

## Programme 2019

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month in St Peter's Church Hall (at the junction of Free Street and Hoe Road). Meetings start at 7.30 pm, and refreshments are served before the talk.

**18 January**      **No meeting**

**21 February**      **The Society's Annual General Meeting**

Our Annual General Meeting. This will be followed by cheese and wine and a short talk on this year's Palace anniversaries.

**21 March**      **"Scurvy"**

From the 15<sup>th</sup> century ships started to sail much further across the oceans, but with no fresh food. Dr Richard Ashton will talk about the mistakes and breakthroughs that led to an understanding of the importance of vitamin C.

**18 April**      **"Citizens Advice"**

Eighty years after it was founded, some 4 in 10 people in Britain contact Citizens Advice at some point during their lives. BWS member Sarah Berry will talk about what CA does and the challenges it faces.

**16 May**      **"What the Butler saw?"**

Another costumed talk by Dr Bob France. As Stedman, Petworth's Georgian butler, he shares his experiences and some things that he probably should not have seen! The talk explores the eccentricities of drinking and dining etiquette during Georgian times.

**20 June**      **Midsummer at Titchfield Abbey**

A Discovery Evening as guests of Titchfield History Society at **Titchfield Abbey**. Bring a picnic, chairs and rugs to visit the ruins at 7.30 pm.

**18 July**      **Please note the change: The Napoleonic Prison of Portchester Castle: Then and Now**

One of the oldest war prisons this country has seen. 7,000 prisoners held there during the Napoleonic Wars. What was life like for these men?

**15 August**      **No meeting**

**19 September**      **"Harlots, Dung and Glory"**

Andrew Negus, who gave us an excellent talk on the history of Portsmouth in 2018 will give us the third part of his series covering the years 1850-1930.

**17 October**      **"The Defence of the Mission at Rorke's Drift"**

A talk by Geoff Heal that casts a more accurate light on what really happened at the Mission Station made famous in the film 'Zulu'. An extraordinary story nevertheless!

**21 November**      **"The Deane Brothers and the Diving Helmet"**

Another talk by Dr John Bevan who will recount the story of how two brothers invented the diving helmet and sought fame and fortune. One died a horrible death while the other became the country's most expert diver, personally destroying Sebastopol Docks during the Crimean War.

**19 December**      **The Society's Christmas Party**

Our own Christmas Party – members and guests only. This year the entertainment will be carols, wine and mince pies with probably a different sort of Quiz! Do come. It'll be fun.