

Chiseldon Local History Group Annual Report 2018/19

This year has been another successful one for CLHG.

Activities

At the end of 2018 we published "Chiseldon in The Great War 1914-18", a collection of information about Chiseldon's Fallen from the conflict. Sales were very strong initially and have continued throughout the year, with only a few left of the 200 copies that were printed.

Other successful events were:-

- The co-hosting with WARP of the Washpool History Talk, superbly presented by Sheila Passmore. This hall was full to capacity for the event.
- Our second participation in the village's Scarecrow Trail, where Daisy this time took the role of "Arabella Miller (with her furry caterpillar)". As with last year, this attracted many visitors into the museum whilst they completed the trail.
- Our study trip to Tetbury was much enjoyed in fine weather.
- Elaine and David were interviewed in the museum by BBC Radio Wiltshire in April

Meetings

Thanks to a varied and interesting range of topics our monthly meetings have been very well attended both by our members and many visitors. Highlights included a musical entertainment on the life of George Formby (with ukulele) and a talk on "The Yeomen of the Guard" complete with an exhibition of the full uniform and associated paraphernalia. Next year's programme is available now, in paper form or on the website. If you come across any good speakers or if there is a topic you would like to learn about, please talk to the committee. It's particularly challenging finding speakers on local topics - we are a local history group after all - so all suggestions are gratefully received. Tonight's talk is a great example of the topics that we would like to cover more often.

Museum

This was the first full year for the new museum timeline, which has been very well received. New displays featured the excessively cold winter of 1963 and a selection of local maps through the ages. Museum attendance was 234, slightly up on 228 last year. There was also a group visit from the Wroughton History Society.

Archives

We have continued, (very slowly) to organise and catalogue our collections of objects, images, audio tapes and documents with the aim of making them available to all.

Committee

Our Committee will shortly decrease by one as Bill Bishop has decided not to continue. We would all like to express our sincere thanks to Bill for his sterling service to the Committee over the years. We would like to offer Bill lifetime membership of CLHG as an expression of our gratitude. If anyone would like to join us, it's not too late. Your Group needs a strong Committee with diverse participation to continue the good work.

One of our strengths as a group is that many of our members get involved with aspects of our work whether it's putting the chairs out at meetings or stewarding at the museum. There are lots of opportunities to become more involved, so just ask.

Future Plans

Besides preparing displays for the museum next year, we have four more projects in the pipeline.

- The interpretation Board outside the Church. We are currently in discussion with the parish council and Swindon Borough Council to clear any potential planning concerns before commencing the design
- A new booklet of walks round old Chiseldon. Things have changed so much that the earlier one is no longer usable.
- A refreshed version of the "Chiseldon Memories" books.
- Participation in the village celebration to mark the 75th Anniversary of VE Day on 8th May 2020.

Thanks

I am not going to list everyone who has helped this year, it would take too long! which in itself is a sign of our success, so many members play an invaluable role in the group and I hope you all enjoy your involvement. So by way of conclusion, I would like you all to give yourselves a round of applause!