

The Questionable History of the TV Quiz Show

Jeff Evans

21 November 2025 at 2.30 at Alton Community Centre

One of television's most successful creations is the quiz show – the programme where everyone can show how clever they are and possibly earn a small fortune in the process. But where did it all begin? Which shows have been the most successful? And who, along the way, have been the winners, losers and – perhaps most intriguingly – the cheaters?

This fully illustrated, entertaining talk covers the whole fascinating history of the TV quiz show from its earliest days in the 1930s to today, showing how the format developed, celebrating the good, the bad and the ugly, and unearthing some very dodgy dealing along the way.

Expect lots of warm memories, plenty of surprises and lots of 'I didn't know that' moments in this 50–60-minute talk, presented by TV historian Jeff Evans, who also writes questions for TV quiz shows, including Mastermind.

