

Calderdale Family History Society

Syllabus 2023

It has been decided that as things are still fluid we will not publish a card version of the Syllabus, but try to keep every one informed through the other means available to the membership and the wider community.

For the time being the following will apply:

- We are now back using The Maurice Jagger Centre for face to face meetings, these will be hybrid meetings, so face to face and over zoom where possible.
- The monthly meetings will continue, month by month on the 4th Thursday of each month, except December.
- The subject and speaker will be announced as soon as we know them.
- We will try to get the announcements into the Newsletter at the beginning of each month.
- We will put details on to the website scroll bar.

May Meeting, Thursday, 25 May @ 7.30pm

Jack Banks - Bandsman by Catherine Lee (CFHS Member, Live @ Maurice Jagger Centre)

Like many of us, Catherine's interest in family history was awakened some years ago exploring family documents and photographs. Family stories and a little additional research revealed a number of surprises and, in some cases, enabled her to identify family members in the photographs.

One such photograph depicted her Grandad wearing a trench coat and pulling a cart on which there appeared to be some drums. This prompted Catherine to wonder what her Grandad did during the war and ultimately led to her obtaining a copy of his service record. A time line of his service during WWII soon escalated into a book of his life!

Jack Banks - Bandsman (1913-1975), is a very personal research project and fascinating insight into the life and times of an ordinary working gentleman, which Catherine would very much like to share with fellow members.

June Meeting, Thursday, 22 June @7.30pm

Family Houses & Local History—sources before 1837 by Jackie Depelle (Virtual CFHS Member)

We generally consider the main research resource before 1837 to be parish registers, certainly they are a keystone to going back in time. However, there are many other collections of material, held both locally and nationally, that may take us back towards 1538 - perhaps even beyond?

For Jackie it all began with a family house, researching its occupants, an interest in local history and joining a Family History Society. Now with more than 20 years of experience as a professional Family History Tutor, Jackie is ideally well qualified to assist those of us who have struggled to delve more deeply into our family history.

July Meeting, Thursday, 27 July @7.30pm

After You're Dead: the story of dissection and grave robbing by Eric Jackson (Live @ Maurice Jagger Centre)

The talk begins with the rise and history of anatomical dissection, its conjoining with judicial execution, its use as an additional punishment, and how the ever-growing need for bodies led to grave robbing to feed the need for cadavers to be used by the anatomists.

Eric describes the methods used by the grave robbers and discusses the belief that a body was required to ensure entry into heaven, and the various measures people took to prevent their corpse being stolen.

The most famous of grave robbers, Burke and Hare, their apprehension and trial, and their ultimate fate will also feature in the presentation.

In addition, the talk outlines how government reacted to the robbing of graves, the Acts of Parliament which gave the anatomists legal access to cadavers and the gradual rise in bodies being voluntarily donated for medical research.

Not at all as gruesome as it sounds, Eric presents the subject in a light-hearted manner; certainly not the stuff of nightmares.

Not as gruesome as it sounds, it is presented in a light-hearted manner suitable for any audience.

The history of dissection and the grave robbing that took place to feed the need for bodies to dissect. Includes the methods utilised to deter the grave robbers and an account of the activities of Burke and Hare as well as some notable more recent occurrences of grave robbing. Dealt with in a light-hearted way, not at all gruesome.

August Meeting, Thursday 24 August @ 7.30pm

How we used to Live by Chris Helme (Live @ Maurice Jagger Centre)

It was some three years ago in the heart of the Covid pandemic when Chris bravely launched the very first of the Society's Zoom meetings. Not without a few hiccups, it was nonetheless considered a success albeit coming after a long and very steep learning curve for all concerned!

To mark the occasion, Chris has been invited back to speak on life, based largely on personal experience and his 30 years as a serving police officer, growing up in Yorkshire after the war. Many of us have experienced huge changes in our lives and Chris will, with your participation, undoubtedly bring back many memories and a put smile on your face.

September Meeting, Thursday 28 September @ 7.30pm

The History of Calderdale's Markets: the positive effects they have on our towns by John Walker (Live at Maurice Jagger Centre)

In any language, the Market Place conjures up a picture of people, merchandise, movement, vibrancy, history, culture and a multitude of other impressions. Throughout the centuries local townsfolk have gathered at established marketplaces for the purchase and sale of provisions, livestock, and other wares.

Many of our historic customs were given over to market day where local people typically thronged in great numbers. Calderdale's Markets also developed and expanded during this period with a history stretching back several centuries.

As Calderdale's Markets Manager, John is uniquely well qualified to speak on the subject, ranging from early Royal Charters through Gibbet Law onto modern retailing and the impact markets have had on the shape of our towns.