

REPORTS

Sarratt Local History Society AGM, 27th January

Pam Turner reported that it had been a good year for the Society with extremely interesting talks, the best attended being Steve Morrill on 'The Story of Commonwood House.' The highlight of the year was undoubtedly the Commemorative Exhibition of the part played by Sarratt's families in World War One. Pam thanked the Society's committee for the work they put into researching this exhibition and mounting it in the very short space of time allotted for the event.

Pam drew attention to the fact that the only space available for the storage of larger historical items is the Old Slaughter House, the availability of which is appreciated but which is not really a very satisfactory solution. She also noted the very moving and beautiful WW1 memorial from the former Baptist Chapel on the Green, having been rescued from being flung into a skip, still has no suitable, permanent home in the Village. She asked for more volunteers to join the small Committee.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Jonathan Holmes, who said it had been a satisfactory year. There are 62 members and their subscriptions and the entry fee for non-members at the talks, did normally cover the cost of speakers, hire of the Hall, etc, but the Poppy/WWI exhibition caused a 'blip' in the expenses, because it had been felt that the people of Sarratt should not be charged an entry fee. However there were obviously expenses incurred and the Village Hall did charge its normal fee. Ron Gregory was thanked for his generous donation. A question from the Floor asked why the Village Hall did not waive its fee in this exceptional case; it was suggested that they or the Parish Council be approached about the this. Dawn Pitts (President) thanked Pam for being such an able Chairman for the past 19 years.

Local History Society Talk

Les Meade. 'Around Three Rivers in Film.'

Les Meade has a professional background in film and gives his passionate support and time to the Three Rivers Museum. For many years he has been filming local sites and events and we were treated to a delightful and nostalgic collection of these. In the earliest shots of scenes and people in Rickmansworth in the 1950s, it was probably the clothes that brought back the most intense memories to the 'senior' members of the audience. How clothes and hairstyles have changed!

Chenies was a history lesson, though probably known best on our TV screen for turning up unexpectedly as part of an infinite variety of settings and stories. Perhaps there should be a BAFTA for 'The Most Versatile Historical Building'

The film Les had made about Moor Park was clearly a labour of love and

certainly taught us, in the most enjoyable way, the 'life story' of our 'grand' neighbour. These recordings of the people and places around us, both stimulate our memory and encourage us to notice the daily world we live in. It is this of which local history is made.

Angela Colman

January weather

The overall average temperature for the month, 4.5C, was spot on the average for the last 10 years, however this masks extremes at either end of the scale. On 9 January, we achieved a new record high for the month of 14.0C [57F] beating the previous record set in 2005. On the night of 22/23 January, the temperature dropped to -6.9C [20F]. We experienced lower air temperatures several times in the 80s, but only twice in the last 25 years. In all, I noted a total of 11 air frosts and 19 ground frosts during the month.

The total rainfall came to 74.2mm [2.9ins], 6% less than the long term average. Wettest day was 12 January with 13.6mm and on 17 January the first snow fell since 20 November 2013. We had more snow during the final few days, but it amounted to very little and did not stay around.



Philip Buller

Sarratt Wildlife Volunteers

On Sunday 8 February, we were again on Dawes Common. It was a really beautiful day, quite warm with a clear blue sky, and 11 volunteers turned up plus 3 dogs! We were mainly working on moving the chippings left by the electricity workers when they cut back the branches along the power line. They had piled them quite neatly but they covered a lot of bluebells, which we revealed to be struggling up through the heaps. We released them into the light where they will soon turn bright green and flourish.

After our energy was restored by coffee and chocolate digestives some of the stronger members went down to Sarratt Green near Morton's Pond to continue digging the channel across from the main road. On looking at old photographs, it was clear that there was always a ditch from the road to the pond but this has silted up over the years, resulting in a big flood often right across the road after heavy rain. Due to the efforts of the Volunteers, the ditch was re-dug and hopefully this will help a lot with the standing water.

On Sunday 8 March, we shall be working at Commonwood, meeting in the car park there at 10am. Please come and help us if you can, it's good exercise, good fun and good company. For more information, call Dawn, 267071 or Brenda, 269956.