

# MIDDRIDGE HISTORY SOCIETY

## Talks for 2021/2022

14<sup>th</sup> October 2021

**Dr Michael Stansfield: 'The Medieval Genealogist, is there hope? Evidence from Durham Cathedral's Archive'.**

This talk will give an overview of sources in one of the most comprehensive medieval archives in the country and how they might help in searching for medieval antecedents.

11<sup>th</sup> November 2021

**Alastair Fraser: "Dinkum diggers and bad characters: Australia in the Great War at home and at the front"**

The Australian Imperial Force earned a formidable reputation as fighters in the Great War but also suffered significant problems with discipline and desertion. The lecture is a broad survey of Australia during the war both at the front and at home and may be useful background for those whose relatives served in the Australian Army. The war left Australia a deeply divided nation; was the "legend of ANZAC" the foundation myth of a nation or perhaps not everything it is cracked up to be?

9<sup>th</sup> December 2021

**Martin Roberts: "Old Durham Gardens"**

Old Durham Gardens are the restored walled and terraced gardens of the Heath and Tempest family, lying about a mile east of the Durham peninsula. Their establishment in the early-mid seventeenth century, and their restoration from ruin in the late twentieth century, were both pioneering in their different ways. This talk will set the origins of the gardens in the historical context of other contemporary gardens in the city and also describe how the gardens were saved.

13<sup>th</sup> January 2022

**Vivienne Lowe: "No. 7 Durham VAD Auxiliary Hospital, Brancepeth Castle"**

An illustrated talk telling the story of how Brancepeth Castle became and functioned as a hospital caring for injured and sick serving soldiers during World War One.

10<sup>th</sup> February 2022

**Chris Nettleton: Flying Scotsman – the Locomotive**

A history of probably the most famous steam engine in the world, showing photographs and moving film of the engine, from being built in February 1922 to the present day: 'Flying Scotsman' will be 100 years old in March!

10<sup>th</sup> March 2022

**Dr Richard Pears: Auckland and Durham: Castles and Palaces of the Prince Bishops**

Auckland and Durham Castles were built and rebuilt over 900 years to adapt to the changing roles of the Prince Bishops of Durham. Richard Pears will highlight new research about the two buildings demonstrating adaptations for defence, display and domesticity.