

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

**Secretary's Report 2016**

Over the last twelve months the society has been fortunate in having some excellent speakers whose topics have ranged from 'The Way it Was', with Tony King reminiscing on life in the 1940s and 1950s to 'Smugglers of Yesteryear', when Malcolm Nelson revealed some of the secrets of the pirates in the 1800s. Later in the year Catherine Sampson described 'Georgian Kitchens and Cookery'. She ended her talk by producing a cake made from an eighteenth century recipe, which we all enjoyed. Reports on all talks are available in the summer and winter journals for 2016, thanks to the efforts of Denise Wilkin and Moyna Kitchin.

During the year Doreen Scott, our hardworking visits co-ordinator, organised three interesting trips. In the spring we spent a most enjoyable day at Arundel Castle where not only could we visit the castle but in the afternoon were treated to a display of medieval and Tudor jousting. In July a visit was made to Kelmscott Manor where we explored the house and grounds and September saw us in Brighton where we spent time in the Royal Pavilion with its magnificent banqueting room, royal apartments and the Great Kitchen which was the most modern of its time.

The Ploughman's Lunch in July was held at the home of the Scotts. The occasion was enjoyed by all. We should like to thank Doreen and Scottie for their hospitality, also all those who assisted with the catering. Our second social event of the year was the Christmas Party when we were entertained by the 'Tuesday Girls' whose witty renderings of popular songs and comic banter kept us highly amused. We all agreed that it was a good start to the festive season.

The society participated in the Donkey Derby and the Summer Fete. These functions provide an excellent opportunity for us to publicise our progress on the Osier Project and to promote the sales of our monographs. In October we held a Book Launch for 'Twyford and Ruscombe through the Ages'. The meeting took place in the Twyford Day Centre and was attended by over 50 people. I am pleased to say that the book has been well received by the residents of the two villages.

Throughout the year Gerry Wise has maintained our website and from the emails and calls that both he and I receive it is obviously being well used and has encouraged visitors to come to some of the talks. Please use this site and its links to find information about local history events throughout Berkshire.

This is my last year as secretary of the society. It has been a privilege to work with the committee over the last eight years and I would like to thank everyone who has helped me with ideas for speakers and activities.

My very good wishes to my successor

Audrey Curtis