

CHS TALKS 2021

ALL, AS USUAL, ON THE THIRD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH

All talks will be by Zoom until further notice. Details for joining the talks will be provided to members of Castleton Historical Society.

February 18th

TREAK CLIFF - 3 RAILWAY INCLINES & STEAM IN CHINA, 2020(!)

Speaker: Greg Howell

Treak Cliff is a gem of a location with a little-known working railway incline still transporting supplies from the road up to the Caverns; additionally, a second incline was built in the 20th Century next to the Caverns and which the CHS and I researched in 2019. Finally, a third incline was constructed during the 1940s near to Odin Mine. My talk will provide the information that I have been able to glean about these 3 inclines and hopefully prompt some memories from members to fill in the gaps.....

To round off the evening, I will show images from a trip that I made to China to photograph industrial steam still working hard in January 2020 during which I heard a UK report of a virus affecting China, but I thought that it was a computer virus!



March 18th

THE HISTORY OF WATER – CIVILISATION IN A PIPELINE

Speaker: Jenny Stephenson

Water affects us all. It has a fascinating timeline from when the world began, through basic needs and uses, up through times of disaster and disease, industry, trial and error, invention, sewers to name but a few incidents along the way! This is a light-hearted but poignant and pensive talk given by Dr Jenny Stephenson, a GP in Sheffield, which will stimulate as many questions as it does answers. *Her easy-to-read book, 'The History of Water' covers this wide remit and is fully illustrated with the author's own photos and paintings throughout. It will be on sale at the talk (or online) for £13 per book, and all proceeds are collected for WaterAid and for Cavendish Cancer Care.*



April 15th

MEDIEVAL GRAFFITI : THE LOST VOICES OF ENGLAND'S CHURCHES

Speaker: Matthew Champion, MA, FSA

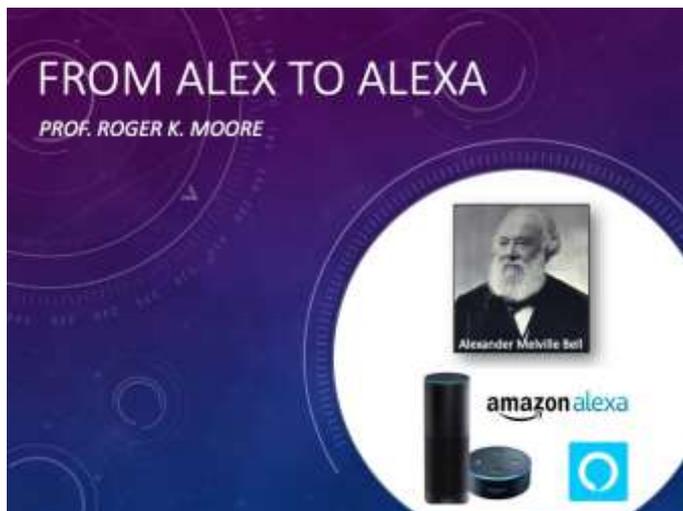
Today most forms of graffiti are regarded as destructive, as anti-social, and certainly not something that we should encourage or welcome on our historic churches. However, that attitude is largely a modern one. Prior to about 1850 all forms of graffiti were, like the outrageous marginalia of a medieval manuscript, at least accepted. As a result, our medieval churches are covered in hundreds of thousands of largely unrecorded inscriptions. Inscriptions that deal with matters of faith, of commerce, and of life and death - waiting only for someone to read them.

May 20th

FROM ALEX TO ALEXA: A HISTORY OF VOICE COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY

Speaker: Roger Moore, Sheffield University

In 2014, the on-line retail giant Amazon announced the release of 'Alexa' - a voice-controlled smart speaker. It was an immediate success, leading to tens of millions of Alexa-enabled devices being sold worldwide over the 2017 Christmas holiday season, and in the UK it is estimated that more than one-in-five households now own one. The technology behind Alexa can be traced back, not only to the invention of the telephone by Alexander Graham Bell, but even to his father Alexander Melville Bell, an eminent Scottish speech therapist in the mid 19th century. Both Alex the father and Alex the son had hearing-impaired wives, and they were trying to find a way of making speech 'visible' to the deaf, and the telephone emerged as a by-product of their endeavours. However, it wasn't until the late 20th century that their vision became a reality at the Bell Telephone Laboratory, paving the way to modern-day Alexa. This talk traces the history of these developments from Alex to Alexa, and will conclude with a glimpse of the future of voice communications and technology.



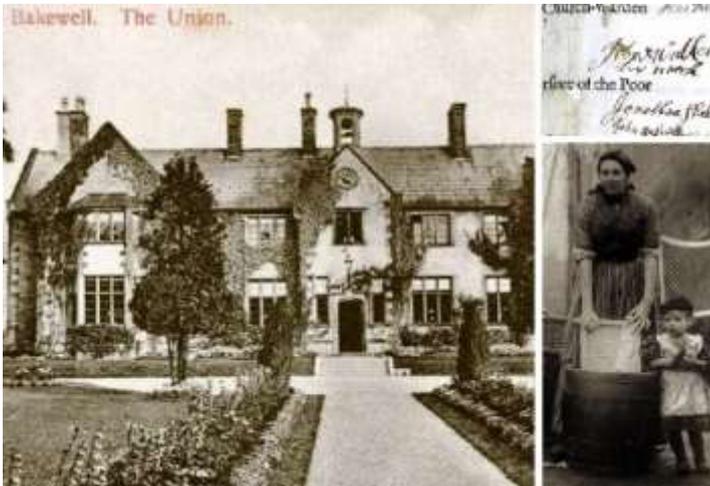
June 17th *Change to original programme*

THE PEAK DISTRICT'S PAUPER PAST

Speaker: Tim Knebel

A powerful portrait of the lives of paupers in the Peak District from the 17th-19th centuries, as revealed through historical 'parish chest' and workhouse records

Discover the fascinating lives of paupers of the Peak District's past, as we lift the lid on the old church 'parish chest' and reveal a wealth of under-used 'settlement and removal' records, created following the 'Old Poor Law' Act of 1601. We also look at surviving workhouse records, created by the 'New Poor Law' of 1834, which led to establishment of the dreaded 'Union Workhouse' system. We show how examining such sources can give a powerful sense of the past lives and hardships of some of the poorest people in society, as they struggled to eke out an existence in a remote and inhospitable landscape, and whose voices ordinarily would not survive from their time.



September 16th

BUXTON'S CRESCENT

Speaker: Trevor Gillman

The Crescent was evacuated in July 1991 following the discovery of movement in the building. It has just reopened only to be closed again by the pandemic. This is just one chapter in the long history of this Grade One listed building. This talk takes a brief look at this story as well as some 'might have beens'. Trevor Gilman is currently Chairman of Buxton Local History Society.



October 21st

HISTORY OF ZOOS (provisional title)

Speaker: Cheryl Williams

November 18th

RAMBLING IN HOPE VALLEY DURING THE 20TH CENTURY

Speakers/Presenters: Mike Rimmington and the Clarion Band

Clarion Band will present the story of rambling in the Hope Valley during the 20th century. This social, cultural and political movement was reflected in poems, songs and articles published in over 50 years of Clarion Ramblers' handbooks. Performance of songs will be accompanied by commentary and illustrated by photographs drawn from Sheffield City Archives. In the spirit of the time, please come prepared to join in choruses as well as listen!

