

TWYFORD AND RUSCOMBE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY
42nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
MONDAY MARCH 9th 2020

Secretary's Report for 2019

AGM Secretary's Report for 2019

Members have continued to support the society in another busy year ,enjoying a wide range of speakers ,making visits to Osterley Park, Hinton Ampner and Hampstead Norreys and also taking part in village functions by demonstrating the stripping of the osiers from our heritage osier site. The society has mounted a display in the library and researched another local history board at the old boys school. The publication of the journals and the sale of "Twyford and Ruscombe Through the Ages" serve to keep the society in the public mind and hopefully will encourage new membership.

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

Tony King gave an illustrated, nostalgic talk about " The Thirties " very familiar to some but nevertheless interesting to note the ensuing changes to daily life. Further back in our history we learned about Boudicca, warrior queen or rebel , probably the first ever feminist. With the reopening of the Abbey ruins in Reading after 10 yrs we were able to take a guided photographic tour with Sue Milton and to discover how important a centre it had been.

Also famous for photography Reading had housed the famous Fox Talbot establishment where the first way of making negatives and prints was developed.

Roger Stace reminded us of the history of Greenham Common and because of his work with BBONT he was able to show what a carefully managed nature reserve it has become today.

It was the season of Royal Weddings and Catherine Sampson had unearthed some interesting examples of monarchs and their spouses throughout the centuries.

We marked the 100 yr anniversary of Nancy Astor taking her seat in Parliament with an interesting and topical talk about Cliveden by Jennifer Jones.

After the AGM Jenny Knight from MERL came to talk about the newly reorganised galleries. We are very fortunate to have such resources in Reading.

The usual Summer lunch was held at the Day Centre. It has proved to be a popular venue and was much enjoyed.

The Christmas party took the form of a Bring and Share supper and entertainment was supplied by a clarinet ensemble.

The website and the Archive store continue to be valuable assets, imparting information and keeping the society up to date.

It remains for me to thank the Chairman and all the members of the management and the editorial committees for the continued hard work which makes all these things possible.

I look forward with their help to another successful year in 2020.

Jean Poulter