September 2025

www.langtonmatraversmuseum.org

It's been a busy summer at the museum, with numbers up on last year. To tie in with our new Blacksmith Exhibition in the local studies room, we were very excited to have a real life blacksmith, Will Spicer, to visit on 6th September. He was accompanied by local stonemason Jonathan Sells, and they demonstrated their crafts, giving people the opportunity to have a go themselves. We are very grateful to them for doing this, and will hope to welcome them back next year. The museum will close for the winter at the end of September, and we look forward to welcoming you again at the beginning of April 2026.

Dates for your Diary.

We are in the process of planning our usual series of winter talks; so far they are as follows:

Thursday 23rd October, 2025: Durnford Diamonds, by Mary Sparks.

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.

Watch the website for other talks/dates (currently in planning) in 2026, including some of our popular short afternoon events. All evening talks are at 7.30pm, doors open 7pm. Everyone is welcome to attend: £3 for members, £4 for non-members.

The first of the series for the winter, 'Durnford Diamonds' explores the role of the Pellatt family in the development of prep schools in the village of Langton Matravers in the twentieth century. Using newly available photos, maps and architectural plans, the talk explains the phenomenon of prep schools and shows how and why the Pellatts re-developed local buildings and even created a purpose-built school at Spyway, always using the diamond-paned windows to leave their mark in the built environment. The later use of these buildings is also explored, coupled with the author's personal experience of working or living at these institutions over time.

Our archaeology project in conjunction with the 'Dorset Diggers' is progressing well, with some exciting new finds. The team welcomes volunteers to join in: if you are interested, please use our website contact form to find out more.

Membership fees were due on 1st September. If a member, please renew ! If not, please consider joining us. Annual Membership is £10.00 for individuals or £15.00 for family/joint membership, or for just £100 you can become a member for life. To join the Society, or renew membership, either talk to our friendly team at events, or follow the link to membership on the website to download the application form at:

<https://www.langtonia.org/membership.html>

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