



Alresford Historical & Literary Society



Newsletter February 2018

1966-2016

With Quill Pen by Candlelight- How did the Romantic Poets actually write?



With Phillip Martin

Wed February 21st 2018



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

Philip Martin is an Emeritus Professor of Sheffield Hallam University, and the author and editor of four books on English Romanticism and English Literature, together with a number of academic articles. He has held posts at six English universities, and had the role of Pro Vice-Chancellor at De Montfort University (2005-10) and at Sheffield Hallam University (2010-14). He now works part-time as a consultant in Higher Education, and enjoys living in rural Dorset.

Phillip will talk about the material conditions of writing in the Romantic period (1790-1830). What did it mean to be a writer in this period? How was the actual work of writing achieved? What materials were used, and how were manuscripts made and revised? A wide range of examples will be considered in this illustrated talk.

(It is difficult to imagine how, only a few decades ago that even biro's didn't exist. I still remember using bottled ink from the school desk and then the latest fountain pens became universally available together with all those ink stained pockets...Ed)

Newsletter. Latest copy date for the March issue is Feb 30th 2018

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

Itchen Ferry Village : January meeting

Itchen Ferry village grew up on the lower banks of the river as the main crossing point to Southampton. The land was originally owned by the Bishop of Winchester and the small community made a living farming small holdings, fishing and using their boats to ferry travellers across the water. The great and the good would make the crossing from Queen Elizabeth I on her way to Netley, to Samuel Pepys and even Jane Austen.

The area became a little more prosperous in the Spa period when the gentry built manor houses to make the most of the river view. By the late 19th century the ferry boats found themselves replaced by a chain drawn Floating Bridge, and the locals had to find new occupations to support their families.

The new sport of professional yacht racing including the iconic J class yachts owned by wealthy owners like Sir Thomas Lipton brought fresh employment to the redundant fishermen.

The establishment of Thorneycroft boat builders and the aircraft company Supermarine in the nearby area known as Woolston saw incomers swelling the population.

Then in 1940 the village was razed to the ground by the Luftwaffe who were targeting Supermarine, the factory producing the famous Spitfires. Itchen Ferry Village is no longer to be seen on modern maps though its iconic Jesus Chapel still survives on the village green, the first Anglican church built after the Reformation in 1620.

The talk was personalised by interspersing the presentation with the story of one of the founding families of the village, the Diapers, who first appeared in the records during the 1100s, probably incomers from Ypres following the Norman Conquest, and still thriving today. See www.diaperheritage.com

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Recommended Reading



Peter Pooley recommended the following books:

Claire Tomalin's "A life of my own". Claire was recently in conversation with John Miller at the Guildhall to discuss her latest book.

Peter Preston's *"A Very English Scandal"*
The shocking true story of the first British politician to stand trial for murder. Jeremy Thorpe is accused of murdering his ex-lover and is forced to stand trial in 1979. A new film is due out this year with Hugh Grant as Thorpe.

The Sober Diaries: "How one woman stopped drinking and started living" by Claire Pooley. Starting out as a blog the book tells the story of how Claire quit drinking, and in a year lost 2 stone becoming healthier and happier. *Sober Diaries* is an upbeat, funny and positive look at how to live life to the full.