



## SUTTON COURTENAY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

[www.sclhs.org.uk](http://www.sclhs.org.uk)

### Chair's report, May 2017

The Society continues to meet every other month, except for a break in the summer when a visit of interest is arranged. In September a leaflet drop was done around the new housing developments to inform people about the History Society but did not seem to result in any new members. However, some of the meetings have attracted quite a lot of visitors who are always welcome. Membership does have advantages, as visits are subsidised and members are emailed with information such as events and meetings etc. in Oxfordshire.

We make every effort to arrange interesting speakers which have included the history of the Oxford Botanic Gardens, Oxfordshire's Drove Roads, the County Regiment's Story from 1741 and the History and Impact of Local Railways. At last year's AGM Committee member John Talbot spoke on the origin of names in and around Sutton Courtenay. At least two of our meetings in the coming year will be about Sutton Courtenay; details can be found on our website. Last July we had guided tours of the Merchant's House in Abingdon and the Abbey with lunch at a pub in between. We welcome your ideas and suggestions for any topics you would like us to pursue.

I thank Nigel French for so efficiently running the Society's website which in turn results in some interesting enquiries about the village, including one from the Afghan Hound Society of America, who requested information about the Afghan hounds that were bred here in the 1930s. Nigel puts all the latest news about the Society on the website as well as a great collection of photographs, both old and new. He has recently added some more photos and would welcome any feedback from you with information about the images. We also welcome visits from other history groups who want to visit the village and will be hosting a group from Wallingford in June.

The Committee meets regularly and I thank them warmly for their help and support in a variety of ways. We trust that the future programme will be of interest and we look forward to your continued support of Society. With all the ongoing developments taking place in the village which will change its identity I believe it is important to learn about and not forget Sutton Courtenay's historic heritage.

Mary Thompson