

July 2026 talk: Katherine Swynford's children by Baz Aveyard
We are very fortunate to have Baz as a member of our u3a group for he is not only a recognised authority on Katherine Swynford but also a direct descendant.

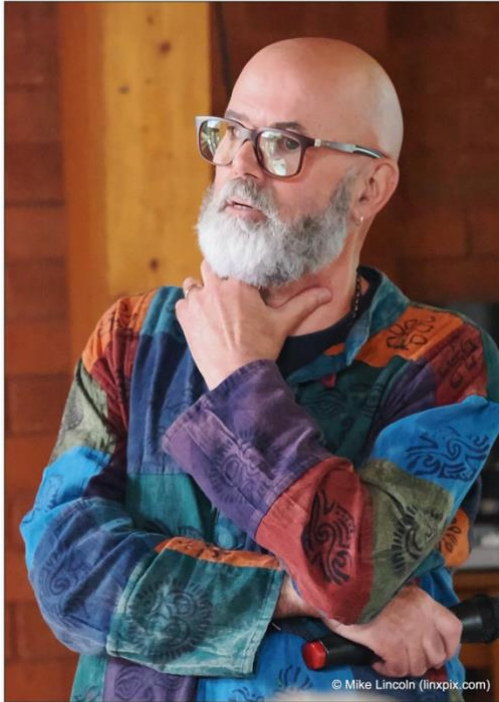
Following his successful talk in 2025 on Katherine herself, Baz now enlightened us further, focusing our attention on the interesting and varied lives and fortunes of her immediate descendants. We learnt that Katherine had children by her first marriage to Sir Hugh Swynford, the eldest of whom became Sir Thomas Swynford. Thomas managed family estates and supported royal political campaigns. She also had children with her long term love, John of Gaunt. These children, given the surname Beaufort, were later legitimised following her marriage to John.

Baz engaged us with many fascinating anecdotes and accounts of their varied fortunes both in private and public life. This was indeed the beginning a family line of significance for through her son, John Beaufort, the 1st Earl of Somerset and her daughter, Joan, Katherine went on to become the ancestor of all English (and later British) monarchs since Edward IV. Quite a dynasty!

An enlightening talk enjoyed by an appreciative audience who I'm sure will be interested to know that Baz has two commissioned books in the pipeline:

'Joan Beaufort, daughter of Katherine Swynford' due for publication on July 2027 and

'Eleanor Neville: Power, Politics and The War of the Roses' due out October 2027.



Baz Aveyard Photograph by Mike Lincoln

Note: Baz has kindly offered to lead a local walking tour (3.5miles approx), covering key places of interest and connection to Katherine. Interested members will meet at Kettlethorpe Church, at 10am, Thursday, 10th Sept.

Additional information: It was noted that there were some sound issues at the last meeting. The committee has moved quickly to resolve this and purchased a new lapel microphone. If any members have hearing issues, kindly feel free to approach one of the many committee members on duty (we all wear u3a lanyards) and we will assist and arrange for suitable seating for your needs.

Michele Murphy