

# Croydon Natural History & Scientific Society

*Stimulating minds  
yesterday, today and tomorrow*

**Founded 1870**



**Programme 449  
April 2021 – October 2021**

Meetings cover Local and Industrial History,  
Geology, Archaeology, Entomology, Ecology  
and Ornithology

[www.cnhss.co.uk](http://www.cnhss.co.uk)

## **APRIL**

**14**

**Wed 19:45 – ZOOM TALK** – “A plague on all your houses”, by Dr Janet Few. In the light of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are acutely aware of our own responses to a virulent epidemic disease for which we had no effective method of prevention or cure. What epidemics impacted on the lives of our ancestors? How did they attempt to prevent or cure these diseases and how effective were these measures? How did governments and local authorities respond to these threats? This presentation examines the symptoms, prognoses and treatments for a number of well-known and less well-known epidemic diseases from the Black Death to the influenza of 1918. It mentions some of the relevant records and considers how our ancestors might have reacted.

TO BOOK, email [cnhss.info@gmail.com](mailto:cnhss.info@gmail.com) with ZOOM PLAGUE in the subject heading by Sunday 11 April. Non-members please include VISITOR in the email subject heading and you will hear on the morning of the talk date whether a space is available.

## **MAY**

**5**

**Wed 19:45 – ZOOM TALK** – “Sir Joseph Wilson Swan”, by Dr John Ridley. Sir Joseph Wilson Swan (1828-1914), one of life’s forgotten heroes, was part of a group of Victorian inventors whose work impacted upon the world. Although best known for inventing his incandescent light bulb, he was also active in other areas such as photography, engraving and the manufacture of artificial silk. Joseph Swan the physicist, chemist, inventor, and true polymath, rose to fame from humble beginnings and, in recognition for his life’s work and achievements, was knighted by Edward VII in 1904. John’s interest in this subject began when he attended Beaconsfield School, Low Fell, the former home and laboratory of Sir Joseph Swan and the first private home in the world to be wired and lit by electric light. His illustrated talk explores Swan’s life in the north east, his move to London and finally to Warlingham in Surrey.

TO BOOK, email [cnhss.info@gmail.com](mailto:cnhss.info@gmail.com) with ZOOM SWAN in the subject heading by Sunday 2 May. Non-members please include VISITOR in the email subject heading and you will hear on the morning of the talk date whether a space is available.

## **JUNE**

**2**

**Wed 19:45 – ZOOM TALK** – “Unearthing the world of earthworms”, an illustrated talk by Dr Victoria Burton. Learn about the world of earthworms including the different types we have in the UK, and how they live and breed. Earthworms play an important role in making sure that soil is fit for plant growth. Find out the ways they do this, and the benefits earthworms offer to people. Victoria is passionate about UK natural history, its identification and recording, particularly soil invertebrates. Her PhD research at the Natural History Museum and Imperial College London investigated how soil and leaf litter biodiversity responds to land use and included running a citizen science program called Earthworm Watch.

TO BOOK, email [cnhss.info@gmail.com](mailto:cnhss.info@gmail.com) with ZOOM WORMS in the subject heading by Sunday 30 May. Non-members please include VISITOR in the email subject heading and you will hear on the morning of the talk date whether a space is available.

**28**

**Mon 19:45 – ZOOM TALK** – “Epidemics, Archbishops and the East India Company: the busy life of a Victorian GP”. The talk by Dr Nicholas Cambridge will highlight the remarkable career of Dr Alfred Carpenter who worked in Croydon for 40 years and became well known for his involvement in public health. He was a member of the local Board of Health and promoted sewage irrigation as the best way of disposing of sewage. He looked after the cadets of the East India Company,

was medical attendant to four successive Archbishops of Canterbury, was lecturer in public health at St Thomas's hospital and chairman of council of the British Medical Association.

TO BOOK, email [cnhss.info@gmail.com](mailto:cnhss.info@gmail.com) with ZOOM CARPENTER in the subject heading by Friday 25 June. Non-members please include VISITOR in the email subject heading and you will hear on the morning of the talk date whether a space is available.

## **JULY**

**26**

**Mon 19:45 – ZOOM TALK – “Inns of Croydon”.** Dr Trevor James will re-interpret his research from fifty years ago and will consider the role of Croydon's inns in the emergence of the town as a major centre.

TO BOOK, email [cnhss.info@gmail.com](mailto:cnhss.info@gmail.com) with ZOOM INNS in the subject heading by Friday 23 July. Non-members please include VISITOR in the email subject heading and you will hear on the morning of the talk date whether a space is available.

## **AUGUST**

**25**

**Wed 19:45 – ECOLOGY TALK – “Introducing Fungi”**, by Dr Jane McLauchlin. Many people have got to know our local green open spaces better during Covid-19 lockdown. Don't stop visiting in autumn as there is lots to see.

TO BOOK, email [cnhss.info@gmail.com](mailto:cnhss.info@gmail.com) with ZOOM FUNGI in the subject heading by Sunday 22 August. Non-members please include VISITOR in the email subject heading and you will hear on the morning of the talk date whether a space is available.

## **SEPTEMBER**

**20**

**Monday 19:45 – ZOOM TALK – “Gales, Greenhouses and Global Warming”.** Ian Currie will look at various changes of climate across the UK back through geological time and explain how they may have happened. There is much evidence to show that we are currently in a climate change regime with a trend to warmer conditions. This latest change of climate may be the first that Man has anything to do with. So what may have caused past ice ages when the Southeast was as cold as the Arctic or experienced tropical rain forest conditions more like the Amazon? Ian will look at possible causes. What will the impact be for the UK and more locally for Hants, Kent, Surrey and Sussex if this current pattern continues with flooding being one important topic? What will the future hold for coastal communities?

TO BOOK, email [cnhss.info@gmail.com](mailto:cnhss.info@gmail.com) with ZOOM GALES in the subject heading by Friday 17 September. Non-members please include VISITOR in the email subject heading and you will hear on the morning of the talk date whether a space is available.

## **OCTOBER**

**20**

**Wed 19:45 – ZOOM TALK – “LiDAR as a citizen science tool: Kent and Surrey case studies”.** LiDAR – Light Detection and Ranging – has become a particularly useful tool for detecting archaeological sites and features in recent years. Dr Anne Sasson of Kent Downs AONB and Surrey Archaeological Society will talk about its use as a research tool in archaeology, and how interactive mapping and engagement in both Kent and Surrey have not only revealed sites of interest, but become successful community outreach projects.

TO BOOK, email [cnhss.info@gmail.com](mailto:cnhss.info@gmail.com) with ZOOM LIDAR in the subject heading by Sunday 17 October. Non-members please include VISITOR in the email subject heading and you will hear on the morning of the talk date whether a space is available.