

DISCOVERING HISTORY

HORNDEAN AND DISTRICT U3A

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December Newsletter 2025

No meeting in December – unfortunately I am away, and I could not find an alternative date the hall could accommodate us.

January 15th The Watercress Line talk
12.00 noon, Jubilee hall, Catherington

Daniel Ball will be talking about the 160 years of the Watercress Line its history, the people. Why and how was it built? The talk includes video clips and photos.

There will be a £5 charge.



2026 Programme

Below are some thoughts for a program for next year and would love suggestions from you all. Any speakers that you have listened to, that have impressed you, please let me know (I lost a suggestion for an architectural talk)

19th February – talk

19th March - Amberley Museum



21st May – a trip to Winchester possibly Durham School treasury and a tour

18th June – Talk

16th July Portsmouth guided walk or Dickens House and a church

17th September – I propose you all choose to visit one of the many free Heritage events and feed back to me and I will collate the experiences.

15th October Talk

19th November perhaps a Church – open to suggestions

17th December – possibly no meeting as so close to Christmas

Our last 6 months have been mixed experiences.

In August we had an amazing turn out for a local speaker who was excellent, Lesley did exactly what we expected but very well. The Lepers on the Hill covered a social history that we find it hard to comprehend. She made us visualize the appalling illness and its place in society at that time. It really highlights the advances in medicine.

We look forward to events in Winchester that tell us more about the research with which she has been involved.

September Butser Farm trip was cancelled as there were not enough people for the tour (a bit expensive)

October, we had a talk at Jubilee Hall Hertha's story by Joanne Glennie

I was away for this talk, but I understand Joanne was an amazing speaker and brought the subject alive. Those that attended enjoyed the talk. Herta was a local born Victorian Scientist in a man's world and that brought frustrations to possible inventions.



Seventeen of us had a very cold trip to the Bombay Sapphire Museum but enjoyed the day. The history of Laverstoke Mill was amazing. The paper for UK and later Indian bank notes were made in this site.

<https://muppix.net/laverstoke-mill/>

The Distillery was a later owner who made the buildings work for the distillery. The bottling is done elsewhere but this is the prestige site to show off their product. <https://www.diffordsguide.com/product/1166/bombay-sapphire-distillery/story>

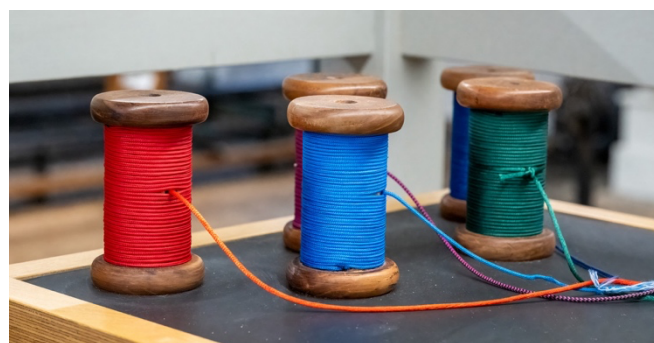
The conservatory a later addition to improve Bacardi's image and show off the spices used in the gin. All very interesting.



Some of us went on to Whitchurch Silk Mill where there is a lovely friendly warm café. The ticket allows us to come back, and I did enjoy the museum and history.

<https://www.britainexpress.com/counties/ham-pshire/properties/whitchurch-silk-mill.htm>

All the places had our photo group members enjoying their cameras as well.



Keep suggestions coming in – about an hour's drive is OK