

## Sarratt Local History Society - 2024

### Report from the Chair

The year just completed has been a busy one for your Society. We added an additional meeting, organised three “pop up” exhibitions in the Village Hall and a museum visit.

Our speaker events have been well attended and we enjoyed some excellent lectures, beginning the year with a talk on The Chiltern Open Air Museum by Andrew York which was followed by a very cold visit to the Museum in April!

Kate Harwood, from Hertfordshire Gardens Trust talked to us about Gardens and Gardening through the Ages in March. This linked nicely with our research project into the History of Sarratt Horticultural Society, which we displayed at the Spring Horticultural Society Show and was shared later in the year with the presenters from the Gardeners Question Time team when they visited Sarratt.

In May, we celebrated the life of our past Chair Pam Turner, a passionate medievalist, with a lecture by Michael Long on the fascinating history of (Kings) Langley Palace, with a focus on the Plantagenet Kings. We were delighted to be joined once again by Pam’s family and friends.

Also in May, we joined the village celebrations to mark the Coronation of King Charles III with an exhibition showing how Sarratt had celebrated royal occasions in the past, from Queen Victoria to Queen Elizabeth.

We introduced an additional meeting in June, when Committee Member Gregory Edmund, shared the story of his journey from Sarratt School to leading Numismatist at Spink and Son and how he was responsible for the most valuable English coin ever sold at auction.

In the Autumn we enjoyed two evenings with talks on Sarratt from members of the “home team”, the first on the history of Goldingtons by Sue Clark and the second on the Biggerstaff family by Tony Bond. Both talks were painstakingly researched and showed that while much of Sarratt village life has changed over the centuries some things, like the garage, remain the same!

Looking ahead, we have a great programme of speakers for 2024, but we would like to strengthen our focus on Sarratt by involving our members more proactively. For our June meeting we are asking Members to bring along their own treasures with historical links to the village and to explain their stories. This is an informal evening and we look forward to some lively participation!

We are planning two “pop up” exhibitions this year - Sarratt Sporting Life and Sarratt at Play - please let us have any photographs, fixture lists or programmes that we might display.

Finally, I would like to thank each of our hard working and dedicated Committee members for all their contributions during the year.

Please don't forget that you can get lots of historical information about the village and access the two oldest Sarratt scrapbooks online at:  
[sarrattlocalhistorysociety.org](http://sarrattlocalhistorysociety.org)