

Orleton History Group

The Orleton History Group has been busy this month! On 26th August, we had a fascinating walk to Eye, led by local author Philip Hume. Around 25 people braved the rain showers to follow the route which, until the 1420s, people from Orleton had to walk carrying coffins because all burials from Orleton took place at Eye until that date. It was an excellent insight into quite what an effort it would have been to carry a coffin to Eye, not to mention the interesting background to Edmund Mortimer, a lord with vast landholdings who was intimately involved in royal machinations who still found time for his tenants in Orleton. And how the slip of a pen by a scribe resulted in years of confusion as to whether Wigmore Abbey was located at Eye for a period (it wasn't, it was at Lye). We even got away with only two light rain showers until just before we arrived back in Orleton...and then we got totally drenched!

On 29th August, several of us visited the Herefordshire Archives & Resources Centre. We were given an overview of the archives held in the centre, and how the building has been designed to keep the archives at the optimum temperature and humidity. We then had the privilege of being taken into the Strong Room where we saw the oldest document in the archives (from the 1100s), and a beautiful illuminated manuscript, amongst other things. Finally, we got to see a whole range of documents specifically relating to Orleton from maps to letters to parish registers to postcards and much more. It was a fascinating morning.

Upcoming talks

We have also been busy putting together a programme of talks for the next few months. If anyone has any suggestions, or would be willing to deliver, a future talks then please let us know. The talks are all free, donations invited for refreshments:

Saturday 30th September 2-3.15pm, St George's Church: Discovering Victorian Orleton - a look at the documents and what they may tell you, led by James Turtle.

Saturday 28th October, 2-3.15pm, St George's Church: 'A Street Through Time': in a change to the originally planned schedule, Simon, Ben and Harry Collings will take us through the development of Kings Road and Church Lane, looking in detail at the past century and going back as far as they can find evidence!

Saturday 25th November, 2-3.15pm, St George's Church: Orleton on the Eve of World War I – Ann Turtle will explore what it was like to live in Orleton in the early twentieth century.

Saturday 27th January, 2-3.15pm, St George's Church: Ingrid Jensen will explore the life of Thomas Blount, a fascinating man who lived in Orleton in the seventeenth century, and who is buried at St George's.

Saturday 24th February, 2-4pm, St George's Church: explore research from people in the group into local maps, houses, the church, and other aspects of local history: this will be an informal session to walk round and look at the displays and chat to the people who've put them together (this has been moved from the originally-planned date in October to allow time for the space in church to be developed to best host it).

Getting involved in research

There is a small group of people currently undertaking active research into the history of Orleton. If you would be interested in joining us then please get in touch. You don't have to be an expert, or have done any research before. Or you may have been researching for years and just want people to share your findings with. You can work alone or in small groups.

If you would like to join the research or events please email e.e.mackay@gmail.com, or drop into the shop, or just turn up. All welcome.