

# DRAGON HALL GALLERY



Dragon Hall - 21st Century



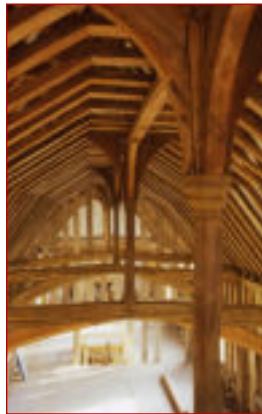
Dragon Hall site - 14th Century



Robert Toppe



Restoration - 1980s



The Great Hall roof

## BOOKING DETAILS & FEES

- Our standard fee is £50 plus travelling expenses outside Norwich.

### CONTACTS

To discuss possibilities for us to visit your group contact

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SCROLL DOWN FOR FOUR MORE  
TALKS, WALKS AND PERFORMANCES



EXTERNAL TALKS, WALKS  
AND DEMONSTRATIONS

## 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 a hall house in 1330. **Robert Toppe's iconic medieval trading-hall complex then takes centre stage** with a history covering five hundred years when its original use was concealed and it became a crowded tenement until its re-discovery and restoration from the 1970s onwards.



Illustrated Talk



## MEDIEVAL MEDICINE

Meet the Wise Woman of Dragon Hall as she reveals her secrets, weaves spells and mixes potions. Can you identify her herbs? What were *volvels* and *clystras* and why should you grow rosemary or box or bay? Return to medieval times with Mistress Anne and find out whether she is wise or foolish. Or is she really a witch?



Interactive Talk & Demonstration



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

### ALL ABOUT KING STREET



Illustrated Talk

### ROBERT TOPPES THE MERCER

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 .

A guided walk through centuries of change along one of the city's most important routes. Today it is possible to see impressive **Dragon Hall** 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



### 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.

### NORWICH GUILDHALL

Completed in 1413, this was the largest municipal building outside London and for centuries its functions included toll collection, a Council meeting venue, a Court with a gaol in the undercroft and a Police and Fire Station. **Robert Toppes, the owner of Dragon Hall**, was mayor of Norwich four times and an MP on five occasions. He knew this fascinating building well, as you will too!



Illustrated Talk



Illustrated Talk