

# Sarratt Local History Society

## 2023– 2024 Programme



Your committee is pleased to present the Society's programme for the coming year.

We have talks from committee members and local experts and we have expanded our usual Sarratt-focused programme to include a talk by Gregory Edmund, a leading numismatist with Spink and Son, who will share his insights from auctioning some of the world's oldest and most valuable coins.

We have also added a visit to the Chiltern Open Air Museum and have been very fortunate in persuading Dr. Wendy Morrison to repeat her archæological walk in the Chess Valley that had to be postponed last summer due to the extreme heat.

We will once again be celebrating the life of our past Chair, through the Pam Turner Memorial Lecture, and we are fortunate to have a speaker who shares Pam's passion for the mediæval period.

The Great Sarratt Scrapbook has been brought up to date and will be available to view at the Society's meetings, and other events as detailed in the programme. An electronic, searchable version can also be accessed through the Sarratt Local History Society website.

The site has been expanded to cover village life and village people, with a searchable map showing places of historical interest: please take a look. Our address:

[sarrattlocalhistorysociety.org](http://sarrattlocalhistorysociety.org)

We believe that it is important to research and maintain stories, records and artefacts from the village for the benefit of future generations. If you have any memories, photographs or papers that you would like to share with us, please contact us through the Sarratt Local History website – or reach out to one of our committee members. All the current committee members have agreed to offer themselves for re-election for 2023/4 at the January AGM: please see the website for more details.

Contact email: [contact@sarrattlocalhistorysociety.org](mailto:contact@sarrattlocalhistorysociety.org)

Annual membership:	£10
One-off meeting membership: <i>(payable on the night at the door)</i>	£4



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to visit our website

## Exhibitions and Viewing of the Great Sarratt Scrapbooks

**Saturday 25 March**

### **History of Sarratt Horticultural Society**

On October 17 1888, the first Flower & Fruit Show was held in a crowded Mission Hall in Sarratt. Some 135 years later, at the Spring Show, we will be sharing some of the history of the Society as recorded in the Great Sarratt Scrapbooks. Join us in the Sarratt Village Rear Hall to see how the Horticultural Society has evolved and to view the Great Sarratt Scrapbooks.

**Monday 8 May**

### **Sarratt Celebrates Royal Occasions**

As part of the village celebration for the Coronation of King Charles III the society will be showing how Sarratt has celebrated royal occasions from Queen Victoria to Queen Elizabeth.

**Saturday 9 September**

### **Sarratt Through the Ages**

To coincide with the Sarratt Horticultural Society Autumn Show, we will be illustrating the history of the village through artefacts that have been found or collected over the years. Join us in the Sarratt Village Rear Hall to explore the artefacts and the Great Sarratt Scrapbooks.

## The Committee

### Officers

**President:** Dawn Pitts 01923 267071, [dawnmlpitts@btinternet.com](mailto:dawnmlpitts@btinternet.com)

**Chairman:** Sue Clark 07850285471, [sue@suemclark.com](mailto:sue@suemclark.com)

**Secretary:** Wendy Lee 01923 264222, [Wendylee568@btinternet.com](mailto:Wendylee568@btinternet.com)

**Treasurer:** Jonathan Holmes 01923 261697, [holmespartners@me.com](mailto:holmespartners@me.com)

### Committee Members

Tony Bond, Phillip Buller, Angela Colman, Greg Edmund

# 2023 - 2024 Programme

Meetings are held in Sarratt Village Hall – 7.30 pm for 8 pm  
*See website for map/directions*

## **Tuesday 21 March** **Gardens/Gardening Through the Ages**

*Kate Harwood,*

*Conservation & Planning - Hertfordshire Gardens Trust*

The great Roman writers on gardening were full of gardening tips such as averting hail by carrying a crocodile skin through your garden. Over the centuries gardening evolved from subsistence to market gardening and then pleasure gardening. The literature on how to garden is immense: from Palladius (quoted above) to Thomas Tusser's 500 points of good husbandry in 1573 to Mr Middleton, the great gardening broadcaster of WWII. This talk will look at what and how plants were grown in a very quick run through of the last 2000 years.

## **Tuesday 14 November** **History of a Local Family: The Biggerstaffs**

*Tony Bond*

*Committee Member, Sarratt Local History Society*

The Biggerstaff family have been a key part of village life for over 100 years through their eponymous garage, the development of which reflected changes in Sarratt through the 20th Century - from bicycles to SUVs!

## **Tuesday 16 January 2024** **Annual General Meeting and** **Myths and Legends of Sarratt**

Members of the Local History Society will be delving into the Great Sarratt Scrapbooks and other archives to find the myths and legends that have grown up about the village and Sarratt families. Please come along and share your own stories about our village and its curious past.

## **Tuesday 16 May** **The Pam Turner Memorial Lecture** **The Palace and the Plantagenets: The story of Langley Palace**

*Michael Long,*

*Historian, lecturer and regular contributor to Hertfordshire Life magazine*

To celebrate the life of our past Chair Pam Turner - a passionate mediævalist- author and historian Michael Long, who has written many articles on Mediæval and Tudor history, will be sharing with us the fascinating history of (Kings) Langley Palace. Home of Plantagenet Kings and Queens, site of the parliament during the plague and one of the most sophisticated buildings of its age.

*Drinks and nibbles will be served from the earlier time of 7.15 pm*

## **Tuesday 6 June** **An Evening with Gregory Edmund from Spink**

*Gregory Edmund*

*Committee Member, Sarratt Local History Society*

Gregory Edmund grew up in Sarratt and has been a member of the Local History Society for many years. He is now a leading Numismatist at Spink and Son and his credits include the most valuable mediæval English coin ever sold at auction, and the recent sale of the Ellerby Hoard. Join Greg for a lively talk about his work and views on the new Charles III coinage!

## **Tuesday 19 September** **From the Romans to Four Weddings and a Funeral**

*Sue Clark*

*Chair Sarratt Local History Society*

While the present house dates back to the early 1700s, there has probably been a dwelling at Goldingtons since the time of the Romans. Sue will look at how the house and gardens have changed since mediæval times, and introduce the interesting and diverse range of people who have lived "above and below" stairs over the centuries.

## Visits and Walks

### **Saturday 22 April**

#### **Visit to Chiltern Open Air Museum, 2.30pm**

Following his talk to the Society in January, Andrew York from the Chiltern Open Air Museum invites us to step back in time and explore over 30 reconstructed historic buildings, including an Iron Age roundhouse, 1940s prefab, blacksmith's forge, Victorian toll house, tin chapel, WW1 and WW2 Nissen huts, earthen cottage and working historic farm.

The cost of the guided tour will be £8.50 and members are asked to confirm their attendance by 19 April by emailing [contact@sarrattlocalhistorysociety.org](mailto:contact@sarrattlocalhistorysociety.org)

### **Saturday 23 September**

#### **An Archaeological Walk in the Chess Valley**

Dr Wendy Morrison is a Senior Associate Tutor for Archaeology at Oxford University researching Prehistoric Landscape Archaeology. She currently works for the Chilterns Conservation Board as Project Manager of the Beacons of the Past Hillforts project. Wendy will take us on a short archaeological walk in the Chess valley.

Meet at 2.30 pm in the car park at Restore Hope, Latimer Park Farm, Chesham HP5 1TU