

**TWYFORD AND RUSCOMBE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**  
**39th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**MONDAY MARCH 13<sup>th</sup> 2017**

**Report from the Editorial Committee for the AGM 2017**

Members will be well aware of the outstanding success of the society's book, *Twyford through the Ages*, written by Audrey Curtis on our behalf. It is obvious how much sheer hard work and research by Audrey have gone into the process. A book launch evening held on 3 October in the Age Concern building was attended by over 60 people and was an enjoyable social evening. The book continues to sell well and to date over 400 copies have been sold. As well as being a thoroughly good read, it undoubtedly will be a most useful research tool for school children and historians alike. We have already expressed our thanks to Audrey but this AGM gives me another opportunity to do so publicly.

The society's journals continue to be published twice yearly, distributed in June and December to all members. The editorial committee members are Peter Burrows, Audrey Curtis, Moyna Kitchin, Graham Starkie and myself. Each of us in the team has our special strengths but we gel together well in hopefully producing journals of interest to all. Of course, if any of our members feels interested in being part of this team, we would love to hear from you. We usually have around three meetings per journal – always over a cuppa and strengthening biscuits!

Over 18 months, with the help of many members in proofreading the digitised journals, we had completed a digital archive of all past journals by the middle of 2016. For anyone interested in looking back at the detail in our published journals this archive is invaluable. A search of past journals for references using keywords or phrases now takes minutes instead of days – or perhaps weeks if the paper copies had to be located and read. A file suitable for inclusion in the archive is a natural byproduct of the journal publishing cycle so maintenance of the archive is relatively easy. A memory stick containing the digital archive is now available to purchase and an updating service is offered after the publication of a journal.

This year, 2017, is the society's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its formation in 1977 and we hope to celebrate this in our forthcoming journals. Do any members have an interesting story to tell from that era? Do you have any photographs that we could include in the journal? Are there any articles from that era you would love to be able to read again? From the standpoint of my ancient age, 40 years seems to me but a blink of an eye but we are all too aware of the huge changes within the villages of Ruscombe and Twyford since 1977 so do get in touch with any one of us on the editorial committee if you have some interesting memorabilia.

Members of the committee always welcome feedback on the journals. Perhaps I'm not circulating in the right quarters, but I have had no comments recently, good or bad, on our efforts. Do you read the journal with interest? Or does it go into a dark corner of a drawer and is forgotten about until the next journal? The committee welcomes constructive criticism, ideas for future articles and research for our articles, so do talk to us, inspire us and encourage us to even greater efforts. With the coming of Crossrail, the electrification of the tracks, and the changing face of the whole of the UK after Brexit, there will inevitably be changes to our village life in the foreseeable future. So let's make sure we have an accurate record of our past history, recording and photographing changes as they take place, in the easily accessible form of our journal, now to be read alongside the history book of our villages – and to do this we need your input. The editorial committee thank you in anticipation.