



Registered Charity 517660



Whitworth Historical Society
Talks Programme

2024-25

All talks commence at

7.30pm

and are held at

Hallfold United Reformed Church

Hall Street

Whitworth

OL12 8TL



www.whitworthhistoricalsociety.org.uk

Wednesday, 2nd October 2024

“RNLi Timeline”

By Roy Meakin

It's hard to believe that this most British of institutions has been in existence for 200 years. Although boats kept specifically for saving lives at sea can be traced back to Formby on the Lancashire coast as early as 1777, it was not until 1824 that Sir William Hillary founded the institution that we know today. Roy tells us the history of this much admired organisation.

Wednesday, 6th November 2024

“AGM”

followed by

Potato Pie Supper

The AGM is open to members and non-members alike and is an opportunity for us to review the year's performance and what we have in mind for the future. Delicious potato pie supper to round off the evening!

Wednesday, 4th December 2024

“Gorton Monastery”

by Grahame Birtles

The Church and Friary of St Francis is referred to locally as Gorton Monastery and designated a Grade II listed building. The magnificent buildings were designed and built 1866-1872 in the Gothic Revival style by Edward Welby Pugin, eldest son of the famous Augustus Pugin. After falling into disrepair, Gorton Monastery was the subject of a recent restoration project which was completed in 2007, at a cost of some £6million. Grahame guides us skilfully through this masterpiece of Victorian architecture.

Wednesday, 8th January 2025

“Barging in Holland”

by Jo & Janna May

The Netherlands and the Low Countries are well known for their network of rivers and canals which were once the 'domain' of merchants for the transport of goods from inland factories to Holland's major sea ports. Today, whilst commerce remains very much in evidence, these waterways have become more used to holiday cruises and leisure activities. Jo & Janna tell of their experiences whilst travelling Holland's watery roadways.

Wednesday, 5th February 2025

“Shoes – their history and mine”

by Linda Sawley

We all have need of shoes or footwear of some kind and today the names given to the various styles and materials of construction are legion. Linda looks at the development of footwear and gives us an insight into her own preferences.

Wednesday, 5th March 2025
"Origins & Oddities of English Inn Signs"
by Michael Astrop

Seen by many as works of art in their own right, signs on public houses and inns in England are sometimes the subject of discussion and debate. Many are familiar such as the Red Lion, White Hart and the Horse & Farrier whilst others, during and after the reign of King Henry VIII, demonstrated allegiance to the King and the protestant faith with names such as the King's Head, The Crown etc. Michael explores these sometimes odd names and takes a look at the associated artwork.

Wednesday, 2nd April 2025
"Clog Dancing of the Lancashire Wallopers"

by Robynne Wood

The "Wallopers" were originally formed in 1981 by followers and students of the legendary clog dancer and music hall entertainer Sam Sherry. Sherry, described variously as an acrobatic dancer, clog dancer, musician and singer, was part of an act, The Five Sherry Brothers, which toured the country's leading variety theatres during the 1930's. Keen to keep the skill of *walloping* (clog dancing) alive, in his later years Sherry became an enthusiastic teacher of the genre. Robynne, one of today's troupe of Wallopers, uses explanation and demonstration to take us through some of these fascinating routines.

Wednesday, 7th May 2025
"And the Band Played On"

by Sue Holden

Sue takes a fascinating look at a once proud, originally Liverpool based, shipping company and guides us through the sometimes turbulent waters of its history. Of course, no mention of the White Star Line is complete without reference to its most famous vessel, "Titanic". White Star hit hard times in the depression of the 1930's and formed a merger with Cunard in 1934. Although the famous name continued as the Cunard – White Star Line, by 1950 Cunard had absorbed White Star into its own operations and only Cunard's '*White Star Service*' for the well-heeled lives on today.

Wednesday, 4th June 2025

To Be Confirmed



Talks Programme

Whitworth Historical Society holds a series of talks on the first Wednesday of each month, commencing in October and running through to June of the following year. Admission is free at the point of entry and is open to members and non members alike. Non members are however politely requested to make a small donation towards the running of the museum.

Membership of the Society is open to all and is a modest £10 per year. Ask for details or see our website.

Contact Details

Chairman Mobile 07434 703972

Email: chairman@whitworthhistoricalsociety.org.uk

Secretary Mobile: 07816 911556

Email: secretary@whitworthhistoricalsociety.org.uk

The museum is open throughout the year

Saturday 11.00am - 4.00pm

Other times by appointment

Group visits always welcome

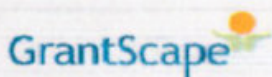
The Heritage Museum

North Street

Whitworth

OL12 8RE

Whitworth Historical Society has been supported by



Cover Picture: Whitworth Carnival Procession at junction of Market Street and Hall Street. Abt.196.

Photo: Fred Pilling