

## **Sarratt Local History Society AGM and Talk**

The formal part of the evening was conducted by Pam Turner, our Chairman, with surprising calm and efficiency considering that our expected speaker had withdrawn due to illness and Pam's telephone had also withdrawn its services without warning! The officers were duly re-elected; our treasurer, Jackie Boughton presented her usual immaculate accounts; and our president, Dawn Pitts had managed to persuade our favourite supporter, Terry Simmons, to arrive on a metaphorical white charger and rescue us with a fascinating talk on the history of Chipperfield.

We all relaxed slightly too soon, however, as Terry and his back-up from Bovingdon History Society, Peter McClelland, had a 'should have gone to specsavers' moment when their sophisticated computer-based projector appeared to have followed our original speaker and Pam Turner's phone in its inability to perform. However the swapping of spectacles between Terry and Peter miraculously solved the problem of which keys to press and with true Terry style his talk opened not with a picture of a recognisable local scene, but of Eleanor of Aquitaine. The wife of King Henry III, mother of 7 children, including Richard I and bad King John, she provided a link between the great medieval palace at King's Langley and the hunting grounds and woods that were the origins of Chipperfield (or Sheperfield).

Surprisingly, Chipperfield, unlike Sarratt, had no church till as late as 1838. Indeed only the Tudor rear of The Manor House (originally Pringlesgate House), the old Tudor farmhouse, Pale Farm, a few other parts of old cottages and the remaining track of the original Drovers' Way running between Belsize and Bucks Hill reveal a village population much before the 19th Century.

From that date on, Terry produced his enthralling selection of personal tales and photos, from the churches, the windmill, village school, early cricket matches and the relatively late arrival of The Two Brewers as an Inn—not forgetting President Carter's forebears, the BBC Day in Chipperfield and an obscure connection between Chipperfield and Bletchley Park. All vintage Terry.S!

**Angela Colman**

*The next meeting of the Society will be on **Tuesday 23 March** at 7.30 for 8pm in the **Village Hall**. Brian Morgan will speak on 'The History of Stockers Lake, Rickmansworth'. All are welcome.*