

Chair's Report AGM May 19th 2015

The Society currently has 49 members, but has also welcomed visitors who attend meetings. Over the past year we have had a varied programme of talks, some with direct reference to Sutton Courtenay. The talks have included the Lock family history, the history of the River Thames, the Roman invasions and colonisation of Britain and its impact on this area, and the history of Salter's Steamers.

In November meeting members of the Society joined with the Damascus Group of young people and the church to present an Evening of Remembrance to commemorate the centenary of World War 1 and particularly those from the village who lost their lives. It was based on the Roll of Honour book produced by Sarah Ward. Over 60 copies of the book have so far been sold and all proceeds have gone towards the restoration of the War Memorial.

During the summer months a group organized by Bill Hanks visited the older area of the Harwell site before its redevelopment. Another group of members went to Chalgrove to learn about the church's wall paintings and had a memorable tour of Chalgrove Manor under the guidance of our enthusiastic hosts.

We are grateful to Nigel French for relaunching and running our website which is full of information not only about our meetings and village history, but also about events taking place elsewhere. I do urge you to refer to the website and Nigel welcomes your contributions. It is helpful to have your email address to help with passing on information etc. Nigel has also created a page for the Society on Streetlife. This is a social network for local communities which shares information about local groups.

The Society recently purchased a new projector. Whilst some speakers brought their own they sometimes varied in quality. We thank Julie McDonnell for providing a projector when necessary in the past.

Thanks partly due to the website, I get enquiries from near and far about the village and its history as well as information about people and events. For example, in July two History Societies will be visiting the village, one during the day and one in the evening. We will meet first in the church for a short talk on Sutton Courtenay's history followed by a tour of the vicinity.

The Committee meets regularly and I thank them warmly for all the help and support they give in a variety of ways. We trust that the future programme we have planned will be of interest. We welcome any ideas you may have and look forward to your continued support. Bearing in mind the extensive developments taking place which will change the identity of the village it is essential that we do not forget the village's important history and heritage.

Mary Thompson