



Little Hallingbury Village History Society

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Newsletter 2007

Dear Members,

I find myself starting this years newsletter like many others, by thanking you all for your continued help and support throughout the year. So many of you so willingly help by running stalls and raffles, making tea and cakes, and of course by helping with research, to name but a few. With all this support we have become a very successful society with members now around ninety.

When we look at our archives and see just how much we have, storage and how to make it easily available to all is now a big question. You know from our open afternoon how much we display and this is not all. We were all very excited when the possibility of the school portacabin, located at the back of the village hall was suggested, but alas we could not get planning permission in time and we had to wave this one goodbye.

Looking to the future we do think a portacabin type building at the back of the village hall would be an excellent idea. The village hall committee has agreed and planning permission has been applied for. We have the backing of the Parish Council who think this would be an asset to the community. Money of course will be a large hurdle. We have done extremely well in our first ten years with our fund raising so we must make an extra effort this year plus looking into grants, ect. With your help and support we will get there.

The Committee has agreed to increase the membership fee by £1 to £5 per member to cover the cost of speakers, this is the first increase since 1999 so we hope this is reasonable.

Last year we had a full programme of speakers with varied subjects ranging from "St. Mary's, the new floor plus history". "The Gunpowder Plot". "The Saxon Royal Burial at Prittlewell". "History of the Circus". "Lord Nelson". "Hatfield Forest a Seat of Power".

Fred Flight was to give us a talk on "The Manorial Records" unfortunately this had to be cancelled. We intend to produce a booklet based on Fred's talk later this year. Members will be delighted to know that Fred is making a swift recovery after a triple by-pass operation at the beginning of January. This augurs well for the future of the

Society where he has been a great contributor. His influence has spread and Vivian Cooke returned the will of Edward Treadgold made in 1784 beautifully transcribed but looked shocked when I offered her another one to transcribe. However she has demonstrated her talent and all I now need to do is to find another document concerning one of her relatives.

What we clearly need is a cross index of all the names, field names and house names included in these old documents but this is such a mammoth task that it will have to await our permanent home so that the index may be worked on by many members.

We also enjoyed a walk around the picturesque village of Manuden with Fiona Bengtsen.

Our main event of the year was of course the Open Afternoon. As well as the main exhibition of our history, we had a display of old tools this proved very popular and we hope to have them again this year. We invited Saffron Walden Museum to bring a display of local items this included the Iron Age Burial Urns found in the gravel pit at South House Farm in 1876.

We rounded off the year with our Cheese & Wine, while looking at the old village films that now seem to be so popular (have you any old film to add to our archive) The dig continues to make new discoveries. We could do with a little more help in this department, so if you know of anyone interested in this type of work please send them in our direction.

We are confident that our speakers for the next twelve months will entertain and educate us, many of who have visited us before. Starting with the AGM on Monday 12th Feb we have Barry Kaufmann-Wright on "Wildlife in your Garden". The following have been booked for our meetings throughout the year, Bill Hardy "The History of Thorley Post". Anne Padfield "Hearth and Home. Brian Hilton "The History of Irons". David Young "London to Cambridge by Waterway". William Tyler "The War to end all Wars". Jacky Cooper "Clavering Castle". Also for next years AGM we have Anne Padfield again on "Traditional Essex Houses".

This year our Open Day will be on Sunday May 13th please make a note of this in your diaries and spread the word. We hope to expand on our old tools display and have a few classic cars, so hopefully this will be another interest. Any other ideas for fundraising at this event, or any other way would be appreciated. Finally if you have any items for the bric-a-brac stall they would be most welcome.

Thankyou for your support we look forward to an enjoyable year.