

GENERAL HISTORY

Our meeting started with a new “theme” in October based on aspects of significant change or “revolutions”. We continued this in December with a talk about the development of printing presses starting with the Gutenberg press and its introduction by William Caxton and the improvements to this that took place. The great revolution in printing technology took place in the 19th century with the enormous development of rotary printing. These changes meant that all kinds of printed matter could be produced in bulk and at low cost. It enabled literature to be much more widely spread, something that was especially significant to the dissemination of news and for authors most notably Charles Dickens.

There was no meeting in January.

In February we looked at the revolution in food supply across thousands of years as hunting and gathering was replaced by herding and cultivation of the land. This meant that permanent settlements arose. The medieval manorial system was covered and the subsequent enclosure movement, before considering the technical changes and crop and stock breeding from the 17th century.

The meeting on 7th March will look at changes in domestic arrangements. There will be no meeting in April as it is Easter week.

Our normal meeting time is the first Thursday in the month at 2.00 pm. If you are interested, please contact Malcolm (tel.35317) kimber@phoncoop.coop