

The Dorchester Association for Research
into Local History and Archaeology

Hon. Secretary

Michael Rice

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If you are not already a member, why not join to keep in touch with our events. The cost is only £15 per year. Meetings are free to members, a £5 donation is suggested for non-members. Other events are arranged during the year. Contact the Secretary if you are interested, download a membership form from our website or join at a meeting.



Members visiting the Valley of Stones in June 2025. Archaeologist Dr. Hayley Roberts explained the geology and archaeology of the site.

The Dorchester Association for Research into Local History & Archaeology

President:
Dr Clare Randall

**Programme
2025 – 2026**



The Association was formed in 1982 with the co-operation of the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society, but is an independent, charitable, non profit-making organisation. Its primary aim is to promote public interest in the local history and archaeology of Dorchester and its surrounding area

Talks will commence at 7.30pm for evening meetings and 2.30pm for afternoon ones. The day school on November 1st is an all day event from 10am to 5pm.

They will be held at the Dorford Centre,
Bridport Road, Dorchester. DT1 1RR

Charity Registration Number 293998

Dorchester Association For the Research into Local History and Archaeology 2025/26 Programme

2025

Thursday 25th September (Evening)

Clouds Hill Cottage

A picture of the families who lived there. Martin has extensively researched its history from the 18th century onwards. It had a separate life as a labourers tied cottage.
by Martin Gething.

Thursday 30th October (Afternoon)

The Gentleman who Pays the Rent: The History of Pigs and Us
by Tim Loasby.

Saturday 1st November (All day event)

Maiden Castle Day School

It is 40 years since the last major dig at this iconic site. Professor Niall Sharples, who led that campaign, will be joining us along with experts who have researched various aspects of the site, to tell us the current thinking about it's archaeology.

Admission by pre-booked ticket. Details to follow. Check the Day School page on our website.



Thursday 27th November (Afternoon)

Hospital Blues

Nursing in Dorset during the First World War. An estimated 60,000 volunteers served with the British Red Cross in hospitals, caring for injured servicemen. This was largely sustained by female voluntary labour, V.A.D.'s.
by Luke Mouland

2026

Thursday 29th January (Afternoon)

Thomas Fowell Buxton and the Niger Expedition of 1841-1842. He was a Weymouth M.P. From 1818-1837, and an anti slavery campaigner. The aim of the Expedition was to attack the root causes of the slave trade, but it turned out to be a disaster.
by Ben Buxton.

Thursday 26th February (Afternoon)

Policing in the Past

The speaker is a retired Dorset Police Inspector, the 4th. successive generation of Police Officers in his family.
by Richard Hutley



Thursday 26th March (Evening)

The Dorchester Roman Aqueduct

First built almost 2,000 years ago, it was a vital part of Roman life in Dorchester, supplying water for its public Baths, fountains and wealthy households.
by Harry Manley

Thursday 30th April (Evening)

Maude Dudley: Nanny to the Williams family of Bridehead
The Life and Letters of an Edwardian Nanny, and the "ups and downs" of a live in servant.
by Val Brenton

Thursday 28th May (Evening)

Victorian School Logbooks

Details of everyday school life in rural Dorset.
by Mike Randall

