



## The Westerham Society

### 2015 Event Calendar

#### **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January, Westerham Hall – Squerryes Vineyard – Talk by Henry Warde**

Henry will describe the development of the Squerryes Vineyard from concept in 2004 to the release of the 2010 first vintage in 2014. The south facing North Downs and their unique combination of chalk and greensand has proved to be an ideal site for the Squerryes' vineyards. Henry's foresight in this venture now includes proposals to team up with Robert Wicks of Westerham Brewery to have a joint production facility at Charman's Farm which augurs well for the future of local industry and Westerham. Free tasting of this award winning sparkling wine on the night and options to purchase at [www.squerryes.co.uk/sparkling-wines](http://www.squerryes.co.uk/sparkling-wines)



#### **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February, Westerham Hall, "Churchill's Final Farewell" – Talk by Rodney J. Croft**

On January 30th, the 50th anniversary of Sir Winston Churchill's state funeral, Rodney Croft was invited by The Corporation of London to open Tower Bridge to allow MV "Havengore", (the launch which carried Churchill's body up the Thames) to pass through in order to commemorate the momentous day and to salute Sir Winston Churchill, the Greatest Briton. This and many other interesting anecdotes from the archive papers, only released in 1996, are covered in Rodney's book, excerpts to be revealed by Rodney in his talk.

#### **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March, Westerham Hall - "The New Mary Rose Exhibition" - Talk by Trevor Sapey - to follow AGM**

The new and exciting £27 million Mary Rose Museum opened its doors to visitors last year. Located just metres from Nelson's flagship, HMS Victory and the ships of the modern Royal Navy, the new museum provides one of the most significant insights into Tudor life in the world and creates the new centrepiece to Portsmouth Historic Dockyard.



The Tudor ship that captured the public imagination when she was raised from the seabed in 1982 is the only 16<sup>th</sup> century warship on display anywhere in the world and the brand new Museum built around her reunites her with many of her 19,000 artefacts and crew.

Be prepared for a fascinating description of Tudor life in the early 1500's.

#### **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April, 9.30 – 11am, St. George's Day Breakfast at the George and Dragon**



Come along and join our 9th St. George's Day Breakfast! Members, children and guests are invited to sit down to a celebratory feast of Bucks Fizz, a full cooked English breakfast followed by some lively dancing outdoors from the Rampant Roosters, all for the sum of £10 per person. After the dancing visit the Aston Martin display on the forecourt and unwind on the Green in the sunshine.

#### **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May (Bank Holiday Weekend), Beating the Bounds**

Beating the Bounds is an established and enjoyable annual walking event in Westerham which helps the Westerham Society raise funds for the floral decorations of the town.

The tradition of 'beating the bounds' of a parish to know its full extent existed before the days of maps. This ancient tradition has been revived in Westerham, with residents, friends, families and visitors invited to walk as much or as little as they wish of the 12 mile route, guided along the way by volunteer stewards. Walkers finish up on the Green where celebrations, the Farmers' Market, a BBQ, music and children's entertainment await. See [visitwesterham.org](http://visitwesterham.org) for details.

### **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June, Westerham Hall - "Crop Circles" - Talk by Andy Thomas**

With a stunning slide show, Andy Thomas explores the extraordinary and controversial phenomenon of crop circles, looking at their fascinating history and discussing possible theories which may explain them.

Andy Thomas is a leading researcher of unexplained mysteries and the author of many books on crop circles, conspiracies and the paranormal including the acclaimed 'Vital Signs' and 'The Truth Agenda'. Andy writes and lectures widely and has made numerous radio and television appearances.

### **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July, American Independence Day picnic, Quebec House Gardens, Westerham.** **4.30pm**



Come and celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> July in this friendly and enjoyable yearly fixture in Westerham. Bring your own picnic, accessories and friends and enjoy the lovely surrounds of Quebec House. A bar and BBQ will be available.

### **Tuesday 28th July, 2pm, Titsey Place – "Visit to Titsey Place House and Garden"**

The Westerham Society has booked sole visiting rights to the house and garden at Titsey Place for this event. The tour lasts two and a half hours and includes guided tours of the house and garden, tea with sandwiches and cake in the Tea Room and optional tours of the old church, which will be opened especially for the visit.

We require a minimum of 35 participants for this exclusive access to Titsey Place. Westerham Society members have first option to apply and, depending on the uptake, the opportunity will be opened to guests. Tickets cost £10 per person.

### **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September, Westerham Hall, "WW2 Escape Routes" - Talk by Geoff Cowling**

Geoff will share some remarkable wartime stories from Italy, France and Spain in his lecture. A member of the WW2 Escape Lines Memorial Society (ELMS), Geoff will explain how WW2 prisoners of war considered escape to be their duty. Escapes caused enemy troops to be taken away from the front line and occupied them in search parties. British POWs made numerous escape attempts; many were successful and all were quite ingenious. In Stalag Luft III alone over 100 different tunnels were started.

### **Friday 16th October, Westerham Hall – "Darent River Villages" - Talk by Rod Shelton**

A wonderful look at historic and current use of the Darent River. In times gone by, boats came up river from the Thames as far as Otford. Locally, there are still remnants of the mills which used the Darent and its tributaries on which Westerham depended. This talk highlights some unusual and little known details for your enjoyment.

### **Monday 30th November – The annual Sir Winston Churchill dinner at Chartwell, 7.30pm for 8pm. – Special Guest : Awaiting confirmation**

### **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December or Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December – Members' Christmas Social (tbc)**