



PACKING UP THE NATION:

By Dr Caroline Shenton MA DPhil (Oxon) FSA FRHistS



This is the gripping and sometimes hilarious story of how a band of heroic curators and eccentric custodians saved Britain's national heritage during our Darkest Hour. As Hitler's forces gathered on the other side of the Channel to threaten the UK, men and women from London's national museums, galleries and archives forged extraordinary plans to evacuate their collections to safety. Utilising country houses from Buckinghamshire to Cumbria, tube tunnels, Welsh mines and Wiltshire quarries, a dedicated team of unlikely heroes packed up their greatest treasures in a race against time during the sweltering summer of 1939, dispatching them throughout the country on a series of secret wartime adventures, retold in this talk.



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Dr Caroline Shenton is an archivist and historian. She was formerly Director of the Parliamentary Archives in London, and before that was a senior archivist at the National Archives. Her book *The Day Parliament Burned Down* won the Political Book of the Year Award in 2013 and Mary Beard called it 'microhistory at its absolute best'. Its acclaimed sequel, *Mr Barry's War*, about the rebuilding of the Palace of Westminster, was a Book of the Year in 2016 for *The Daily Telegraph* and *BBC History Magazine* and was described by Lucy Worsley as a 'real jewel, finely wrought and beautiful'. Caroline was Political Writer in Residence at Gladstone's Library in 2017, has appeared at the Cheltenham, Hay and Henley literary festivals and on BBC radio and TV.

Monday 11th May, 2020 at 6:45 pm for 7:00 pm

Cessnock Performing Arts Centre, Cnr. Vincent St and Aberdare Rd, Cessnock.

After the lecture a light supper and Hunter Valley wines will be served during which you will have the opportunity to meet the lecturer.

Visitors are welcome - \$30.00, Students and Visiting ADFAS Members - NO CHARGE

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