



LEWES ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

Programme of Talks 2026-2027

- Fri 16 October** **The Archaeology of Roman and Medieval Icklesham with David Staveley**
David will kick off the season of LAG talks with an account of recent archaeological finds, both medieval and Roman at Icklesham, East Sussex. David's talk will offer broader understanding of the importance of the settlement in the Roman period and its links to the iron ore industry of Sussex.
- Fri 20 November** **The History and Archaeology of St Thomas à Becket Church with Peter Varlow**
The roots of St Thomas à Becket Church, Cliffe, Lewes, date back 1,000 years. With likely Saxon origins, for centuries it was part of a 'peculiar' of the Archbishop of Canterbury, with new building phases in the 13th, 14th and 15th centuries, and today it retains notable features. Peter will offer "the full story" of the fabric and furnishings of the church, including a new study of the (probably) 15th-century oak bellframe.
- Fri 15 January** **Daniel Defoe's Tour of South-East England in 1724 with Dr Geoffrey Mead**
Daniel Defoe is known to most as the author of *Robinson Crusoe*, but he was much more than a novelist, a highly complex man whose 'Tour of the whole island of Great Britain' published in 1724, is a classic of travel writing. His journey was at the start of both the agricultural and industrial revolutions, in a turbulent political and religious time... And Lewes comes out of it all very well!
- Fri 19 February** **The Archaeology of Bodiam Castle with Dr Nathalie Cohen**
Nathalie will share the latest results of recent archaeological investigations at Bodiam Castle, Robertsbridge, East Sussex. Geophysical surveys using magnetometry and ground penetrating radar have returned some intriguing results...
- Fri 19 March** **Medieval Witchcraft and the First Witch with Professor Anthony Bale**
Anthony will talk about his research into medieval witchcraft, which is the subject of his new book, *The First Witches*. His account starts in a quiet Irish town and takes us all across medieval Europe, from the countryside to the papal court, giving new insights into "the making of the witch".
- Fri 16 April** **Uncovering the Archaeology of Prehistoric Pevensey with Dr Jon Baczowski**
Jon will present the findings from a large and important site in Westham, Pevensey. Excavations near Rattle Road document a significant landscape with multiple periods of human activity including notable Neolithic, Roman and Saxon activity. Jon will mostly focus on the prehistoric aspects, with a sprinkling of Roman and Saxon history.

All talks start at 7:30pm in the Lecture Room, Lewes Town Hall, Fisher Street entrance (lift access available). £2.00 for members; non-members very welcome for £4.00. Payable in cash on the door, refreshments included. Free entry for those 25 years old or under. www.lewesarchaeology.org.uk.