



Thames Valley Network

Study Day

Researching Local History

Tuesday 30 September 2014

Upper Hall, High Street Methodist Church, 40 High Street,
Witney, Oxfordshire OX28 6HG



Are you interested in the history of your locality, town, county? Or how local communities have arisen, developed and perhaps declined over time? Local history is the study of the history of a relatively small geographic area; typically a specific settlement, parish or county. English local history came to the fore with the antiquarians of the 19th century.

This Study Day will explore how to find out about the history of your locality using Witney as an example.

The two keynote speakers will be:

- (a) Liz Woolley, MSc English Local History, Oxford University Dept. for Continuing Education. She is a local historian specialising in aspects of the history of Oxford and Oxfordshire. She is particularly interested in the everyday lives of rural people across the county, chiefly during the 19th and early 20th centuries. She is an experienced speaker, guide, tutor, researcher and writer who is keen to help individuals and groups to enjoy finding out about the history of their local area.
- (b) Keith Crawford is a member of the Early family, makers of Witney blankets for over 300 years.

The Study Day provisional programme is:

10:00	Arrival, Registration and Coffee
10:25	Introduction
10:30	Keynote talk: Local History, how to start out, different ways of approaching the subject
11.45	Talk: 300 years: the History of Witney Blanket Manufacture
12:30	LUNCH
13:30	Choice of Walks/Museum visits with displays at the venue of History of Witney possibly with Spinning demonstration for those not wishing/able to walk (there is lift access to the Upper Hall): 1) St Mary's Church/Bishops Palace 2) Cogges Farm Museum Please note, there are narrow old staircases at Cogges Farm Museum and numbers for this visit are limited. 3) 'Wool' Walk including Blanket Hall if open
15:00	Three U3A Local History Groups will present what they have done in their own groups to use as a basis for what one can do. Summary and Panel Discussion
15:45	Tea available at the Hall
16:00	Finish

The Study Day Fee is £12 and includes participation in the full programme including visits plus coffee/tea morning and afternoon. A finger buffet lunch is available for £5. All delegates must be U3A members. Members of U3As not affiliated to the Thames Valley Network are welcome at an additional fee.

Further information can be obtained from:

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