

Sarratt Local History Society

On 16 May, Mary Nobbs, editor of 'Chipperfield Within Living Memory', gave a talk entitled 'Historic Chipperfield'. We learned that the village was a settlement formed in the 16th century by disgruntled residents of Kings Langley who had to pay high taxes for living within the Royal Park. Hence they moved beyond 'the pale' up the hill and the settlement of Chipperfield began.

Several prominent families featured in its progress. The Carters, forebears of Jimmy Carter, formerly US President, were local brewers and set up an alehouse which still exists as the Two Brewers. The Bunyans ran a successful business on the corner next to the alehouse. This is now part of the present pub on the right-hand side. The Blackwell family inherited Chipperfield Manor House and in 1850 built the Social Club for villagers originally split – one room for ladies and one for men. Miss Courtauld built a house thought to have been a nursing home for the village, the Day family ran the local laundry. Research has uncovered the existence of a training school for bare-knuckle boxers in 1799. In the last century cricket teams from London arrived in tall hats to play matches against the locals, whilst cycling clubs and charabancs regularly visited to enjoy the beautiful village and surrounding countryside or it may have been the attraction of seven public houses!

Chipperfield has enjoyed 160 year of cricket, has a 100-year old football club, three churches, a thriving primary school, a playgroup, youth club, active WI etc. A Society member who has lived in Chipperfield for 66 years said that he had enjoyed learning even more about his village. It was a most informative evening. **Anne Powell**