

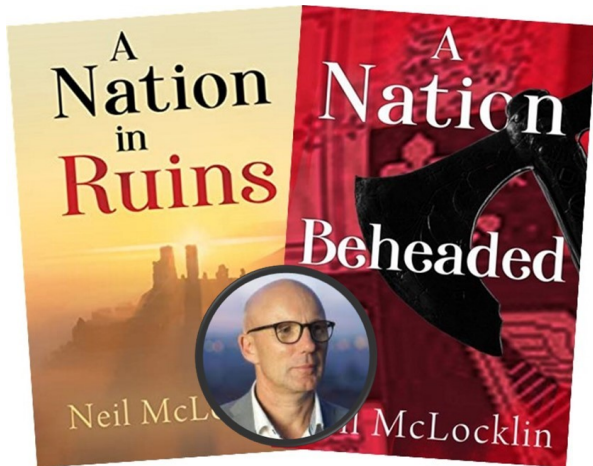
Alresford Historical & Literary Society

Newsletter 1st March 2025

Next Meeting Wed 19th March, 7.30pm Methodist Hall
***The English Civil War, Local People and Places* a talk by Neil McLocklin**

We are delighted to welcome Neil McLocklin a local author who has published two books in a trilogy of historical fiction novels about the English Civil War largely focused on Dorset and Hampshire.

The English civil war turned families and friends against one another and more people were lost per capita than any other conflict in our history. It was a time of social upheaval and turmoil, leaving many scars still visible today across the two counties. He will share some of his research and tell stories of local families and places : the defiance and fortitude of Lady Mary Bankes at the siege of her home, Corfe Castle; the death of Colonel Henry Sandys of Mottisfont at the Battle of Cheriton and the imprisonment of King Charles on the Isle of Wight.



His talk will shed light on the experience of every day folk and influential families. Parallels with modern day Britain will be explored as will the long term impact of the conflict on our country.

Some Comments on February's talk *Going for a Song* by auctioneer Peter Raw

Peter showed us some special objects which had passed through his hands as an auctioneer: a Sèvres porcelain plate with exquisite detail, a tiny Fabergé bell push, and some very fine works of art. For each of these objects there had been an extraordinary increase in price. However, he stressed that price-at-auction is not the same as intrinsic value. Some fine mahogany furniture has, in his opinion, great “value” despite raising little cash these days at auction. Peter’s presentation was spiced with a wry sense of humour. He referred to a talk he’d given elsewhere when he’d asked if everyone could hear him and a chap at the back apparently stood up and said that he could, but he’d happily swap with someone who couldn’t! Peter claimed not to be an expert in any field “I’m rather like a GP, knowing just a little about almost everything!” The meeting was well attended by 75 members and a guest. After the talk the audience was rewarded by some insightful answers to questions on auctioneering. It was with reluctance that time demanded the meeting close [MD]



Summer outings: Colin Scott-Morton announced summer outings to Arundells (Edward Heath’s house) and Longford Castle. There will also be a guided tour of Wickham. Information on all these will be sent to members soon.

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