

# DRAGON HALL GALLERY



Dragon Hall - 21st Century



Dragon Hall site - 14th Century



## EXTERNAL TALKS, WALKS, PERFORMANCES & DEMONSTRATIONS



Robert Toppes



Restoration - 1980s



The Great Hall roof

### BOOKING DETAILS & FEES

- Our standard fee is £50 plus travelling expenses outside Norwich.
- If opting for the Mummers' play plus the Talk, the fee is £75.

### CONTACTS

To discuss possibilities for your group contact,  
Adrian O'dell ☎ 01362 637033 or ✉ [adrianodellwth@gmail.com](mailto:adrianodellwth@gmail.com)

SCROLL DOWN FOR SIX MORE TALKS,  
WALKS & PERFORMANCES



### MEDIEVAL MEDICINE



Interactive Talk & Demonstration

Meet the Wise Women of Dragon Hall as they reveal their secrets, weave spells and mix potions. Can you identify their herbs? What were *volvels* and *clystras* and why should you grow rosemary or box or bay? Return to medieval times with Mistresses Jane and Anne and find out whether they are wise or foolish. Or are they really witches?

### THE HISTORY OF DRAGON HALL

The story of 1000 years occupation of the riverside site in King Street, beginning with Saxon dwellings, use of the site by Woburn Abbey and John Page's hall house in 1330. **Robert Toppes's unique medieval trading-hall complex then takes centre stage** followed by five hundred years as a crowded tenement and its re-discovery and restoration from the 1970s.



Illustrated Talk

### ROBERT TOPPES THE MERCER



Illustrated Talk

The story of the wealthy 15th century Norwich merchant who owned Dragon Hall. Of unknown origin he rose rapidly through the city elite to become Mayor and M.P. and one of the richest citizens, typical of the new breed of merchants whose enterprise made Norwich the second city of England. There are tales of civic unrest, property and bank deals and marriage into gentry.



**OUR KNOWLEDGEABLE VOLUNTEERS OFFER A RANGE OF TALKS, WALKS, PERFORMANCES AND DEMONSTRATIONS.**

**IDEAL FOR GROUPS , CLUBS AND SOCIETIES THROUGHOUT NORFOLK**



Illustrated Talk

### THE RESIDENTS OF DRAGON HALL

After Robert Toppes died, the Hall provided residential accommodation for 500 years and was lost as a trading-hall until its re-discovery in the 1970s. Based on Census records for 1841 to 1911, this is the story of the families who lived here, including two pubs, a vicarage and a butcher's shop. It presents a picture of a vibrant and varied working class community, typical of 19th century Norwich.



Illustrated Talk

### MUMMERS, MOLLIES AND MYSTERY

An illustrated talk about Mummers. Do Mummers plays spring from medieval Mystery plays? Are they pagan and what is the link to strange black-faced molly dancers and other old customs? We offer a 30-minute illustrated talk, which can be followed by the entertaining performance of St George and the Dragon. (See pricing schedule)

### DRAGON HALL'S CONSTRUCTION

Richard Darrah, wood archaeologist and expert on the construction of Robert Toppes's trading-hall, has built a model which demonstrates how this amazing structure was built in 1427. With the help of the model and a specially commissioned video we explore the interior of the showroom and describe how oak timbers were used to such stunning effect.



Illustrated Talk & Demonstration

### ALL ABOUT KING STREET

A guided walk through centuries of change along one of the city's most important routes. Today it is possible to see impressive medieval halls next to monuments to Norwich's recent industrial past. Hear stories of its almost forgotten residents, see traces of a lost port and take in the ever-changing landscape along easy terrain. Duration: 1 hour.



Guided Walk



'St George & The Dragon' performance

### THE DRAGON HALL MUMMERS

With performances in and around Norwich and Norfolk (Strangers Hall, Gressenhall, etc.) 'The Mummers' have established themselves as lively exponents of an ancient tradition and are not afraid to inject contemporary touches, silliness, music, songs, and dances into their performances. Suitable for all ages; the performance lasts for about 20 minutes. Can be combined with illustrated talk (see below).



Illustrated Talk

### KING STREET IN KHAKI

A presentation by Dragon Hall Heritage Volunteers on soldiers from King Street parishes who died in World War I. This fascinating talk covers research undertaken, sources and problems with a synopsis of findings and poignant stories of individual soldiers, set in the context of streets around Dragon Hall on the eve of the Great War.