

**TWYFORD AND RUSCOMBE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY  
41st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
MONDAY MARCH 11<sup>th</sup> 2019**

**Secretary's Report for 2018**

Another busy year has been enjoyed by members of the society.

We continue to hear interesting speakers each month, to take part in outings and social events. The publication of our journals twice a year are awaited with anticipation and for this we owe grateful thanks to the Editorial team who make this happen.

The sale of Audrey Curtis's book "Twyford and Ruscombe Through the Ages" creates a steady interest in our society.

This year also witnessed the first visit from our twinned village Cuincy in Northern France.

The party from Cuincy were most interested in our history boards and places of significant meaning around the village. During the two memorials to mark the centenary of the end of WWI it became evident that both communities had been affected but in different ways.

Speakers for the year were varied, some old favourites and some new to our society meetings.

We heard about the Verney family of Claydon from John Brearley which prompted some members to buy the book about this interesting family. Philip Williams amazed us with little known facts about Hurley during the war and the secret communication centre there.

Further afield in Newbury aspects of the Tudor Cloth Trade and tales of Jack of Newbury were illustrated by David Peacock.

Our own Gerry and Chris Wise spoke about The Charge of the Life Brigade, what was fact and what was fiction according to some evidence uncovered from one of their relatives.

A volunteer from the Stanley Spencer Gallery talked most informatively about the artist's life in Cookham.

Closer to home we learned about Death and Disease in Reading during the 19<sup>th</sup> century and how Dickens might have used a camera.

Outings to Mottisfont and Ham House were well supported, both blessed with clement weather enabling visits of the gardens to be enjoyed as well as the houses.

Using the day centre premises for our Summer lunch in July proved to be a very good decision and we are indebted to Audrey for arranging this with the trustees.

The Christmas season began with the church tree festival. This year we displayed six large angels made from osiers harvested from the heritage osier bed. Our thanks to Graham Starkie for this really different and eye-catching diorama.

The usual Bring and Share supper was enjoyed in December after entertainment by the High Voltage singers.

My thanks to the Chairman and all committee members who help to keep the society up to date. The website, managed by Gerry Wise is widely used.

We recently had a member subscribe from California, U.S.A.

I look forward to another successful year in 2019.

Jean Poulter