



## Chiseldon Local History Group

### Report to Parish Council April 2024

We have had another strong year. We had to take the difficult decision at the AGM at the end of 2022 to increase subscription prices to £20 to cover higher speaker meeting costs, but this has not significantly impacted our overall membership numbers and we have had several new members join during the year.

Mike Nettlefold has again provided us with a full programme of interesting speakers covering both local and general historical topics, from “Swindon’s other railway” and “Malmesbury’s secret wartime factory” to “Wining and dining in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century” and “The Tsars of Russia”. We also had an excellent interactive session with Jenny Pope on “Reading old documents – a practical guide”. The programme for the remainder of the 2023-24 year is equally wide ranging and is eagerly anticipated. It can be seen on our website, with regular updates on Facebook.

Summer 2023 saw a Group outing to Aldbourne in July and an excellent social gathering for members – “A Night at the Museum” - in August.

Our 2024 calendar, “Historic Cottages of the Parish”, sold rapidly on release and all copies were snapped up before Christmas. Thanks to the the team at Oakley’s who sold them for us.

A revamp of the “Chiseldon Walks” booklet is close to completion. A trial run with volunteer walkers who are new to the village helped with the design. We are planning to use our donation from CPC (many thanks) to fund the publication.

New museum exhibits in summer 2023 included a display of 20<sup>th</sup> Century technology, the Chiseldon Windmill, local maps through the ages and a special feature on past Coronations. Museum visitor numbers are strong. The museum re-opened on Saturday for the 2024 summer season, which is its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. There are new displays reflecting this together with a section on household devices of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and a series of panels on Kate Tryon. She was an early 20<sup>th</sup> Century artist who painted many local landscapes. Some of the original pictures will be coming to the village on the fete day in July, courtesy of Museum and Art Swindon. As ever, many thanks to our landlords, Chiseldon Parish Council, for continuing use of the building.

Elaine Jones      Keith Parsons

Chair CLHG      Secretary CLHG

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