

## THE ALTON TALKS – 2018

Held at Alton Barnes Coronation Hall, in aid of  
All Saints Church Roof Appeal, The Coronation Hall, Alton Arts

We are happy to announce the new Autumn season of these highly successful talks held in the Coronation Hall, Alton Barnes. There are three new speakers this year, and as we expect the talks to be sell-outs, early booking is advisable.

**Tickets are £8.50 for each talk, or £20 for all three. Please send a stamped addressed envelope with a cheque made out to “Alton Barnes Coronation Hall” and post to: Box Office, Alton Arts, End Cottage, Honeystreet SN9 5PS. Email: [altonarts@altonsandhoneystreet.org.uk](mailto:altonarts@altonsandhoneystreet.org.uk)**

*Thursday 27 September at 7.30pm – Professor David Jacques, winner of the 2018 most prestigious archaeology award in this country for his pioneering work at Stonehenge, on the “Mesolithic site of Blick Mead”*

The Stonehenge landscape is one of the most famous prehistoric places in the world, but much about its origins remains a mystery, and little attention has been paid to what preceded, and thus may have influenced, its later ritual character. Now, the discovery of a uniquely long-lived Mesolithic occupation site at Blick Mead, just 2km from Stonehenge, with a detailed radio carbon date sequence ranging from the 8th to the late 5th millennium BC, is set to transform this situation.

This talk charts the story of the Blick Mead excavations, from the project’s local community-based origins to a multi-university research project using the latest cutting-edge technology to address important new questions about the origins of the Stonehenge landscape at a time when the Stonehenge Tunnel project threatens to destroy the site.

*Thursday 25 October at 7.30pm - John Dymond on “The Lost Wiltshire village of Snap” – the Rise and Demise of a Downland Community.*

This talk covers the history of the community near Aldbourne from the 1200s through to its abandonment in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. It will look at the origins of the settlements and its early history, its part in the Civil War, and the development of Snap and Leigh Farms. It will go into the agricultural boom and bust, leading to the final desertion of the village, the political point scoring, and its aftermath – and the village of Snap today.

*Thursday 22 November at 7.30pm - Robert Carpenter Turner, the Bee Inspector covering Wiltshire for the past 14 years, and Chairman of Kennet Beekeepers Association, on "Goings on in a Beehive".*

Honeybees are much in the news lately, as we all lament their recent decline in numbers. Robert Carpenter Turner will be talking about the history of beekeeping, up to the present day and outlining the differences between conventional and natural beekeeping methods.

There will be equipment to see and handle, and the evening will conclude with a honey tasting to showcase the many delicious flavours that can be found from different honeys. The talk is for those with an inquisitive mind, who are interested in how this marvellous food is produced. There will be some new ideas of ways to use it in cooking, and encouragement for those who may wish to take up this quite fascinating hobby.