

TALKS AND EVENTS

Our programme of talks and events is designed to engage and entertain students, whilst enriching their curriculum knowledge. Make sure you head to the talks tent in plenty of time to get seated before the talk starts!

MOOT	FORUM	HENGE
<p>10:00-10:45 THE BLOOD IN WINTER: A NATION DESCENDS, 1642 John Healey In 1642, Charles I marched on Westminster to arrest five Members of Parliament – setting in motion a series of events that led to bloodshed and war, changing a nation forever. John Healey explores the tense winter months that brought England to the brink of civil war.</p>	<p>10:00-10:45 LIVE FOR EVER: HOW MEDICAL DEVELOPMENTS HAVE EXTENDED OUR LIVES John Tregoning Time wants you dead. Not just you, but everyone you have ever met. And whilst our deaths are inevitable, the reasons why we die have changed dramatically over the last 125 years. Drawing on the history of medicine and particularly looking at the modern medicine period, Prof John Tregoning explores some of the reasons we are living longer, including penicillin, transplant surgery, chemotherapy, vaccination and genetic testing, plus the relationship between wealth and health. Interweaving science, history and a tiny bit of self-experimentation, this is a guide to wellness, ageing and death.</p>	<p>10:00-10:45 LEE MILLER: WAR CORRESPONDENT Kate Vigurs Breaking glass ceilings was far from the minds of the female war correspondents who reported back on the events that swept across the world during the 1940s. From Claire Hollingworth, who witnessed the invasion of Poland, to Lee Miller bathing in Hitler’s bathtub, discover the amazing, daring, and sometimes dark world of the war correspondents.</p>
<p>11:00-11:45 EIGHTEEN TBC Alice Loxton</p>	<p>11:00-11:45 EMPIRES TBC Shalina Patel</p>	<p>11:00-11:45 HOW TO START A HISTORY PODCAST Paul Bavill, Jackson van Uden, Zack White How do you start a podcast when you don’t have your own production</p>

		company? Surprisingly easily. Join our panel of three leading independent podcasters to talk about how they started, their inspirations, and how they made it work.
<p>12:00-12:45 THE STRATEGISTS: CHURCHILL, STALIN, ROOSEVELT, MUSSOLINI AND HITLER – HOW THE WAR MADE THEM, AND HOW THEY MADE WAR Phillips Payson O'Brien Five of World War II's most powerful leaders – Churchill, Hitler, Stalin, Mussolini, and Roosevelt – were shaped by their experiences in World War I. Their past battles influenced their wartime decisions, from Churchill's reluctance to send troops to France to Hitler's missteps on the Eastern Front. Phillips Payson O'Brien reveals how personal history shapes military strategy, with lessons that still resonate today.</p>	<p>12:00-12:45 WE ARE NOT NUMBERS: THE VOICES OF GAZA'S YOUTH Ahmed Alnaouq Ahmed Alnaouq shares stories from We Are Not Numbers, a powerful project amplifying the lived experiences of Gaza's youth over the past fifteen years. This session offers a rare and vital glimpse into the resilience, aspirations, and humanity of a people too often reduced to headlines.</p>	<p>12:00-12:45 VERA ATKINS: SOE'S MISSING AGENTS Kate Vigurs Often dubbed as the second in command of SOE F Section, Vera Atkins had a particular affinity with female agents sent behind the lines into enemy-occupied territory during WW2. After the war, she set out to find the 118 missing agents. This is her story.</p>
<p>13:15-14:00 TUDOR QUEENS AND THE POWER BEHIND THE THRONE Nicola Clark Uncover the untold story of the ladies-in-waiting who served Tudor queens. More than confidantes, they wielded quiet but powerful influence – brokering marriages, delivering secrets, and navigating court politics. Through their daily lives – what they wore, ate, and</p>	<p>13:15-14:00 TWO DAYS IN MAY: MASS OBSERVATION AND THE PEOPLE'S VICTORY Lucy Noakes In the year of its 80th anniversary, Lucy Noakes explores VE Day through the eyes of ordinary people. Capturing the celebrations and anxieties of Britain's wartime home front, she reveals how national triumph met personal loss,</p>	<p>13:15-14:00 ALEXANDER THE GREAT & INTERPRETING HISTORICAL FIGURES Stephen Harrison Who was Alexander the Great? Stephen Harrison examines the record of the man considered to be one of history's greatest military commanders. Crucially, how and why have historical interpretations of Alexander changed? By considering the social and intellectual currents of the last</p>

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<p>where they slept — Nicola Clark reveals the hidden power of Tudor women in a world where loyalty could mean survival.</p>	<p>helping to shape the birth of the welfare state and a new era of collective hope.</p>	<p>two decades, Harrison highlights how changing contemporary experiences shape historical interpretations of well-known figures.</p>
<p>14:15-15:00 TOXIC LOVE: POWER, BETRAYAL AND LOVE THROUGH THE AGES Estelle Paraque, Eleanor Janega & Zack White with Shalina Patel History is full of powerful, passionate, and deeply dysfunctional relationships – ones that shaped nations, toppled dynasties, and fuelled scandal for centuries. Join our experts as they uncover the jealousies, betrayals, and toxic power plays that shaped the lives of extraordinary historical figures – and changed history forever.</p>	<p>14:15-15:00 CRUSADER ARMIES: WEAPONS & TACTICS – HOW TO USE A CRUSADER ARMY Steve Tibble & Faith Tibble Drs Steve and Faith Tibble will talk about crusader armies, battles and tactics in a way which confronts many of our modern prejudices and preconceptions. Drawing on an in-depth examination of primary sources, supplemented by the latest generation of research insights and archaeological findings, they look at crusading armies and warfare from a fresh and very challenging perspective.</p>	<p>14:15-15:00 TEXTUAL HISTORY The Quill Project Join our team from the University of Oxford and discover what we can learn by studying historical texts, from deciphering the handwriting of the past to exploring how different historical sources survive.</p>

