

Death historian lifts the coffin lid on the history of undertakers

Death historian Dr Dan O'Brien will give a talk at Christ Church about the origins of the undertaking trade in eighteenth-century England.

Dr Dan lives locally and is a research fellow at the Centre for Death and Society at the University of Bath. His research focuses on the death in eighteenth-century England and popular perceptions of the undertaking trade. Dan also talks publicly to a wide range of audiences on different themes in mortality history such as funerary gifts, sea burial and mourning jewellery. He has recently appeared on History Hit's *After Dark* podcast talking about the funeral of Queen Victoria and described a funerary crime on *Killing Time with Rebecca Rideal*.

The talk, 'A Flock of Ravens,' will examine the eighteenth-century origins of the funeral trade using imagery and written accounts of the period. Expect a journey from the familiar to the extraordinary as Dr Dan discusses funerary innovations, unusual traditions and unexpected rivalries that defined an important century in the history of funeral work.

The talk takes place on 31st January at 11am.