

The Lustleigh Society

2026 EVENTS PROGRAMME



2026 Events Programme

Talks are held in Lustleigh Village Hall TQ13 9AA at 7.30 pm
Refreshments from 7.00 pm

Wednesday January 28

Beryl Trist Newman

– the Lustleigh artist who ‘lived to paint’ **Peter Mason**

Beryl Trist Newman (1906–91), with paintings in national collections, was best known for her portraiture. The story of her life is fascinating – and she and her work deserve to be much better known.

Wednesday February 25

Plant Hunters and Pioneers

Caradoc Doy

Over several generations from before 1808, the Veitch family and their plant hunters introduced over 1,200 plants to English gardens. Their nurseries in Exeter and Chelsea propagated new species from every continent: orchids and pitcher plants but also a giant Sequoia pine.

Wednesday March 25

A Teenager’s Boer War

Paul Rimmer

At 18 years old, the youngest officer on active service in the Boer War (1899–1902), Vernon Kyrke’s experiences are told through his letters and photographs. Plus Lustleigh’s response to the war and why a statue in Exeter upset the people of Crediton.

Wednesday April 29

Sins as Red as Scarlet

Janet Few

As late as 1682, three impoverished women from Bideford were hanged in Exeter, condemned to death for the crime of witchcraft. At the dawn of the Age of Reason how did intolerance and antagonism in a prosperous Devon trading and fishing port erupt in this trial and execution?

Wednesday May 27

**Dartmoor: A celebration of its
people, places and wildlife**

Andrew Cooper

From the sub-arctic wastes of the mid-winter high moor to people living in the most iconic wild worked landscape in Britain, featuring locals and celebrities, set against a background of astonishing natural beauty, a wealth of pre-history and abundance of wildlife – a popular speaker returns.

Lustleigh Society events

Wednesday June 3

Early Modern Paignton visit

All day

We preview the restored Edwardian cinema, reopening in 2026, and then trace the impact of the Singer family on the town: take a bar lunch in the Redcliffe Hotel, their first home, and view the endangered Oldways Mansion; with Kevin Dixon and the Singer family historian.

Tour price £20

Wednesday June 17

Dartmoor Tea Estate tour

Jo Harper

A pioneering 14-acre estate outside Ashburton is producing tea that has won international accolades. It is produced in small batches and drunk in the Chinese 'gongfu' style sometimes called a tea ceremony. Grower Jo Harper is an enthusiastic guide who will explain the history and trials of tea production on the edge of Dartmoor.

Tour price £20

Wednesday July 15

Evening walk around Lustleigh Village

Len Harvey

A tour of the village's treasures with some surprises, ending up at The Cleave.

Wednesday September 30

Voices of Empire in Exeter 1575–2024

Todd Gray

Our popular speaker outlines his latest research into the way Empire permeates the city. We will hear new words from the Empire, including house names, and meet a cast of merchants, travellers, missionaries, administrators, servicemen and even a bigamist.

Wednesday October 28

The Yanks are here and they've drunk all the beer

Bill Hardiman

How did quiet Moretonhampstead react to the presence of US forces in World War Two? Bill explores the social and cultural consequences of several hundred young American men in town from a US Army engineering regiment on Mardon Down.

Wednesday November 25

AGM followed by refreshments and entertainment

The Lustleigh Society is open to all, residents and visitors alike, with an interest in the history of the village, Devon and the wider world. The Society organizes talks and visits, cares for the heritage of the village and maintains the village Archive (www.lustleigh-society.org.uk).

The annual subscription is £20 per person. Visitors are welcome at meetings at the cost of £7.50.

LUSTLEIGH COMMUNITY ARCHIVE, The Old Vestry, Lustleigh

The Archive consists of parish records, registers and census records, maps including the 1837 Tithe Map, parish magazines dating from 1889, over 3,500 photographs, original artworks, digital media, books and other documents of historic interest.

Opening times

March – October

Mondays 2 – 4 pm (except Bank Holidays)

Thursdays 10 am – 12 noon

November – February

CLOSED

We are always happy to open at other times by appointment, please contact the Archivist – lustleigharchives@gmail.com

Committee 2025

President	Peter Mason
Vice President	Len Harvey
Chairman	David McGahey
Vice Chairman	Alastair Camp
Secretary	Stephen Terry
Treasurer	Mike Peace
Programme Secretary	Lynn Bartlett
Committee	Clive Pearson, Julia Bryant, Paul Rimmer, Chris Wilson, Karen Stevenson, John Winckler