

WICKHAMBROOK LOCAL HISTORY REPORT MAY 2020

We commenced our year in April 2019 with 'The 50th Anniversary Celebrations of the Cambridge Music Society of 1893' with Geoffrey and Anne Datson. This was a fascinating glimpse into the World of Victorian Composers with played music.

In May, Ian Robertson detailed The History of The Elveden Estate to a Modern Farm'. This should have been followed up with a visit to Elveden in June 2020, unfortunately now cancelled due to the virus.

September Grahame Higgins spoke of 'The Real Robin Hood'. Robin has emerged as an enduring folk hero, but who inspired these Classic Tales.

Sarah Doig, always a popular speaker, spoke on 'Suffolk Fires over The Centuries – watch the sparks fly' in November. Sarah explored interesting and bizarre fire-related incidents over the Centuries.

November saw 'Father Christmas – Myths and Mistletoe' with Mike Wabe.

We started the new year with 'In House' by The Members. Roger Medley spoke on 'Ickworth House Italianate Gardens', John Norton on 'Auschwitz Concentration Camp Museum'. A real contrast of talks.

In February Martyn Roper took us on 'A Voyage Through East Anglia Place Names' and from March our Programme was cancelled but I hope to rebook these speakers for the future.

For our Visits we once again hired the Community Bus from Newmarket to visit in June 'Jordan's Mill and Gardens', including a Guided Tour of the historic Victorian Mill with ingenious milling machinery still working.

For July, a tour of the Fens on the hottest day of the year, We sought shelter with coffee and cake provided at The Methodist Church, Haddenham, followed by the coolness of Stretham Pumping Station, the Fenn Drainage in the Age of

Steam, and the machinery still working. Lunch followed at the No Hurry Pub, Upware (too hot to even walk along the river, ending up at Swaffham Prior before returning home. A good day, much enjoyed, but boy we were hot.

Our Christmas Dinner was much enjoyed at our local, The Greyhound, 32 members attended, excellent meal, excellent service and excellent company.

We were hosts to St Gregory's Church in July for their tour of our local church, followed by tea and cakes provided by the WI, in the WI Hall.

We look back to another successful year. A big thank you to the Committee, but we do need new members to survive and we are continually looking for ideas to advertise our Local History Society.

Gillian Cooper - Secretary