LIVING HISTORY

Visit our living history encampments throughout the day, where our expert living historians will be demonstrating the tools, skills, and lifestyles of societies from the Neolithic age to the Second World War. Activities will start on the hour during the day. Please be aware, some activities must be booked in advance via Eventbrite.

LIFE IN THE NEOLITHIC AND EARLY BRONZE AGE

Visit our prehistory hub and discover life in the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age. Students will learn about food and lifestyles in prehistory, with an opportunity to help grind grain, identify ingredients, and try on costume elements. Using gold foil and embossing tools, the team will also discuss the earliest gold in Britain and make sun discs inspired by finds from near Stonehenge. Plus, have a go at making cordage from flax fibres and discover the importance of textiles – and why the ‘Stone Age’ is about so much more than rocks.

EXPERIMENTAL ARCHAEOLOGY AND ANCIENT TECHNOLOGIES

Archaeologists today use all kinds of incredible methods to explore human life in prehistory, including experimenting with ancient technologies. Our team from the Universities of Liverpool and Cambridge, led by Drs Rebecca Wragg Sykes, Pete Hommel and Ceren Kabukcu, will be demonstrating craft skills including bronze smelting, glue-making, pottery and cooking. Come and discover how prehistoric artisans worked, learn some of the ways we study their artefacts, and join in with interactive sessions.

AN IRON AGE BUILDING SITE

Learn about the techniques, materials, and tools used in construction work over 2,000 years ago, from roofing to wall painting. What does it take to build an Iron Age round house?

CUTLER’S WORKSHOP

Feel the heat of the furnace in our thirteenth-century cutler’s workshop, where Tom Timbrell of Heritage Blades and Emma Harrison of Bog Born Crafts will be smelting and refining iron to produce cutlery. Discover how practical experimentation and living history can reveal new insights into the skills and knowledge of medieval craftspeople. Plus, learn about the role of cutlery in medieval society and how it still impacts us today.

THE MEDIEVAL APOTHECARY (must be pre-booked via Eventbrite)

Step into our medieval apothecaries' garden and discover how plants have been used through the centuries, from healing cuts and bruises to dyeing fabrics and creating inks.

THE MEDIEVAL KNIGHT

When we think about the Middle Ages, the image of a knight on horseback often springs to mind. Join Historic Equitation as they explore the role of the mounted knight in medieval society, from conflict to chivalry.

THE HISTORY OF SAILMAKING

Professional sailmaker Sarah Liscoe of The Historical Sailmaker explores the history of sailmaking from the 1400s to 1800s, demonstrating a unique and endangered heritage craft and its role through history. Portraying a travelling sailmaker in 1650, she will share tales of her time spent on board great ships around the world and demonstrate the tools and techniques used to make sails.

THE 17TH-CENTURY MILITIA

Discover the tools and techniques required to accurately fire 17th-century cannons in this exciting display from the Wimborne Militia. Using historical ranging tools and calculations, they will be combining maths, science, and history as they attempt to hit targets in our arena.

DIG FOR VICTORY: THE TRUTH BEHIND THE PROPAGANDA

The Time Travellers Kitchen continues to travel through British culinary history, this year stopping in 1940 with the introduction of rationing during the Second World War. Uncover the truth behind the Dig for Britain propaganda as Alex and Peter prepare meals of the period. How did the war impact food supplies? Did it matter if you were in a town or in the country? What could you buy on the black market? Can carrots really help you see in the dark? And did we really fend for ourselves, or did we rely on imports? Explore the myths and realities of rationing during the Second World War and how it still impacts food culture.

SAILER SOLDIERS: THE STORY OF THE ROYAL NAVAL COMMANDOS

Discover the history of the Royal Naval Commandos and their crucial role in major amphibious landings during the Second World War, from intelligence gathering to mine removal.

TUDOR PIES

Discover the culinary delights of the Tudor period with Jane's Historical Kitchen, who will be demonstrating how to create the highly decorated pie lids favoured by Henry VIII. Learn how to make the dough and have a go at designing your own pie lid!

SOE TRAINING CAMP (must be pre-booked via Eventbrite)

Our hugely popular SOE Training Camp is back for 2025! This unique experience is the perfect opportunity for students to learn the skills and techniques of espionage from the Second World War. During the camp, they will be put through their paces as they learn self defence, codes and signals, explosives training, and weapons handling.

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THE TRENCH (must be pre-booked via Eventbrite)

Step back in time and experience the sights, sounds, and smells of the Second World War. It is 1945, and the troops must secure the area after years of conflict. Join them to discover what it was like for the people on the ground in this immersive and unique experience.

Please be aware, there will be smoke, loud noises and the sound of gunfire during the experience.