



Alresford Historical & Literary Society

NEWSLETTER - 1st February 2024

Next meeting, 7:30pm Wed 21st February in the Methodist Church

***Charlotte M Yonge: Rediscovered Bestseller and Hampshire Activist*
a talk by Alys Blakeway**

Alys will first introduce us to Charlotte M Yonge as a child and young lady. Then in her adulthood we learn how CMY became a writer / High Church novelist for adults, teenagers (one of the first to address a teenage audience) and children, and was founder of the first teen magazine.

As a Hampshire activist, CMY was an unpaid teacher, promoter of girls' education, supporter of the Girls' Friendly Society and editor of the Mothers' Union periodical: *Mothers in Council*. She was widely read.



About our speaker, Alys says about herself: "I inherited my love of Charlotte M Yonge from my mother. Then when I started work in the Hampshire Local Studies Library, I became interested in researching her life and works. I have contributed to a number of periodicals including the Charlotte M Yonge Fellowship *Journal*, the *CMY Review*, the Hampshire Field Club *Newsletter* and the Winchester Cathedral *Record Extra*. I have also read many a paper to various audiences including, most recently, Heritage Open Days attenders and the Friends of Winchester Cathedral. I am currently the Chair of the CMY Fellowship, which has been celebrating the bicentenary of her birth in 1823 with various festivities, including a joint outing with the HFC to Otterbourne, her home village, and Hursley, and a festal evensong in the Cathedral" [Alys Blakeway]

Some comments on our last meeting, 17 Jan 2024 'The Sun Hill Cemetery Excavations' a talk by Paul McCulloch

Surveys of the land to the east of Sun Lane in Alresford prior to its development by Taylor Wimpey revealed three Bronze Age barrows, a ditch and numerous burials which Pre-Construct Archaeology were called in to investigate.

They found over 100 burials many dating to the 7th Century Anglo-Saxon period, and then recently a Roman grave.

Amongst the findings were a fine gold cruciform pendant which featured in a recent BBC 2 programme and for our meeting Paul brought with him this magnificent sword found under one of the Saxon skeletons.



We were fortunate to have Paul, who is Manager of Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited of Winchester, as our January speaker to bring us up to date with the project now that sadly it is drawing to a close.

Our audience of 93 filled the hall, a new record!

Mike Dickens, Hon Secretary
secretary@alresfordhistandlit.co.uk

For the record: here's our 2024 Programme

Wednesday 17th January

Paul McCulloch: "The Sun Hill Cemetery Excavations"

Wednesday 21st February

Alys Blakeway "Charlotte M Yonge: Rediscovered Bestseller and Hampshire Activist"

Wednesday 20th March

Paul Stickler: "The Porthole Murder"

Tuesday 2nd April (All day)

Guided Visit to Stratfield Saye

Wednesday 17th April

Patrick Crowley: "Rose, Crown & Castle – Hampshire & The IOW's Citizen Soldiers" & AGM

Wednesday 15th May

Adrian Smith: "Lord Louis Mountbatten"

Wednesday 19th June

Glenn Gilbertson: "Americans in Alresford"

Wednesday 17th July

Bob France: "Fishermania" - The Celebrated Kitty Fisher - Superstar of 1760s London

Thursday 1st August (All day)

Guided Tour of Strawberry Hill

Wednesday 18th September

John Holden: "Ralph Dutton of Hinton Ampner"

Wednesday 16th October

Jude Hayland: "Writing out of the Recent Past

- how, why and when to set a novel with reference to social, political and cultural contexts."

Friday 25th October

Annual Dinner

Wednesday 20th November

Rowan Suart: "The Austen Sisters"

December

No meeting

and do explore our website for further information, our publications etc

alresfordhistandlit.co.uk/