

## Welford and Weston Local History Society

[www.welfordandweston.org.uk](http://www.welfordandweston.org.uk)

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'Roads & travel before 'improvements';

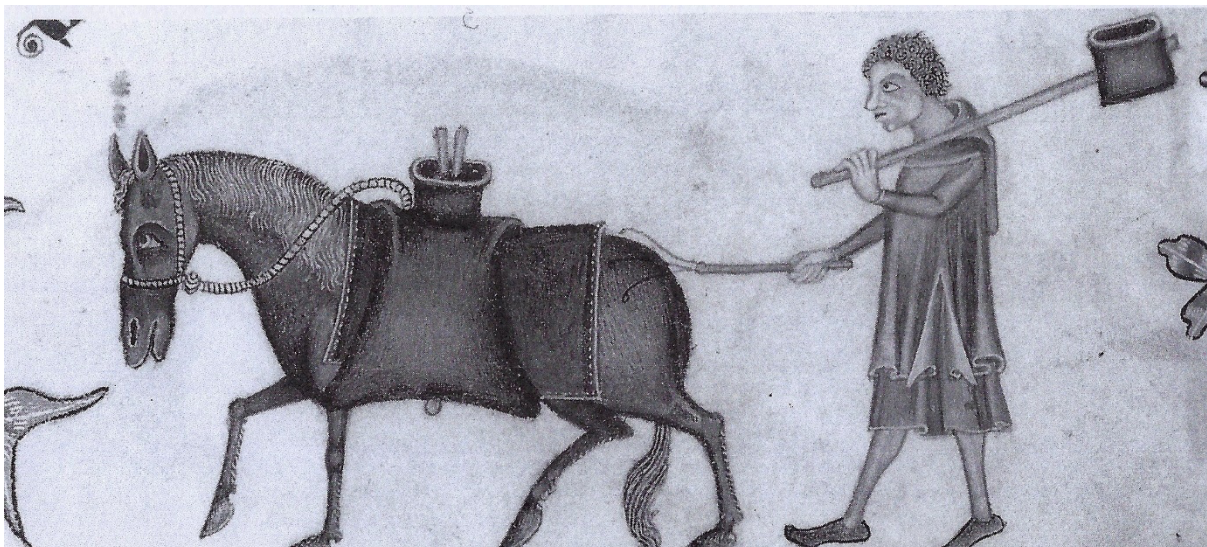
Lessons from Welford & Weston

A talk by Prof Chris Dyer

27 September 2024, at 7:30 pm

On September 27<sup>th</sup> our President, Professor Chris Dyer FBA, CBE, FSA, FRHS will open the new Season of talks, by speaking on the subject 'Roads & travel before 'improvements', using some lessons from Welford & Weston & the wider area. This will be Chris's third talk to the Society since he became our president in 2019. If you went to either of the other talks (in 2019 & 2022) you will already know what a good speaker Chris is and will no doubt be looking forward to hearing him again. If you're new to the Society and haven't heard him speak yet, then I recommend that you try and join us on 27<sup>th</sup> September.

*'We are strangely prejudiced in our assessment of transport in the past, because it is often thought that great improvements were made in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and in subsequent periods up to our own day. But our roads are very imperfect: we live with pot-holes, traffic jams, endless road works, huge expenditure, and destruction of the environment. The road system was much better in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. This talk will explain how and why in the foreign country of the past they did things differently and without the miseries that we have inflicted on ourselves. Welford and Weston will provide much of the evidence.'*



Christopher Dyer was born and brought up in Welford. He attended the local primary school, and then King Edward VI Stratford upon Avon. He read history at Birmingham University, and then took up his first post at the University of Edinburgh (where one of his students was the future prime minister, Gordon Brown). He returned to Birmingham in 1970 and rose to become Professor of Medieval History. In 2001 he moved to become head of the Centre for English Local History at the University of Leicester. He is the Leverhulme Emeritus Professor of Regional & Local History, based at Leicester University.

He has written many books including *Making a Living in the Middle Ages, the People of Britain 850-1520* (published 2002); *An Age of Transition? 1250-1550* (published 2005) and *A Country Merchant 1495 – 1520* (published 2012). He has published numerous articles and contributions to books on social, economic and landscape history, and archaeology. He has edited several learned journals, and has served as chairman and president of various historical and archaeological societies. He has written for widely circulated journals such as *History Today*. His most recent book, *Peasants Making History*, which is about the West Midlands (1200-1540), was published by Oxford University Press in June, 2022. We have a copy in the archive. Please contact Brad Plimmer, if you want to borrow it.

This talk will be available to people attending in person in the village Memorial Hall, as well as available remotely via Zoom. The choice is yours.

You will receive an email from Karen Dickinson, inviting you to join this meeting, about a week before the meeting itself. This email is being sent to all members, whether or not you will be going to the Hall or viewing remotely via Zoom. Please check in your junk folder if you don't receive it.

**On the evening** of the talk, you will be able to join the meeting by Zoom from 19:00. The talk itself will start at 19:30. If you are fairly new to Zoom, I would encourage you to join the meeting early, so that if you experience a problem, you'll have time to call Karen Dickinson (on 07970 179821), and get it sorted out before the talk starts at 19:30. If you are going to attend in person, the doors of the Memorial Hall, are open from 19:10. We look forward to welcoming you to what promises to be another great talk.

Karen Dickinson, 28th August, 2024.