



## **Chiseldon Local History Group**

### **Report to Parish Council April 2025**

We have had another strong year. Membership currently stands at just under 50 and our Monthly Meetings in the Church Hall are well attended.

Lynne Beach took over from Mike Nettlefold as Speaker Secretary after his retirement at the AGM in October and we again have a full programme of interesting speakers covering both local and general historical topics. We have enjoyed "Wiltshire – a journey through time" and "Made in Swindon" alongside "Ticket to Ride – Victorian Railways" and "The Hugely Huggable History of the Teddy Bear". The programme for the remainder of the 2024-25 year is equally wide ranging and is eagerly anticipated. It can be seen on our website, with regular updates on Facebook.

Summer 2024 saw the publication of an updated version of "A Walk Around Old Chiseldon" and a group of members followed the route with book in hand! Publication was in part funded by a generous donation from CPC (many thanks). The first print run has now sold out with a second edition in preparation for publication shortly.

Our 2025 calendar, "Hidden Chiseldon", sold rapidly on release and all copies were snapped up before Christmas. Thanks to the teams at Oakley's and at Cameo's who sold them for us.

We have just embarked on an "Oral History" project which involves interviewing long term residents of the village to record their reminiscences for posterity. It is planned that a selection of these will be available on the web site in due course. We also have weekly sessions working to archive documents and photographs from the history of the village. We now have nearly 4000 photographs, a selection of which will also be available on the web site in due course.

New museum exhibits in summer 2024 included a celebration of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Museum's opening, and a display of 20<sup>th</sup> Century household devices, both common and obscure. We also had a display on the works of Kate Tryon, the American artist who visited the area several times in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century. This was enhanced when some of the original pictures were on display at the village fete in July, courtesy of Museum and Art Swindon. The museum re-opened on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> April for the 2025 summer season. New displays this year include an archaeological map of the area, a look back at the Spearhead festival held in the village in 1975 and exhibits to mark the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day. The display featuring the railway has also been revamped to include a "then and now" section, and we have a new volume of village photographs available to view.

As ever, many thanks to our landlords, Chiseldon Parish Council, for continuing use of the building.

Elaine Jones      Keith Parsons  
Chair CLHG      Secretary CLHG

April 2025