

## Secretary's report for T&RLHS AGM March 11<sup>th</sup> 2024

The society has enjoyed another full year of activity, the 46<sup>th</sup> since its inception. Like many organisations we are still feeling the effects of the pandemic and because of our demographics we have a slowly dwindling membership.

However, after the AGM last year we started our programme with a very interesting talk about Shaw House in Newbury by Sarah Somerville which was the stimulus for a visit by members later in the year. Another house, Nuffield Place was the subject brought to our attention by Tony Boffin in May. He talked with great knowledge about William Morris, Lord Nuffield and his many interests and philanthropic work.

In June we revisited the many shops in Reading over the last 100 years with photographs and information from Ann Smith. It was surprising to find how much some of us remembered from the time before the IDR.

A lunch during the summer recess was enjoyed by a good number of members at the Royal Oak in Ruscombe.

The society also manned a stall at the Twyford fete in August and at the Parish Council AGM

A well-attended and interesting visit was made to Hughenden Manor on a very pleasant Autumn Day.

The Story of English Freedom in September was a great talk by Andy Thomas when he linked many historical events across the ages to show how our society today has been effected and evolved.

In October we were introduced to Thankful Villages by Graham Horn and were surprised to learn that TV on a village was nothing to do with broadcasting but meant that the menfolk who had gone to fight in WW1 had returned safely, all of them without any mortalities.

November was to have been about printing in Reading but unfortunately the speaker was unwell and could not come. We are very grateful to member Mary Butcher who stepped in at the last minute to give a well-researched talk about William Marshall

Once again, the Christmas Bring and Share supper was much enjoyed with songs through the decades performed by Suzanne Niesch on keyboard and guitar.

Material is always needed for our journals and newsletters. Lorne Clark, the new editor and Graham Starkie are responsible for these publications which are so well received.

It remains to thank all members for their continued support and all committee members for their hard work. We look forward to another varied and interesting year.

Jean Poulter