

Programme for 2023

18 January Growing up in Dawlish in the 60s – Jimmy Hill

Jimmy Hill was raised in and worked in Dawlish for most of his life. His illustrated talk of what it was like growing up in Dawlish in the 1960s and how it's changed over the years since.

15 March The Building of Exeter Cathedral, part 2 – John Allan

A continuation of the well-received talk given by John, the Cathedral's archeologist, in 2022. This will continue the description of the structural history of the cathedral, will place it in the story of medieval architecture in England in the Middle Ages, and will describe new insights in understanding this much-researched church.

17 May Topsham and Sugar - links to the slavery plantations of the Caribbean – Jan Betteridge & Gill Mclean

From the 17th to 19th centuries there was a lucrative trade between Topsham and sugar plantations in the Americas. This talk looks briefly at how the Exe Estuary was linked to the Americas, explores some of the connections in more detail and makes reference to the enormous suffering that made plantation businesses possible.

18 July Visit to and guided tour of Bickleigh Castle

A private tour of this historic castle by its curator, John Vaughan, to include access to the gardens with tea & biscuits.

NOTE – This is a Tuesday afternoon event, starting at 14:30.

20 September Family History – Lucy Browne

A two-part talk covering an introduction to studying your own family history, plus an overview of family heraldry.

15 November Devon Smugglers – Robert Hesketh

Between 1700 and 1850 smuggling became a huge industry in Devon, with the majority of Devonians active in it, profiting from it, or at least colluding in it. All social classes were involved. Clergymen and aristocrats were among the backers.