

Sarratt Local History Society AGM and Talk:

'Victorian and Pre-Victorian Kings Langley', by Mike Reveley.

The business of the AGM having been swiftly but properly concluded, the speaker took us back to that unique period when traditional, rural England was fundamentally changed by the onset of the early effects of the Industrial Revolution. Using old engravings, copies of Tythe maps, documents, photos and wonderfully colourful stories of larger-than-life real characters from the early to late 19th Century, Mike Reveley created for us a vivid portrait of the small town that was Kings Langley at that time. Sad tales of the new Workhouse, colourful tales of an eccentric but caring Quaker lady who startled her neighbours but showed compassion for the poor, an amazing tale of a Vicar whose behaviour would still seem unacceptable today, and a parliamentary enquiry into child labour at 'the Mill' found us riveted to our seats. Even someone who had never visited King's Langley, would have been fascinated.

This was the re-telling of local history at its best.

Angela Colman