

Chair's Report May 2016

During the past year the Society has lost a few members through ill health etc. but has also welcomed new members and many visitors who have attended meetings. We have tried to produce a varied programme of speakers which has included talks on the Civil War in this area, the history of Abingdon, schooldays in Sutton Courtenay and children's experiences in Oxfordshire during the Second World War. Last summer we enjoyed a visit to the medieval school and almshouses at Ewelme, and more recently paid an interesting visit to the Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum at Woodstock. These visits were subsidised by the Society but I would like to thank all those who helped by giving lifts. We have welcomed other History Societies to the village with a talk on the history of Sutton Courtenay and a tour of significant buildings where possible.

I would like to thank Nigel French for so expertly running the Society's website which is full of information about village history and our meetings and events. Nigel welcomes your contributions. The website has led to a variety of enquiries about Sutton Courtenay from people in this country and abroad, including one from the House of Commons. The Librarian wanted to know why the inscription on Asquith's tomb described him as only Prime Minister of England, not Great Britain.

As a member of the Oxfordshire Local History Association we receive information about relevant events and it is helpful to have email addresses so that this information can be passed on to members as well as news about our meetings.

The Society recently purchased a better sound system which I hope has been an improvement when listening to speakers and money well spent.

The Committee meets regularly and I thank them warmly for all the help and support they give in so many ways. We trust that the future programme we have planned will be of interest and we can look forward to your continued support. We welcome any ideas you may have which I hope you will discuss with us. There is much of Sutton Courtenay's history still to explore if you are able to contribute to this, especially as with the rapid changes to the identity of the village taking place it is important that we do not forget its important history and heritage.

Mary Thompson