

Alresford Historical & Literary Society



Newsletter Feb 2019

Keeping the Faith:

Church and Community in Alresford, c. 1780-1939

With **Dr. Alistair Beecher**

on **Wednesday 20th February**

7:30 Methodist Church Jacklyns Lane, Alresford. Visitors Welcome: £3:00 at the door.



The Religious Census of 1851 revealed the registration district of Alresford in Hampshire to be a particular bastion of the Church of England. Having explored the remarkably settled and stable nature of this community, the paper goes on to consider the basis of this Anglican strength and how the established Church managed to retain its dominance against the challenge from Nonconformity in the context of waning of religious commitment nationally.

Themes emerging include the financial strength of the Church of England and its central involvement in the provision of charity, welfare and education.

Underpinning everything was a particularly tight nexus between church and parish elites which served to preserve effective Anglican hegemony in this part of rural Hampshire well into the twentieth century.

Interior of St John's parish church, New Alresford, c. 1898.
Reproduced with permission from www.alresfordheritage.co.uk

Dr Alistair Beecher, University of Oxford. Alistair Beecher is a part-time tutor in the Department for Continuing Education at the University of Oxford. After a 30 year career as a chartered accountant, mostly spent in London, he returned to academia in 2010 completing a postgraduate certificate, a masters and a DPhil in History at Oxford. His doctoral thesis explored secularisation in rural Hampshire in the 19th & 20th C

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Please send Copy to Robert Fowler 01962 734125 email to: secretary@alresfordhistandlit.co.uk

“Henry VIII’s Hidden History at the Vyne”

In an entertaining and enthusiastic presentation Holly Ryan showed how the National Trust’s recent project to restore the roof of the Vyne began as an essential preservation project and then blossomed into a major visitor attraction and a stimulus to new historical research involving academic experts.

Tests on the oak beams revealed a date of 1521 and rooftop views enabled the public to see the outline of long-demolished buildings, thus demonstrating the enormous scale of the original house, now much reduced.

In Tudor times the Vyne, then owned by the Royal Chamberlain, Lord Sandys, rivaled Hampton Court and was visited a number of times by Henry VIII. The king would stay and hunt there with an entourage of hundreds for up to a fortnight, whereupon, for reasons of hygiene, the royal party would move on.

Special care had to be taken in preserving and protecting the ancient Gallery and the Chapel where the king would have worshipped. Original Tudor sheet music has been discovered and used to recreate the sounds and style of the Lady Mass just as Henry VIII would have heard it in the Chapel in 1535. It is one of many new features for visitors. BT

Executive Committee to April 2019

Chair: Glenn Gilbertson	732726
Secretary & Membership: Robert Fowler	734125
Treasurer: Vic Prior	733380
Newsletter Editor: Robert Fowler	734125
Speakers Secretary:	Vacant
Hall Steward- Andrea Sutton	736584

Other Committee Members:

Brian Davies/ Nancy Webb/Brian Tippet

Members may be interested in a Keynote Talk by
Professor Martin Biddle CBE FBA FSA Director Winchester Excavations Committee

WINCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGY - Past, Present, and Future

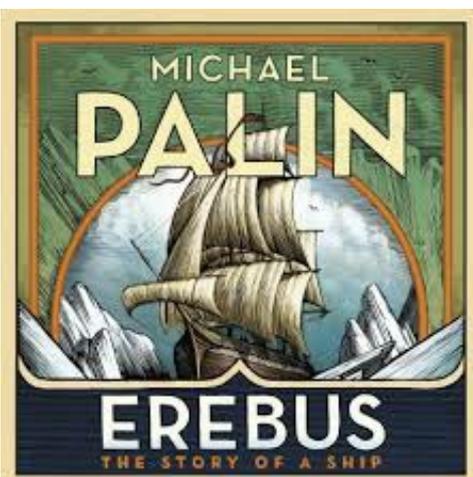
Presented by the Dever Society on WED 27 FEB at the Northbrook Hall, Micheldever
at the early time of 6:30 PM All welcome. £5 at the door

Recommended Reading from Andrea Sutton

Erebus: The Story of a Ship-by Michael Palin

In September 2014 the wreck of a sailing vessel was discovered at the bottom of the sea in the frozen wastes of the Canadian Arctic. Its whereabouts had been a mystery for over a century and a half. Its name was **HMS EREBUS**.

EREBUS was originally built for the Royal Navy in Pembroke, Wales seeing early combat action but with the Napoleonic wars over it began its life to extend geographical and scientific knowledge. The ship was especially prepared for trips to the Antarctic in search of absolute magnetic south followed by its final journey to explore a route from the Atlantic through the Arctic to the Pacific - the famed northwest passage.



Michael Palin is an amazing story teller who is concentrates on the human histories of the Sailors without compromising the geographical detail. I recommend this book- it’s a good read.-Andrea