

Chair's Report 2019

The History Society was formed 10 years ago and has 44 members at present, but has also welcomed visitors who have attended our meetings. Last summer we visited Nuffield Place and illustrated talks included the Lost Villages of Oxfordshire, Harwell through the Camera Lens, The History of Abingdon & Culham Bridges, and Women Professional Gardeners. The AGM last year focused on Sutton Courtenay when several members spoke about its past history using pictures to illustrate their topics.

In December a group of us were invited to the school where we had a lively morning talking to a class of children about our memories and experiences of Christmas when we were children.

The Society has welcomed visits from other organizations. In September the Courtenay Society, an organization whose members, headed by the Earl of Devon, bear the name of Courtenay or are related, came for a talk about the Courtenays and their influence on Sutton Courtenay. More recently I spoke to a U3A group from Wallingford on the history of the Church.

We continue to support the House of Wessex project at the Sylva Wood Centre at Long Wittenham where an Anglo-Saxon hall is being constructed using traditional tools and authentic materials of the 7th century. A trail is being created from Sutton Courtenay to Dorchester to link the sites of Anglo-Saxon settlements along the way. Courses demonstrating the construction skills are taking place and the building will soon be a valuable educational aid for schools and visitors.

I would like to thank Nigel French for his valuable contribution in running the website so efficiently which he constantly adds to and keeps up-to-date. The website is a valuable source of information and attracts enquiries from many sources both here and abroad.

The committee meets regularly and I thank them for the help and support they give in many ways. We try to arrange an interesting programme of speakers and we hope we can look forward to your continued interest in this historic village and support for the Society.