



Whitworth Historical Society Talks Programme 2025-26

All talks commence at
7.30pm
and are held at

Hallfold United Reformed Church
Hall Street
Whitworth
OL12 8TL

www.whitworthhistoricalsociety.org.uk



Wednesday, 1st October 2025

“Made in Manchester”

By Brian Groom

Following on from his successful book “*Northerners*”, Stretford born author Brian Groom produced an acclaimed sequel “*Made in Manchester: A People’s History of the City that Shaped the Modern World*”. Brian takes us on an historic journey through Manchester’s history of sport, music, literature and ideas.

Wednesday, 5th November 2025

“AGM”

followed by

Potato Pie Supper

The AGM is open to members and non-members alike and is an opportunity for us to review the year’s performance and what we have in mind for the future. Delicious potato pie supper to round off the evening!

Wednesday, 3rd December 2025

“Festive Music”

by Yvonne & Matt

On their last visit, Yvonne and Matt took us through the development and playing techniques of the banjo, mandolin, ukulele and harmonica. This time they plan to entertain us with renditions of festive music.

Wednesday, 7th January 2026

“Virtual Rochdale 1900”

by Richard Lord

Richard has spent many years researching the history and general architecture of Rochdale and has, using virtual modelling, built up a visual interpretation of how the town looked back in 1900. Through the wonders of technology, Richard can change the weather or the time of day with just a push of a button. Fascinating stuff!

Wednesday, 4th February 2026

“Bletchley Park”

by Jan Hicks

Inspired by the gift of a book, Jan has spent a great deal of time researching the now famous, but once most secret, WWII code-breaking centre at Bletchley Park in Buckinghamshire.

Wednesday, 4th March 2026

“M62 – Rakewood Viaduct”

By Ray Whittaker

Familiar to many of us is the Rakewood Viaduct at Littleborough. Proposed as early as the 1930’s, construction of the M62 began in 1966 by contractors Reed & Mallik and the viaduct, 280 yards long and 140 feet above the valley floor, was designed to carry the motorway over the deep Rakewood Valley. Despite many operational difficulties, the motorway was completed and opened by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth in October 1971. Ray looks at its history.

Wednesday, 1st April 2026

“Lancashire Collectables”

by Kieron Ridehalgh

Ever wondered where organisations like the BBC go when they need period ‘props’ for their documentaries, films and dramas? It is just possible that Kieron may be able to provide the answer.

Wednesday, 6th May 2026

“Happa – how it began”

by Amanda Berry

Perhaps surprisingly, the Horse & Pony Protection Association (HAPPA) began in London in 1937 but had its base Hertfordshire. In 1974 the organisation moved to Greenbank Farm at Fence in Lancashire and finally to Shores Hey Farm at Briercliffe near Burnley where they remain today. Essentially the mission of the charity is to ‘rescue’ horses, ponies and donkeys which have suffered cruelty or neglect and provide them with a safe and secure home. Where possible, HAPPA try to place some of these unfortunate creatures in new and sympathetic homes and give them a second chance. Amanda explains the work of the charity, its pleasures and pressures.

Wednesday, 3rd June 2026

“Barging in Holland”

By Jo & Janna May

The Netherlands and the Low Countries are well known for their network of rivers and canals which were once the ‘domain’ of merchants for the transport of goods from inland factories to Holland’s major sea ports. Today, whilst commerce remains very much in evidence, these waterways have become more used to holiday cruises and leisure activities. Jo & Janna tell of their experiences whilst travelling Holland’s watery roadways.



Talks Programme

Whitworth Historical Society holds a series of talks on the first Wednesday of each month, commencing in October and running through to June of the following year. Admission is free at the point of entry and is open to members and non members alike. Non members are however politely requested to make a small donation towards the running of the museum.

Membership of the Society is open to all and is a modest £10 per year. Ask for details or see our website.

Contact Details

Chairman Mobile: 07434 703972

Email: chairman@whitworthhistoricalsociety.org.uk

Secretary Mobile: 07816 911556

Email: secretary@whitworthhistoricalsociety.org.uk

The museum is open throughout the year

Saturday 11.00am - 4.00pm

Other times by appointment

Group visits always welcome

The Heritage Museum
North Street
Whitworth
OL12 8RE

Whitworth Historical Society has been supported by



Cover Picture: Railway crossing at Tong Lane, Whitworth. Abt.1961

Photo: WHS