

DUNKIRK ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

**Tuesday 8 May 2018, 7.30pm
at Dunkirk Village Hall**

Tea and coffee will be served from 7.15pm

Guest Speaker:

Wendy Tait-Mayfield - historian and genealogist

“THE BATTLE OF BOSSENDEN WOOD”

The Battle of Bossenden Wood which took place in Dunkirk on 31 May 1838 was known as the last armed rising on English soil.

The battle is significant to local history because, frightened of further unrest in the area, the Government sent a Christian mission to the village, made Dunkirk a proper parish, and built both a church and a school. Prior to this, the area was ‘extra-parochial’ – the sheriff’s writ did not apply, so petty thieves and ne’er-do-wells found sanctuary here. Dunkirk became notorious for harbouring smugglers and other minor criminals.

Wendy will be delving deeper into our fascinating local history with her talk on '*The Battle of Bossenden Wood*'. She will recount what it was really like for local people, the events leading up to the rebellion, Courtenay’s adoration by his followers despite his previous treatment for insanity, the battle itself and aftermath which included criminal trials, imprisonment and deportation to Australia.

Come along to hear more about our local history.