



Ampthill & District Archaeological & Local History Society Celebrity Lunch

12.00 Noon Saturday 12th January 2019
Millbrook New Village Hall, Sandhill Close, MK45 2JD

Digging the Trenches - Andy Robertshaw



The *Hawthorn Ridge Crater Association* (HRCA) was formed with the intention to support and develop the most intensive study of any Great War battlefield ever attempted.

The association will be leasing the site from the owner, the local council, on a 99 year lease for 1 Euro symbolic. The objectives of the project are to improve the access for visitors, manage the upkeep, and protect the site for future generations whilst providing a detailed study of the area with partner organisations.

Working within a defined boundary of the Beaumont-Hamel area, an international team of experts and volunteers will conduct a programme of research using all sources of evidence to create an in-depth archive of material devoted the battlefield of 1914-18, post-war reconstruction, the impact of the Second World War and modern tourism.

The *Hawthorn Ridge Crater Association* is a Franco-British collaboration based in France and founded on the French law of an association 1901. It is supported by Keele and Staffordshire Universities in the U.K, and using the services of experienced Great War archaeologists and historians.

The explosion of the mine under Hawthorn Ridge was the very first action of The Battle of the Somme. It was recorded by Geoffrey Malins at 7.20am on the 1st July 1916 and is one of the best-known pieces of film of the Great War. The mine was blown for a second time on the 13th November when the 51st Highland Division captured the ridge and village. The project study is initially looking at the period between these events from both sides of No Man's Land, giving a German perspective to our understanding. The central hub of the project will be web based and form a virtual resource freely available via the Internet.

The HRCA is a charitable one and visiting the site is, and will remain, open to the public at no cost whatsoever to the visitor.



Full booking details are available on the attached form



**Ampthill & District Archaeological & Local History Society
Celebrity Lunch**

12.00 Noon Saturday 12th January 2019
Millbrook New Village Hall, Sandhill Close, MK45 2JD.

We continue our Celebrity Lunch series this year, using the same premises and caterer whose superb food has helped to make these events so successful.

Mulled wine and a hot meal followed by an illustrated talk:

Digging the Trenches - Andy Robertshaw

Andy specialises in Great War archaeology, appearing in television programmes like Time Team and Two Men in a Trench. He was a military advisor for the film *Warhorse*.

His latest involvement is in archaeology around the Hawthorn Crater on the Somme, where the first massive explosion occurred in 1916, the intention is to carry out the most intensive study of any Great War battlefield site ever attempted, assessing the involvement of and impact on both sides. He is an enthusiastic and exciting speaker.

Cost for the Day £22.00

Please Reply to Mike Turner ASAP

Please reserve me ticket/s for the ADALHS Celebrity Lunch on 12th January 2019 at Millbrook New Village Hall, Sandhill Close, MK45 2JD.

I enclose a cheque for £.....

Special dietary requirements.....

Cheque to be made out to ADALHS

Map required? tick

Names.....

Address.....

..... Post Code.....

Tel No..... email.....

Return to:-
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