

## January 2022, 'Charlie & the Dig'

### Charlie and Ralph Fiennes on set



We got off to a flying start to the year. More than 60 members turned out for the talk by the well known local celebrity, Charlie Haylock.

Charlie had been headhunted as speech coach to the cast of the new Netflix film 'The Dig' which was to reimagine the events of the 1939 excavation of Sutton Hoo. The producers were determined that the accents should be as authentic as possible—and that's where Charlie comes in.

Whilst mentoring the whole cast, including Carey Mulligan as Mrs Pretty, Charlie's main attention was with Ralph Fiennes.

Fiennes plays the part of Basil Brown, a local self-taught archaeologist-excavator who was hired by

Edith Pretty to tackle the large burial mounds at her rural estate in Sutton Hoo near Woodbridge.

Charlie described how Fiennes proved to be a perfectionist who, in order to get things right, acted in character on and off the set. They would go on pub crawls where Fiennes was sometimes recognised sometimes not, but he always conversed in the Suffolk dialect, practicing and learning as he went along. He also visited the British Museum to see the treasures and to read Basil Browns diaries to better understand and get 'into his mind set'.

Charlie gave us many anecdotes, surrounding the filming, too many to list here, but rounded off his talk by telling us more about dialects. Some of us were not aware that each region of Suffolk enjoys a slightly different version of the dialect and we were entertained in hearing all the subtle variations.

Finally we were entertained by quick fire versions of the

multitude of accents and dialects around the British Isles.

He received a well earned round of applause from the audience.

Whilst no longer doing the cinema rounds, at the time of writing 'The Dig' is still on Netflix' and for those who would like to have a preview, the official trailer can be seen [here on You Tube](#).

