

Museum talks

2026 winter talk series finalised



The **Winter series of talks** presented by the Emsworth Maritime and Historical Trust has just been finalised. All the talks will be in the Emsworth Community Centre, apart from Field Marshal Richards' talk on 11th February 2027 which will be in the Baptist Church. Tickets (£5 each) will be available from Bookends in Emsworth High Street from 1st September 2026.



Thursday 1 October, 2026

Clare Smith: Secret Intelligence in the 21st Century

Claire Smith is a prominent former British diplomat, extreme negotiator, and intelligence expert who offers crucial insider analysis on the evolution, purpose, and modern limitations of state secrets.

Over a 27-year career with the UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office, she navigated international crises, served on the UK Joint Intelligence Committee, and spent eight years on the Cabinet Office's Security Vetting Appeals Panel. Through her current roles as an academic lecturer and public speaker, Smith breaks down the mechanics of secret intelligence in the 21st century.



Thursday 5 November, 2026

Steve Rogers: The War Graves Photographic Project

The War Graves Photographic Project have undertaken the immense task of recording, archiving and making available to the descendants, images of the graves or memorial listings of every service casualty since the outbreak of the First World War.

The project has an archive of almost 2 million named graves and memorials from images taken by volunteers from around the world, offering the facility to search for individual casualties and provide them with images. The Project Co-ordinator, Steve Rogers will tell the story of this amazing project.



Thursday 3 December, 2026

Nigel Gossop:

Untangling Christmas or a Load of Old Baubles

A look at some of the stories behind the many curious traditions that go towards making our Christmases so memorable. This entertaining seasonal talk will provide answers to questions about Christmas you never even knew you wanted to ask!



Thursday 11 February, 2027

Field Marshal The Lord Richards of Herstmonceux, GCB. CBE. DSO.DL

Field Marshal Richards is one of the best-known British generals of modern times. He retired in 2013 after over forty years of service in the British Army and a career that had seen him rise from junior officer with 20 Commando to Chief of the Defence Staff, the professional head of the British Armed Forces.

This now annual geostrategic talk has become immensely popular with its title "Global Wars and Chaos" it is always a fascinating insight into politics, conflict, the interaction between nations and how it all impacts on the UK.



Thursday 4 March, 2027

Peter Gregory: Behind the Scenes at The Chelsea Flower Show

An insightful talk by award-winning landscape contractor and designer Peter Gregory, sharing the immense craftsmanship, logic, and pressure involved in creating world-class show gardens. Drawing from his own hands-on experience building on the empty plots of the Royal Hospital Grounds, Peter takes audiences past the pristine public facades and into the frantic, high-stakes three-week building phase.



Thursday 1 April, 2027

Dr Richard Jones: Art and the Heart

This beautifully illustrated talk from distinguished Consultant Cardiologist, Dr Richard Jones FRCP, was originally developed to educate medical students and doctors, but has been thoughtfully adapted for a non-medical audience. Dr Jones will help you to learn more about your heart and how to look after it using pictures from famous artists to illustrate and guide us on an enlightening journey.