

## **Chair's Report May 2018**

The History Society meets every other month, including a visit in the summer to a place of interest. In July this was to the Oxford Botanic Gardens and was a follow up to the excellent talk we had on the history of the Gardens by the retired Director. We are grateful to Alison Draper for so successfully organizing the visit which was much enjoyed.

We have had talks on a variety of subjects over the year including the important archeological discoveries between the village and Appleford, the golden age of stage coaching, Lord Nuffield, the motor works and impact on Oxford, and the adventures of the first balloonist, James Sadler from Oxford. We endeavour to include references to Sutton Courtenay and this evening's presentation will focus on the village.

The Society belongs to the Oxfordshire Local History Association and regularly receives information from it about meetings and events being held in the county which is passed on to members. It is therefore helpful to have email addresses so that we can also communicate with you by this means. Under new legislation concerning data protection, your consent as outlined in the letter sent to members is required so we hope you will sign the form for this to continue.

The Society plans to participate in a project being established on land belonging to the Sylvan Wood Centre at Long Wittenham. In 2016 archaeologists discovered the site of an Anglo-Saxon hall and the aim of the project is to reconstruct it using traditional tools and skills on the site of the original building, which will be a valuable educational aid. The plan is also to create a historic walking trail from Sutton Courtenay to Dorchester, thus linking the important Anglo-Saxon settlement here with others between here and Dorchester. Recently a grant was received from the Heritage Lottery fund and it is hoped to launch the project in June.

We are grateful to Nigel French for the excellent website for the History Society which he has created and adds to. It attracts enquiries from various sources both from this country and abroad and gives much information about the Society's meetings and the village.

The committee meets regularly and I thank all its members for their input and contribution to the work of the Society. We hope the programme planned for the coming year will be of interest and thank you for your support over the past year.

Mary Thompson

