

OXFORDSHIRE LOCAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION (OLHA)

WITNEY, WOOL AND WESLEY

Study day to be held at

The Gallery Room, Corn Exchange, Market Square, Witney, OX28 6AB

on Saturday 4th November 2017

Witney is a Cotswold market town first laid out in the 12th century on the initiative of the Bishop of Winchester. During the early modern period it became a centre for woollen weaving and its blankets were traded all over the world, and especially in North America. The last manufacturer, Early's, closed in 2002. Cogges Manor Farm at Church Lane (open 10am to 5pm) is the location for Downton Abbey's Yew Tree Farm.

9.30 Registration and coffee

10.00 BRITAIN GREW GREAT ON THE BACK OF A SHEEP

Richard Martin, owner of the Cotswold Woollen Weavers Company based in Filkins, has a lifetime's experience of the craft and has researched the history of the wool trade extensively. He has recently redeveloped the Blanket Hall in Witney, dating back to 1721, to become a public building with a space devoted to its history, a place to meet, and a pie shop.

11.15 Coffee break

11.45 NON-CONFORMISM AND THE WITNEY BLANKET INDUSTRY

Keith Crawford is a descendant of the Early blanket-making family and a Methodist Local Preacher. He is a well-known public speaker and wrote "The Story of Witney Blankets" which was published in 2014.

1.00 Lunch – there are many cafés and pubs in the town, including the Pie Shop at the Blanket Hall

2.00 VISIT TO THE WITNEY BLANKET HALL (100 HIGH STREET) AND THE WITNEY & DISTRICT MUSEUM

There will be a guided tour of the Blanket Hall. Opposite is the Museum, at Gloucester Close Mews, which is opening especially for us from 2pm to 4pm. A Blanket Trail leaflet is available there, providing a self-guided route around all the locations in the town associated with the woollen trade.

4.00 Study day ends

NOTE: Parking is free, but restricted to 2/3 hours in most of the short stay car parks. Long stay car parks near the town centre are at Marriotts Walk (OX28 6GW) and Woodford Way (OX28 6GD). A short walk away are Gordon Way (OX28 4EL) and Burwell Drive (OX28 5LP).

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BOOKING FORM –Witney, Wool and Wesley, 4th November 2017

Please book and pay on-line at <http://www.olha.org.uk/events/study-days>

OR complete this form and send it with a cheque for **£10 per person** made payable to 'OLHA' to:

Liz Woolley, 138 Marlborough Road, Oxford, OX1 4LS, (01865 242760), membership@olha.org.uk

Name(s)..... Local Society if applicable.....

Number of places at £10 per person.....Your e-mail address

Please tick this box (and write your e-mail address above) if you would like acknowledgement by e-mail