

THE JOHN MOORE MUSEUM

NATURAL HISTORY | HERITAGE | LIVING VOICES

John Moore Museum Talks

Speaker: Kirstie Bingham

Medieval and Tudor History

- **Tasting the Tudors: Food of the Tudor period.** Why shouldn't you put your elbows on the table? Who had a better diet, the rich or the poor? Why might rotten teeth get you a husband? Find out about table etiquette in the past, what the Tudors ate and what this tells us about society at the time.
- **Tudor swearing, sex and loos: The Naughty bits not seen in Historical Dramas.** This talk has been developed from whispered questions following other talks: 'What did women do at 'that time of the month'?' 'What were Tudor attitudes to sex?' 'Were the toilets really that awful?' 'Were they smelly?' and so many more. A light-hearted talk answering all those questions you wanted to ask at school but were too afraid to ask!
- **Leading a Lewd and Sinful Kind of Life: Medieval Lust and Sexuality.** Discover how our medieval ancestors behaved behind closed doors. What was the ideal beauty look? When was the appropriate time to have sex? What "family planning" options did they have? And so much more...
- **Midwife, herbalist, surgeon...witch! Women & medicine.** This talk discusses the role of women in medicine with a particular focus on women's health in the Medieval period through to the Enlightenment.
- **Barber Surgeons: Haircuts, Hangnails, Blood and Limbs.** This talk discusses the origin and role of barber surgeons in Medieval to Renaissance history. We will explore how they advertised their trade, key operations and even dentistry.
- **Cards on the Table and Jerkins for Goalpost.** This talk discusses all aspects of Tudor and Stuart entertainment, from sports to amusements. Learn all about gambling and the pastimes that were so popular, they were made illegal!
- **Deciphering the Hidden Symbols in Tudor Art.** Can you decode a painting like a Tudor courtier? Discover the layers of meaning in iconic Tudor Art, such as why would you include a pelican, ermine or sun.
- **The Arcane, Bizarre and darn right Witchy!** Delve into the weird and wonderful history of witchcraft and superstition, as you learn about familiars, mischief following anger, witch bottles and so much more! This talk will reveal some of Britain's most famous witch cases as well as teaching how best to spot a witch! Did you know there was even a suspected witch living in Tewkesbury in the 17th century?

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- **A Tudor Christmas (costumed).** Deck the halls and roast that turkey! How were the Tudors, from the King to the common man, enjoying the festive period?

General Museum Talks

- **A Portrait of John Moore.** John Moore is one of Gloucestershire's most well-known writers writing novels including 'A Portrait of Elmbury' a thinly disguised portrait of Tewkesbury and its most notorious inhabitants.
- **The work of the John Moore Museum, Tewkesbury – Natural History – Heritage – Living Voices.** Kirstie Bingham will discuss her role as Heritage Manager including the restoration, preservation and conservation of the Museum's historic buildings and collections.
- **'A Bloody Business' – Taxidermy in Museums.** Using items from the museum's extensive Natural History collection, Kirstie will explain everything you have ever wanted to know about taxidermy (but were too afraid to ask!) From the fascinating history of taxidermy to the 'stuffing' process to the problems of pest control with Natural History collections.
- **Making the invisible, visible: the story of the Old Baptist Chapel, a 17th century Baptist meeting house.** From domestic origins to clandestine use by early Nonconformists to its later restoration, this enigmatic building has a rich and varied history. This talk will cover the building's history, the challenges of research, and the ongoing Old Baptist Chapel Project, 2015 – 2018, to restore and develop the chapel as a new heritage attraction.
- **Restoring Tewkesbury's Past –** Discover the fascinating history of the development and restoration of the Abbey Lawn Cottages in Church Street Tewkesbury. Recently discovered to date from 1410, this unique row of timber-framed houses was built as a commercial venture by the Benedictine monks of Tewkesbury Abbey, and restored between 1967 and 1973 by local buildings' preservation charity, the Abbey Lawn Trust.

Speaker: Angela Dunsby

- **Schools, Scholars and Scolding.** This talk will cover how education changed during the 16th century, the difference in educating boys and girls, rich and the poor, the experience of attending a Tudor grammar school, leisure activities and corporal punishment. Angela will be bringing her birch stick so you'd better behave!

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- **History's Deadliest Deaths.** Discover the fascinating, yet grisly facts behind some of history's most gruesome forms of execution, from the Brazen Bull to a good hanging!
- **Dressing the Tudors.** This talk explores the fashion world of the Tudors. It looks into clothes, sumptuary laws, accessories and colours that were appropriate to the class and period.
- **The Dark Side of Nursery Rhymes.** Join us as we delve a little deeper, and reveal the shockingly sinister backstories to some of our favourite nursery rhymes from across the world, such as Rock-A-Bye Baby and The Muffin Man.
- **Whores, Toffers and 3 penny uprights.** For centuries people have paid for the pleasures of the night. Join us as we go curb crawling down Cock Alley and gain some insight into the lives and lays of prostitutes in England throughout history.