

# COMING SOON

# NEW FOR SUMMER 2025



NOTTINGHAM MECHANICS INSTITUTE  
3 NORTH SHERWOOD STREET  
NOTTINGHAM  
NG1 4EZ

[WWW.NOTTMLEISURELEARNING.COM](http://WWW.NOTTMLEISURELEARNING.COM)

0115 9417353

# Leisure Learning at the Institute

## NEW DAY TALKS

### History

JOIN DR MARK BARNARD IN FOUR INTRIGUING & FASCINATING TALKS ALL ABOUT BRITISH HISTORY SPREAD OVER FOUR WEEKS IN JUNE AND EARLY JULY

COME TO THEM AS INDIVIDUAL STAND ALONE TALKS FOR £4.50 PER PERSON OR JOIN US FOR ALL FOUR FOR £16.00

DATES: 5TH, 12TH, 19TH JUNE & 3RD JULY  
10.30-11.30AM

Pre Booking required, please contact Wes on the below details



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## DAY TALKS

### History

French Napoleonic Prisoners of War in England

Thursday 5th June

10.30-11.30am

(Dr Mark Barnard)

£4.50 per Person

As many of us are undoubtedly aware, there is a long history of strained relations between Britain and France. Personified by the TV series Sharpe that usually portrays the French during the Napoleonic Wars as ‘irretrievably odious’, conflicting national interests since at least Joan of Arc (1431) have usually kept the two nations divided.

During the Napoleonic Wars, over 100,000 French prisoners or the ‘others’ were held in Britain at various times- some often to languish in captivity for many years. But did their reception reflect the damning depictions conveyed in such productions as Sharpe? How, for instance were the French received in England? Did any escape? Were any romances struck up? Had opinions of the French changed by the end of the Napoleonic Wars?

Join Dr. Barnard to hear the story of the world’s first purpose built POW camp, the quote ‘unexpectedly beautiful’ objects created there & ‘how others’ have been recently remembered.



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# Leisure Learning at the Institute **DAY TALKS**

## History

The Last British Monarch Falls Fighting: Fatal Flodden 1513

Thursday 12th June

10.30-11.30am

(Dr Mark Barnard)

£4.50 per Person

On the 22nd of August 1513, James IV of Scotland crossed at Coldstream with the largest army ever to invade England.

Before nightfall on the 9th of September 1513, approximately 14 thousand men lay dead - 10,000 of them Scots. Amongst them was their beloved Renaissance King, James IV. But why did he invade, how was Henry VIII involved and why such catastrophic casualties? Discover the controversies of the conflict, the link to the Somme of 1916 and why it has been almost 'airbrushed' from Scotland's history.



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# Leisure Learning at the Institute **DAY TALKS**

## History

A Tribute to the Welsh or symbols of subjection?

The Castles of Wales

Thursday 19th June

10.30-11.30am

(Dr Mark Barnard)

£4.50 per Person

Beginning with why the English Kings claimed overlordship over the Welsh, this talk will provide the political backdrop to the expansion of castles across Wales that culminated in King Edward I's 'curtain of stone' across the north of the country. Along the way, I will ask did they really achieve their intention of repressing the Welsh and their identity?

Or could they and the diverse 2017-2019 'Iron Ring' sculpture at Flint Castle be interpreted in another, more controversial way? Join Dr Barnard to trace their role in this fascinating part of British history...



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# Leisure Learning at the Institute **DAY TALKS**

## History

The Battle of the Boyne and its Legacy...

Thursday 3rd July

10.30-11.30am

(Dr Mark Barnard)

£4.50 per Person

In July 1690, two crowned kings of England fought what was the largest engagement ever to take place on Irish soil. Despite being described by some as merely ‘a skirmish’, it left a lasting legacy and continues to be celebrated by some in Northern Ireland.

Beginning with the backdrop to the battle, this talk re-appraises the character of the Catholic King James II, assesses the battle’s symbolic significance and explains why it invoked such controversy.



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# Leisure Learning at the Institute **NEW DAY** **COURSE** Literature

John Betjeman: The Poet who saved St Pancras

Tuesday 17th June

10.30-3.30pm

Dr. John Florance

1 Day Course £20.00

John Betjeman was a man of many parts. He was, of course a hugely popular poet but he was also a conservationist, an architectural historian, a writer and editor of guide books, a journalist, a radio broadcaster, a maker of marvellous films for television and many other things.

In this course we will be looking at his poetry (which is not all jolly stuff about strapping gels, Miss Joan Hunter Dunn and the horrors of Slough) and his unique position in post war British culture where he had an enormous influence on conservation and the way we look at the built environment.

