



**Hitchin  
Historical  
Society**

Registered Charity No. 280746

# Newsletter

**Issue number 67 – June 2026**

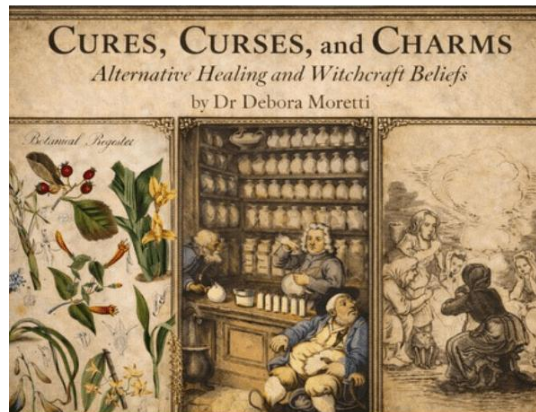
**HITCHIN  
FESTIVAL  
2026**

## **HITCHIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS PROVIDING THE FOLLOWING FESTIVAL EVENTS -**

\* Saturday 4 July @ 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm – Open Garden with the volunteers. William Ransom Physic Garden, Paynes Park.

*Festival Box Office – N/A*

*Ticket Price – Free event with no booking required*



\* Wednesday 8 July @ 8.00 pm – The Miss Lewis Lecture: Curses, Cures and Charms: Alternative Healing and Witchcraft Beliefs – an illustrated talk by Dr Debora Moretti at the Richard Whitmore Studio, Queen Mother Theatre, Walsworth Road

*Festival Box Office – Yes*

*Ticket Price - £5*

\* Saturday 11 July @ 2.00 pm – Hitchin Priory Park – a guided walk with Bridget Howlett (Limited numbers; start details with ticket)

*Festival Box Office – Yes*

*Ticket Price - £5*

\* Sunday 12 July @ 9.30 am – Hitchin's Railway History: a guided walk with David Howlett. (Limited numbers; start details with ticket)

*Festival Box Office - Yes*

*Ticket Price - £5*

\* Sunday 19 July @ 2.00 pm – Gaping Hills Lane - a foot in town and country: a guided walk with Nafisa Sayany (Limited numbers; start details with ticket)

*Festival Box Office – Yes*

*Ticket Price - £5*

\* Wednesday 22 July at 8.00 pm – The Scilla Douglas Lecture: Are Hertfordshire’s timber-framed buildings distinctive? - an illustrated talk by Lee Prosser at the Richard Whitmore Studio, Queen Mother Theatre, Walsworth Road

*Festival Box Office – Yes*

*Ticket Price - £5*

PLEASE NOTE - that all the HHS events (with the exception of the Open Physic Garden) should be booked via the Hitchin Festival Box Office which is available both online at the Hitchin Festival website and in person at the Visit Hitchin shop, Churchyard, Hitchin. In addition to the Festival website a printed Programme will be available at the end of May (eg from the Visit Hitchin shop).

## **CHURCH HOUSE MEETINGS IN THE AUTUMN**

### **'AUTUMN BECKONS.....**

The Autumn series of Church House talks begin on THURSDAY 27 AUGUST at 8.00 PM with Rudi Newman delivering his 'Innovation and Investigation: Hertfordshire and the Jet Age', a talk that circumstances prevented him bringing to us last year.

When logging this in your diaries PLEASE NOTE !! that there is a major event at Hitchin Priory on the same evening: this will mean that the town centre car parks will be very busy from early evening so allow plenty of time if coming by car in case you find your first choice of a parking slot is already full.'

Thursday 24 September Hitchin in 50 Buildings – an illustrated talk by Paul Rabbitts.

Thursday 22 October Orwell and Hertfordshire – an illustrated talk by Liz Wallace.

Thursday 26 November Unending Vigil: Commemorating our World War dead at home and abroad – an illustrated talk by Nicholas Lambert.

As usual autumn events will be rounded off with a Christmas gathering (3 December) more details of which will be circulated in October.

## PRITAM SINGH (1915-2019): Farmer, Soldier, Hitchin Incomer.

Website links related to my talk which members may be interested to follow up and view:

BBC Timewatch - The Forgotten Volunteers (1999) - available on Dailymotion  
<https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x12du7a>

Channel 4 Player: Soldiers That Saved Britain (2024) - available on Channel4 Player  
<https://www.channel4.com/programmes/the-soldiers-that-saved-britain>

BBC Remembrance - The Sikh Story (2010) (Full HQ Programme) - available on YouTube  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1XIZDj9hiWc>

These videos are provided by third parties, and they may take these down without any notice in the future.

*Jas Phugura*

**PLEASE NOTE 2027 subscriptions will increase to £8 Individual and £12 Joint/Family.**

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### HHS COMMITTEE AND CONTACTS

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|                   |   |  |  |
|-------------------|---|--|--|
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|                   |   | <b>Facebook</b>  | **Valerie Schicker   |

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\* Co-opted committee members \*\* By standing invitation

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If you have an item, you would like to submit to the Newsletter please email

[newsletter@hitchinhistoricals.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@hitchinhistoricals.org.uk)

This newsletter is published by Hitchin Historical Society, a registered charity dedicated to informing the public of the history of Hitchin and district and undertaking research into the origins and development of buildings, organisations, crafts, trades, and other aspects of historical interest, and to publish the results of such research.

HHS website: [www.hitchinhistoricals.org.uk](http://www.hitchinhistoricals.org.uk)