

Excursion No 2: Tuesday 14th May 2019 (Evening)

A Walk around Calne

Excursion Leader: Les Hayes

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Summary

Our guide for tonight's walk around Calne will be Nick Baxter, a local historian who led a BACAS group on a fascinating walk around Marlborough in 2017. Nick has lived in Calne since 2002 and has done much to uncover this town's remarkable history.

Calne, which developed as a coaching town on the London to Bath Road, is best known for the Harris's pork-processing factory which dominated the place until its closure and demolition in the 1980s.

Before Harris's, Calne was a wool town; 18th century clothiers' houses survive on The Green, its historic centre. Nearby St Mary's church has a fine example of a Perpendicular Survival tower, which replaced the spire after it collapsed in 1638.

Joseph Priestley lived here from 1773 to 1780 working for the Earl of Shelburne at nearby Bowood House. Priestley discovered oxygen in his laboratory there.

Pioneer of vaccination and discoverer of photosynthesis, Jan Ingen Housz, is buried in the church.

The great Romantic poet, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, lived here from November 1814 to March 1816 during which he wrote his Biographia Literaria and made annotations to his famous "Rhyme of the Ancient Mariner".

Three of Calne's 19th century Members of Parliament made important contributions to parliamentary reform, military history, and education. In his walk Nick will reveal the hidden gem that is Calne.

Meeting time and place.

Meet at 6.15 pm in the Lansdown Strand Hotel (post code SN11 0EH), a welcoming hotel in the centre of Calne where Nick will give an introductory talk. To reach the closeby Heritage car park go through the traffic lights on the A4 past the hotel and town hall and turn immediately left past the bus stop. Opposite the car park is a white "P" sign on a blue background and a brown heritage quarter sign below it. It is free after 6 pm but get a "free" ticket from the machine.

Please remember that you are responsible for your own safety and by joining the BACAS excursion you do so at your own risk.

Maximum participants - **25**

Latest booking date – 1st May 2019

Members priority booking before **24th April** Cost: members priority **£6** / non-members **£8**