



## **"WILLIAM III - THE MAKING OF THE MODERN WORLD"**

*William III as a crucial factor in Britain's emergence as a world power*

**Professor Tony Claydon**

The March illustrated Zoom talk will be given by Tony Claydon, professor of early modern history at Bangor University in North Wales. He has spent a career researching the politics, religion, and culture of late seventeenth century Britain: particularly the events of the 'Glorious Revolution', and the career of the king – William III – whom that rebellion brought to the Stuart throne. In the talk, Tony will suggest William himself was crucial to the rapid modernisation of Britain that occurred in the 1690s. His ambitions, political style, skills, and experience shaped and enabled a series of far-reaching changes. William oversaw an exponential expansion of the state; a stabilisation of political conflict into a two-party system that helped to contain tensions; and a new role for parliament which ended the endless round of constitutional crises that had marked British history for a hundred years. The talk will therefore suggest that individual personality can be important in the development of societies. It will also stress foreign influences on the Stuart realm. William had spent the first thirty-eight years of his life, and all his early political career, in the Netherlands. It was the lessons he learned there, and the objectives his Dutch life gave him, which help explain why he was so influential and successful a ruler in London.