No previous Knowledge is needed.

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**NEW DAY**  
**COURSE**  
Music

The Great American Songbook

Tuesday 8th July

10.30-3.30pm

Dr. John Florance

1 Day Course £20.00

‘The Great American Songbook’ refers to the popular music written by such composers as George Gershwin, Cole Porter, Irving Berlin Jerome Kern, Richard Rodgers and many others. The songs were often written for musicals and films but they escaped their original context and were given a huge variety of interpretations by great singers such as Frank Sinatra, Fred Astaire, Bing Crosby, Nat ‘King’ Cole and Ella Fitzgerald. In this course we shall be exploring the life and times of some of the composers and performers of the Great American Songbook, listening to their songs (familiar and unfamiliar) and discussing how this great explosion of melody and well-crafted lyrics came about.



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# Leisure Learning at the Institute

## NEW TASTER SESSION

### ARTS & CRAFTS

Thursday 29th May

10.00-12.00pm (Art for Beginners)

1.00-3.00pm (How to use the Grid Technique)

Carolynn Henshaw

Come and join Carolynn Henshaw for our free open taster session where you will see a new adventure that is hopefully coming into our leisure programme this September.

Come. and visit us either in the morning session or the afternoon session for 2 hours or even both and discover what Carolynn can teach you and what will be on the menu for you to discover your inner Picasso and Van Gogh.

'Art for Beginners' in the morning will show you different shading techniques such as smudge, scribble and stippling.

The afternoon session will show you how to use The Grid Technique.

Come along and enjoy the day!



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# **NEW DAY WALKS**

## Local History

JOIN CHRIS WEIR AS HE TAKES YOU ON THREE  
INTRIGUING & FASCINATING 2 HR WALKS AROUND LOCAL  
NOTTINGHAM AND THE HISTORY IT HAS THAT YOU  
DIDN'T KNOW!

COME TO THEM AS INDIVIDUAL STAND ALONE WALKS  
FOR £8 PER PERSON OR JOIN US FOR ALL THREE FOR  
£21.00

ALL WALKS INCLUDE TEA/COFFEE & CAKE AFTERWARDS  
AT THE MECHANICS

DATES: TUES 24th JUNE, TUES 22ND JULY &  
TUES 12TH AUGUST  
10.30-12.30PM

Pre Booking required, please contact Wes on the below  
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# Leisure Learning at the Institute **DAY WALKS** Local History

Discovering the Lace Market.

Tuesday 24th June

10.30-12.30pm

(Chris Weir)

£8.00 per Person

Includes Tea/coffee & cake afterwards at the Mechanics

Meet Weekday Cross at 10.15am for 10.30am start.

This walk will delight the eye with grand Victorian Lace warehouses and offices by distinguished architects including Thomas Chambers Hine. Hine's design for Broadway and the Birkin company's lace buildings are testimony to the status and wealth of lace manufacturers of the time. Hine also designed the imposing Adams lace warehouse on Stoney Street. We will also pass handsome Georgian town houses, St Mary's Church, High Pavement Chapel and the imposing Shire Hall which once stood witness to gruesome public hangings.



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# Leisure Learning at the Institute **DAY WALKS** Local History

The Arboretum 'A Victorian Perambulation'

Tuesday 22nd July

10.30-12.30pm

(Chris Weir)

£8.00 per Person

Includes Tea/coffee & cake afterwards at the Mechanics

Meet at the Lodge entrance to the Arboretum at 10.15am for  
10.30am start.

The Arboretum opened to the public on the 11th May 1852. The occasion was marked with a great parade and ceremony and was attended by more than 20,000 visitors. Our walk will explore the origins and design of this remarkable green space. It will look at some of the rare tree species in the Arboretum, view the ornamental aviaries, the bandstand, the Chinese pagoda and other heritage features including the statue of the firebrand orator and Chartist, Feargus O'Connor.



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# Leisure Learning at the Institute **DAY WALKS**

## Local History

Down The Marshes

Tuesday 12th August

10.30-12.30pm

(Chris Weir)

£8.00 per Person

Includes Tea/coffee & cake afterwards at the Mechanics

Meet in front of St Peter's Church at 10.15am for 10.30am start.

Join this walk back into history to when countless narrow streets and alleys spread over an area that became notorious for its overcrowding, diseases and poor sanitation. At one time Narrow Marsh was recorded as having a density of 300 persons per acre. We will explore how this unique part of Nottingham evolved, recall some of its local characters, discover how it began to change dramatically in the Twenties and view recent changes to the Marshes landscape. We will also remember the days of the controversial Broad Marsh Centre!



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