

LAUNTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Launton Historical Society has continued to thrive, with long term members continuing and new members joining. We meet in the Parish Hall on the last Thursday of the month, in the evening.

We have had entertaining and enlightening speakers in the year since our last report - the Lost Forest of Bernwood, Scandal in High Society Oxfordshire, the Strange Story of Napoleon's Wallpaper, Poverty, Pestilence and Public Health in Victorian Britain, the Oxford of Inspector Morse, the Memorials in St Edburg's Church and Medicinal Remedies from the 1700s. This year we broke with tradition and had a meeting just after Christmas, and we enjoyed Carol McGrath's presentation of a Mediaeval Christmas, supported by food associated with that period and wassail beer too.

For the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, we were pleased to have a display, in the Sports and Social Club, of pictures, cuttings and memories of past Jubilee celebrations in Launton. This was created by Pat Tucker and Mary Brydon, using their treasure trove of historical material. We are planning a small display of pictures of Launton's former farmhouses as part of the celebration, in St Mary's Church, of the King's Coronation. (He's a farming man and he likes classical architecture.)

In July we had an outing to Pendon Museum in Long Wittenham, a unique display of scale models of the Vale of the White Horse from the 1930s onwards – a picture of rural life, and railways, as it was then – and tucked away down a country lane. This year we plan a tour of the former RAF/USAF air base at Upper Heyford.

In August we had a cheerful social evening hosted by our local historian, Pat Tucker, in her garden. At our AGM in November we were pleased to recognise the huge contribution made by Pat, together with Mary Brydon, to discovering and recording the history of Launton over many years. Both Pat and Mary became lifelong Honorary Members of LHS.