

LAUNTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

REPORT TO PARISH MEETING 2025

The last year has been a cheerful one for LHS. Attendance has been good, with people choosing to be members or to opt in and out according to the topic.

Pat Tucker became our Chair at the AGM in November, she is a founder of LHS and the source of huge amounts of information about Launton's history.

We have had speakers on a range of subjects, including Oxfordshire Country Houses, Trench Humour in WW1, The Rise of Pleasure Boating on the Thames, Yesterday's Runways, Beating the Ancient Bounds of Oxford City and Literary Cotswolds. In January Pat Snelson from Bicester Historical Society spoke about Bicester's Gothic Architecture and in February Janine Kilroe, a photographic artist from Bicester, spoke about Piers, their History and Future. Last November we were pleased to welcome Steve Webber who spoke about his early entrepreneurial days in the videocassette business.

In July we had a trip to Rousham House. The house itself opens in Summer but only to groups. The gardens are open all year round, but not to children or dogs. We enjoyed the visit to this family home. The Cottrell Dormers have decamped to other accommodation in the grounds as the house is very cold in winter, but there is still very much a lived in feel about the rooms. The gardens are splendid and the chickens are very fancy. The current plan for this year is a trip to Bletchley Park.

We were pleased to meet in August for a bring and share supper, in Pat Tucker's garden— thank you Pat. For our monthly meetings, Mary Brydon is in charge of refreshments and she makes lovely biscuits and cakes to go with our tea, coffee and wine, thank you Mary.

We are pleased to see the new roof on the Parish Hall, we will not miss the steady dripping of rain in the bucket. The WI did a great job in marshalling people to redecorate it, and LHS contributed funds for some new plaster. We look forward to further improvements in the Hall.