

THE FRIENDS OF ST JAMES CHURCH, SWIMBRIDGE Q&As SPRING 2019

Our Spring Q&As are in the Old School Room at 7pm admission £3 (Friends free). Refreshments by donation.

We have a wonderful line up of speakers, to whom we are most grateful. Both Philip and Michael have entertained us before – this time they are joined by an old friend of the Friends, Dr Richard Westcott.

Thursday 7 March, Philip Dalling: 'Jeremy Thorpe: in search of the legend'

A commission to write a book exploring the continuing popularity of former Liberal leader and long-time North Devon MP Jeremy Thorpe, notwithstanding the events which led to his political downfall and virtual banishment from public life, led journalist Philip Dalling on a fascinating journey of exploration of the enduring Thorpe legend. People who worked with Thorpe in his heyday as a household name, many of whom are still active in politics, journalism and other fields, made significant contributions to the author's own understanding of a man who today is not only still respected but even revered, by political friend and foe alike. The talk will include some film footage shot in 1964 and 1967, including an excerpt from a TV interview with Thorpe at Landkey Post Office. Thorpe lived at Chuggaton, near Swimbridge.



Thursday 21 March: Dr Richard Westcott: 'Words in practice: a lifetime as a family doctor'

Richard says that his talk, 'represents a lifetime of words – many written, but so very many spoken and heard – more or less, as the case may be. Doctor words – all those medical words – and patient words; scientific words and workaday words; proper words along with improper ones, malapropisms, expletives, onomatopoeias and even (if I may say so) non-verbal words... A not too serious review of all this in – I'm sorry – more words.' We can't wait!

Thursday 4 April, Michael Gee: 'Devon's orchards and how we took to cider'

Michael's book on Devon's Orchards was published by Halsgrove at the end of 2018. His illustrated talk will look at the way, centuries ago, cider replaced beer and Devonians rose to the challenge of growing fruit in difficult circumstances. He will look at the recent revival of orchards, with reference to North Devon's own fruit: mazzards. Michael is the founder of Orchards Live and was very involved in creating the Mazzard Orchard in Landkey to celebrate the Millennium in 2000.

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