

THE TWITCH

Newsletter of The Malling Society

Spring 2026

Dear Members,

Welcome to the Spring Newsletter,

A bit of sad news first, we lost our long term researcher Ron Martin last year. Condolences to his family.

As so few Members attended our meetings last year, the Committee has decided to reduce the number of meetings to four per year (including the AGM) and two outings. Speaker's fees have increased, as has printing etc., etc., and we were no longer covering our costs at the meetings.

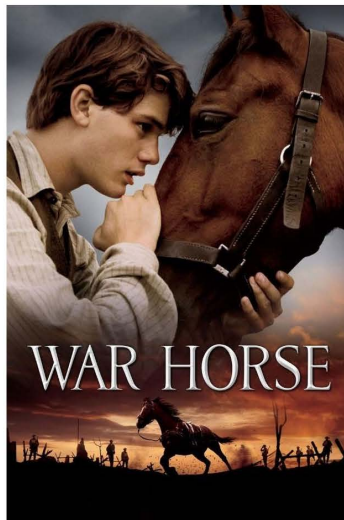
The Committee would very much like to hear from you, the Members, with any ideas or suggestions about Speakers and outings, or indeed any comments, thoughts you have to help us increase the attendance and interest in The Malling Society!

Our talks for this year will be:

All General meetings are held at 19.00 (7 pm) in the Main Hall of the West Malling C.E. Primary School, Norman Road, West Malling ME19 6RL unless otherwise stated.

Apr 7th Andy Robertshaw - "The Making of War Horse, the Film"

The Malling Society Presents....



A talk by

Andy Robertshaw

The Historical and military advisor for the Steven Spielberg film 'War Horse' giving an insight into the workings of a large film production.

TALKS ARE AVAILABLE
TO BOTH MEMBERS at
£3.00 AND NON-
MEMBERS AT £3.50
PER PERSON PAYABLE
ON ENTRY

**Tuesday, 7th April 2026 at 7pm
at the West Malling CE School,
Norman Road, West Malling
ME19 6RL**

May 12th David Carder - "Paper, an Historic Kentish Industry"

The Malling Society Presents....

Traditional Kentish Paper-Making

A talk by David Carder



Kent, a major paper-making centre since the 16th century with one of England's first commercially successful paper mills at Dartford. By the 18th century Kent, especially the Maidstone area, had become a major centre for high-quality paper production.

Sadly, the last commercial hand-made paper mill in Kent, and indeed the UK, ceased production in 1987.

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at 7pm
at the West Malling CE School,
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ME19 6RL**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



GET INVOLVED!

Malling Committee Meeting and AGM

14.00 – 16.00 18th May 2026

West Malling Village Hall, Norman Road,

West Malling ME19 6RW



The Malling Society

June 9th Adam Taylor - "The Medway Muddies"

The Malling Society Presents.... The Medway Muddies

Presented by Adam Taylor



For almost a century gangs of clay diggers known as Muddies dug millions of tons of mud from the remote salt marshes of the Medway estuary to satisfy the relentless cement industry of the 19th century. They worked hard, drank hard, and played even harder, changing the tidal flow of the Medway forever.

Join us and learn an almost forgotten piece of the unique social history.

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at West Malling CE School,
Norman Road, West Malling
ME19 6RL**

July 14th Jean Surrey - "I Bought and Sold it at Auction"

The Malling Society Presents....

I bought it and Sold it at Auction

A talk by Jean Surrey

'A brief outline of the history and style of different auctions
and why they became popular'



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Future Events: TBC

If you have any ideas for speakers for next year 2027 please let us know at the usual address themallingsociety@gmail.com



2026 OPEN DAYS and TIMES

Sunday March 22nd, Saturday April 25th,

Sunday May 31st, Saturday June 27th

Sunday July 26th

Closed in August



The heritage open days Society

11-20th September 2026

We will be open on Sunday 13th, Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th

Closed in October

Sunday 8th November

Remembrance Sunday



The Twitch Heritage Centre,

Douce's Manor, St. Leonard's Street,

will be open from *Noon to 4 pm (last admission 3.30 pm)

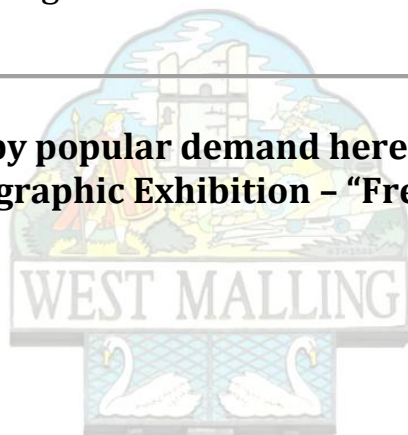
Free entry, and there is no need to book

***Please note opening hours and help the volunteers by vacating the centre by 4 pm; otherwise, terms of our lease may be compromised.**



Douce's Manor is a private residence; the house and grounds are NOT open to the public. Parking is on St. Leonard's Street or in the town. For further details on joining the Society, please visit our website page: [here](#): Or contact Eileen Vago 01732 841297

**Back by popular demand here for a 2nd year
Photographic Exhibition - "Freda Barton Photographer"**



The Malling Society
Subs due from 25th October 2026

If you have setup a standing order for payment of your subscriptions (£7.00 p.a.) this will continue as normal. Those of you that normally pay by cheque at the AGM, can send your cheques made payable to **The Malling Society**, to Mrs E. Vago, 116 St Leonards St, West Malling, ME19 6PD.

Alternatively, why not set up a standing order with your bank, details can be found on our website, this is a very safe and simple system. www.themallingsociety.org.uk/

The Malling Society, **Account No 64676218** at National Westminster Bank,
Larkfield Branch (**sort code 55-81-07**) Ref: **Membership Subs.**

- **Orders for our CDs or Publications** Will continue to be available via the website.

<https://www.themallingsociety.org.uk/malling-society-publications/>

<https://www.themallingsociety.org.uk/malling-society-cds/>

We will keep you informed of the various events via the website at <http://www.themallingsociety.org.uk/events/>

And our Facebook Group Page
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/574446186223021>

Any correspondence can still be sent to themallingsociety@gmail.com where Kris will pick it up and pass it to the respective person to deal.

Hope to see you soon!! Stay Safe!!

Kind Regards

David Thornewell
Chair

PS

Coming soon a new section on the not so famous, or little known people associated with West Malling.

- ***William Lucas, West Malling in 1794 and 1805,***
- ***Molly Burkett, West Malling, writer, wildlife pioneer and indefatigable activist 1932-2026***