

Alresford Historical & Literary Society



Newsletter March 2020



Arthur Conan Doyle

His Life and Writings.

With **Julia Mayo**

on **Wednesday 18th March**

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

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle 1859 - 1930

Arthur would have been the despair of the modern creative writing profession... if it had existed in his day. If he needed some money he would sit down for a day and dash off a story with a gripping title – send it off—job done. He continued with this approach throughout his writing career, gaining a reputation for vivid characterisation and, eventually, being outshone by his most famous character Sherlock Holmes. There is a local connection: He was interred with his wife in Minstead Churchyard, in the New Forest.

Julia's Biog

Julia's lifelong interest in literary heritage started when, ever a voracious reader, she was fortunate enough to attend Farnham School of Art (circa 1959-62) where, through inspirational teachers she was introduced to Arthur Conan Doyle's historical novels 'Sir Nigel' and 'The White Company'.

Later Julia became an Arts Development Officer for several authorities and was able to extend her knowledge of local literary heritage through the events, including The Grayshott Literary Festival 1995/96/97 and the "Shorelines" Literary Festival in Fareham and Gosport in 1998.

Following retirement from her main career she worked for 5 years as a Registrar for the Hampshire Registration Service which inspired her to write a book entitled "Registering Life's Milestones" recalling her time in the service together with the results of researching some very interesting aspects of the early years of secular registration which started in July 1837.

Newsletter. Latest copy date for the April issue is March 29th 2020 Please note this date
Please send Copy to Robert Fowler 01962 734125 email to: secretary@alresfordhistandlit.co.uk

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

To be held at The Methodist Church, Jacklyns Lane, Alresford
On Wednesday 15th April 2020 at 7.30 pm

AGENDA

1. Receive apologies for absence.
2. Approve the Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting
3. Consider any matters arising from the Minutes.
4. Review written reports from the Society's Officers on the activities of the past year.
5. Review and approve the accounts of the Society.
6. Elect the Honorary Officers and other members of the Committee.
7. Confirm the appointment of the Independent Auditor.
8. Agree proposals for annual subscriptions in 2021.
9. Discuss and take decisions on any submitted motions.
10. Consider any other Business

Executive Committee to April 2020

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	07799 410229

Other Committee Members:

Brian Davies/ Nancy Webb/Brian Tippet/John Miller

Spitfire Memorial.

Our Chairman has now submitted the formal planning application for the Spitfire Memorial at Folly Hill, Itchen Stoke.

A joint working party has been established with the Alresford Society to replace the Cogswell Memorial Plaque in the Soke.

Recommended Reading

The Secret War: Spies, codes and Guerrillas 1939-1945. By Max Hastings.

This excellent read examines the espionage and intelligence stories in World War II on a global basis, bringing together the British, American, German, Russian and Japanese histories.

There are many surprising and unfamiliar tales of treachery, deception, betrayal and incompetence by spies of Axis, Allied or indeterminate loyalty. Although there were great successes, notably code breaking at Bletchley Park, perhaps the greatest failures were the inability of all governments to comprehend the vast significance of both human and signals intelligence. Recommended by Bob Fowler.

'Wilding' (The return of Nature to a British Farm) by Isabella Tree.

The concept of allowing nature to re-populate unproductive land has been dubbed 'Wilding' and has become the must do thing for the environment. Isabella Tree has carefully steered her husbands Knepp Estate in West Sussex, from a non profit making dairy farm on heavy clay to a example of of the very best in conservation.

She describes how virtually everybody, from English Nature to adjoining farmers thought she was crazy. Now she is lauded by the very authorities who first spurned her. The estate soils now hold more water to prevent flooding and double the Carbon in the soils. Longhorn cattle, Tamworth pigs and fallow deer roam the estate while birds and butterflies are now in abundance. An uplifting well written story expressing hope for the future; a Times Best seller and Wainwright Nature prize nominee. Recommended by Bob Fowler

