

## **TALKS - NOVEMBER 2023 - FEBRUARY 24**

**NOVEMBER 1**

**Lewes and Bonfire Night**



**Presenter:**

**Andy Thomas**





Illustrated with his own spectacular photographs, Andy explores the historical Sussex town of Lewes – renowned for having the biggest Bonfire Night celebrations in the world – and takes a revealing look at the enthralling multi-layered rituals and events which make its colourful and controversial mix of folklore, liberty issues and burlesque humour unique. Andy, born and bred in Lewes, uses his inside knowledge to give an insightful glimpse into this vibrant town, full of mystery and tradition.

### **Andy Thomas**

Andy is a prolific author on many subjects, and has written four books on Lewes, including two about its Bonfire festivities – *Streets of Fire* and *Lewes on the Fifth*. Andy is also author of *Christmas: From Solstice to Santa* and several books on unexplained mysteries and cover-ups, including the acclaimed *The Truth Agenda*, *Conspiracies* and guides to the mysterious and controversial crop circles. Andy widely writes and lectures in England and abroad, and has made numerous radio and TV appearances. UK spots have included BBC 1's *The One Show*, Channel 4's *Richard and Judy*, BBC 2's *Esther*, ITV's *GMTV* breakfast show, and Sky 1's *Pineapple Dance Studios*.

**DECEMBER 6 So this is Christmas, a humorous look at the Festive Season**  
**Presenter: Maggs Latter**



Maggs Latter presents a humorous chat on the wonders and horrors of the Festive Season. Sprinkled with festive facts and horrible realities that only this holiday presents, Maggs prepares us for the best and worst..

**Maggs Latter**

Maggs used to be a Drama Advisor and Adult Education Teacher for Surrey County Council. She was formerly the Arts Development Officer at Elmbridge Borough Council. Currently she is on the Board of Trustees of RC Sherriff Trust and a member of Elmbridge Community Choir. She was a founder member of the Barn Theatre Molesey.

On a personal note she went to Military School in Hong Kong. She loves hot weather, hates the cold and loves a gin and tonic...



JANUARY 3 2024  
1942

## My Great Aunt Constance and the Civilian Burma trek of

Presenter:

Jenny Mallin



### My Great Aunt Constance and the Civilian Burma trek of 1942

My great aunt Constance was a woman of high social status, a wife of a British official, born in 1898 this is her account of her life in Burma and the story of a civilian trek in 1942 involving thousands of people who had to face for the first time in their lives, an arduous hike across some of the world's most treacherous terrain, dealing with monsoon climatic rivers, jungles and steep mountain ranges and dangerous wildlife. We learn how Rangoon was at that time the world's busiest immigration port with millions arriving into this rich, stylish and exciting destination and how Burma was recognised as the most beautiful country in South East Asia. We discover how living in Rangoon throughout its heyday of the 1930s meant a charmed life, one that was filled with opulence, bon viveur and style. We then learn how life can change overnight and the juxtapose of a situation where there was no possibility of turning back but only in moving forward.

### Jenny Mallin

A Berkshire-based public speaker and award-winning author for her 'Best in World' cookbook memoir "A Grandmother's Legacy". Jenny delivers a fascinating insight into five generations of her family who lived in India during the days of the British Raj. With almost thirty research trips to India over the past thirty years, she has both explored and uncovered the history of her ancestors and their interesting path. With her extensive collection of family sepia photographs and her compelling storytelling, Jenny manages to bring those stories to life which are intertwined with this period of British history through her highly visual presentation and narrative.

**FEBRUARY 7**

**Treasures and the Tower**

**Presenter:**

**Garry Wykes**



### **Treasures and the Tower**

Garry Wykes worked at the Tower of London for 12 years. This exciting talk will include some of the amazing history and facts about the Tower with an illustrated background to the world famous Crown Jewels and Royal regalia. Also he will touch on some of the most moving and tragic events in the Tower's 1000 year history and includes 'The Things They Say' the funny side of being a Jewel House warden on dealing with the millions of Tourists who flock to see the 25,000 precious stones in the collection.

### **Garry Wykes**

Garry Wykes has lived in London for over 30 years. He was employed at the Tower of London as a Jewel House Warden for twelve years providing guided tours to VIP's and explaining the artefacts to the general public. He gives several interesting and entertaining Historical talks to interested groups and onboard cruise ships.

Garry previously worked for ICI Pharmaceuticals Division in Cheshire and was at one time a Borough Councillor in Cheshire.

He became a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Joiners & Ceilers in 2017 and 2023 he was appointed to the Joiners governing body as a Court Assistant.