

**BOOK** On-line [www.thenorwichsociety.org.uk/events/all-events](http://www.thenorwichsociety.org.uk/events/all-events)

By Tel 07503 951195 By Email [admin@thenorwichsociety.org.uk](mailto:admin@thenorwichsociety.org.uk)

By Post St Martin at Palace Church 15 St Martin-at-Palace Plain Norwich NR3 1RW

**TALKS** are held in The Forum, Millennium Plain, NR2 1TF

**Members £4 / non-members £7**

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January**  
10.30am



## **TALK** William of Norwich: 12<sup>th</sup> century Murder, Miracles and Myth Speaker: Adrian O'Dell

Who was William of Norwich? The story of the young boy William's "martyrdom" took root in the mid-12th-century when the Norfolk lad was found "murdered". How was his death attributed to the aliens in their midst by the people of Norwich, why was a series of astounding miracles attributed to him, and how did William's death engender a genre of racism and myth called "Blood libel" which has fuelled centuries of oppression for the Jewish people?

**Adrian O'Dell** has devoted himself to the study of Norfolk and Norwich's history and heritage following an international career in the oil industry. He is a city tour guide and Chair of the Norfolk Polish Heritage Group.

**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January**  
6.30pm



## **TALK** Norwich 1945 to 1960: A Journey from Austerity to Prosperity

Join **Frances and Michael Holmes** for a trip down memory lane. They will bring back a time when after years of war the City was rebuilt and regenerated; when City workers made shoes and chocolate; when Teddy boys added colour to the City and youngsters danced the night away at the Samson & Hercules. A trip which will take you from the rationing of the post-war years to a time when we 'never had it so good'.

**Frances and Michael** have researched and written a number of local history books. They operate as Norwich Heritage Projects and full details of their work can be found on their website [www.norwich-heritage.co.uk](http://www.norwich-heritage.co.uk)

**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February**  
10.30am



## **TALK** The Remarkable life of Thomas Fowell Buxton Speaker: Dr Alison Dow

On the wall in a side-chapel of Norwich Cathedral a modest plaque reads – '**Remember Thomas Fowell Buxton Bt. Member of Parliament Whose Efforts led to the Emancipation of 700,000 slaves on 1st August 1834.**' Alison will bring to life the story behind this inscription. She will look at the life of Buxton himself and the Norfolk and Norwich community that inspired him and supported him through the brutal, decades-long Parliamentary battle that led finally to the end of slavery throughout the British Empire.

**Dr Alison Dow** was formerly a GP in Mile Cross, Norwich. She was born and brought up in Northern Rhodesia—now Zambia and is happy to play her part by researching the life of this local historical figure whose role in history has been much overlooked.

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March**  
6.30pm



## **TALK** The Ups and Downs of Elm Hill, c.1450-2023 Speaker: Victor Morgan

Today Elm Hill is considered to be one of Norwich's major tourist attractions, yet it has experienced a number of economic and social ups and downs and cultural transformations since the late-medieval period. In some ways these encapsulate changes in the City as a whole. But despite what is sometimes assumed, Elm Hill was never a 'typical' Norwich street. Drawing on documents, historical illustrations and the surviving standing structures **Victor** will tell the story.

**Victor Morgan** worked at the UEA for many years after graduating there in 1965. His research interests have focused on East Anglia and he has published many articles and books. He also has an interest in how history is taught and has been involved in much extra-mural teaching through the region.

**Thursday 21 March**  
10.30am



## **TALK** The Days of The Norwich Trams: Transforming Streets, Transforming Lives

**Speakers: Frances and Michael Holmes**

In 1900 trams arrived on Norwich's streets. They were greeted with awe as a technological wonder that not only revolutionised travel but also radically changed the City.

Using a combination of images, archive material and contemporary accounts **Frances & Michael Holmes** will illustrate that the story of the trams is about so much more than a vehicle – it is the story of how that vehicle transformed our city.

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April**  
10.30am



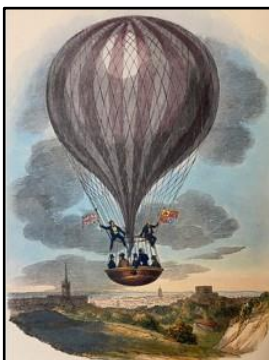
## **TALK** Manifestations of Madness at the Norfolk Asylum

**Speaker: Julie Jakeway**

A look at life within Norfolk County Lunatic Asylum in the years 1851 - 1870, including case studies of women whose lives, through poverty, debility, and physical exhaustion, brought them to the asylum for a period of refuge.

**Julie Jakeway's** MA in local history at Leicester University stimulated her interest in Victorian asylums and her subsequent research led to the publication of her book, *Manifestations of Madness*.

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May**  
10.30am



## **TALK** Balloon Mania in Norwich 1784-1840

**Speaker: Ian Smith**

The appearance in Norwich from 1784 of balloons filled with hot-air, later with hydrogen and much later with coal gas was greeted with growing enthusiasm among the population which quickly developed into 'balloon mania'. This talk will examine the impact of balloon mania on city life and how these early balloon ascents rarely went smoothly. It will identify some of the worst mishaps and also look at how hoaxers took advantage of the often-credulous population.

Since completing a post-retirement BA and MA at the UEA, **Ian Smith** has pursued his special interest in Georgian Norwich.

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June**  
2pm

Members £16

Non-members £18

*Includes tea and cake.*

## **TOUR and Talk**

### **Waterloo Park and its Archives**

A tour of Waterloo Park followed by a talk centre around the history of Norwich's Waterloo Park, from its inception in the 1890s to its restoration in the 21st century, using maps, original documents, newspaper articles, and photographs held by the Friends of Waterloo Park, the Norfolk Record office, and other organisations in the county.

*Meet outside the café in the park. The talk, tea and cake will be in the café's Sandys-Winsch Community Room. This is accessible by lift.*



**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July**  
2pm

Members £16

Non-members £18

*Includes tea and cake.*

## **WALKING TOUR**

### **Exploring Beccles past and present**

A guided walk in the historic market town of Beccles with local historian and town councillor **Dr Barry Darch**.

*Starting from Blyburgate car park NR34 9TF and finishing at St Michael's Church for tea and cake.*

