

## **Sarratt Local History Society**

### **Report from the Chair on 2024**

The year just completed has been another busy one for your Society. Our talks, guided walk and “pop up” exhibitions have been well attended and the momentum generated by our activities has been a catalyst for other research projects which are revealing more of the history of Sarratt.

A highlight of the year was the Award for Personal Achievement in Local History which was made to our President Dawn Pitts for her outstanding commitment to furthering Local History in Sarratt by the Hertfordshire Association for Local History.

Our 2024 speaker programme kicked off on a dark January night with Sarratt Myths and Legends and finished with Air Raids over Watford – accompanied by an authentic soundtrack from local fireworks!

In the Spring Wendy Morrison, Heritage and Archaeology Manager, Chilterns National Landscape talked to us about the work she had done on identifying Iron Age Hill Forts as part of the Beacons of the Past project and introduced us to a citizens science project to investigate the Lynchets which lie to the south of Goldingtons.

In May, we celebrated the life of our past Chair Pam Turner, a passionate medievalist, with a lecture on The Amersham Martyrs who were burned at the stake in the early 1500s. We were delighted to be joined once again by her family and friends.

Members brought along an array of objects to our June meeting, each with a story that illustrated the history of Sarratt. The heaviest was the bell from Enterprise Stores which stood on the corner of Dawes Lane and the smallest was a silver penny from the reign of King Stephen.

There was an excellent turnout for the guided tour of Sarratt Village Green, led by Dawn with additional colour from Greg which was followed by superb afternoon tea at Sarratt House, hosted by Janice.

We were pleased to welcome Wendy Morrison back in the Summer to lead an Archaeological Dig on the Lynchets. We were blessed by scorching hot weather and some interesting finds, including what could be a Roman road.

As part of the National Heritage celebrations, we held our September meeting in Holy Cross Church. A team of speakers from the Society talked about the early Christianity in Hertfordshire, the history of the Church and the stories behind some of the people buried there.

We held two “pop up” exhibitions this year – Sarratt Sporting Life and Sarratt at Play – a big thank you to everyone who provided photographs, fixture lists and programmes which made for two interesting displays.

We also contributed the historical narrative for the Coronation Walk Brochure produced by Sarratt Parish Council and provided input into the Rickmansworth Museum project Stitches in Time.

Looking ahead, we have a great programme of speakers for 2025, however we are always looking to strengthen our focus on Sarratt and if you have a story to tell or a topic you would like us to help you research, please do let us know.

In the coming year we are hoping to digitise the third volume of the Great Sarratt Scrapbook and would like to establish a cabinet in the village hall where we can display artefacts and have rotating mini exhibitions. Both are dependent on us raising sufficient funds to cover the costs.

Finally, I would like to thank each of our hard working and dedicated Committee members for all their contributions during the year.

Please don't forget that you can get lots of historical information about the village and access the two oldest Sarratt scrapbooks online at:

[sarrattlocalhistorysociety.org](http://sarrattlocalhistorysociety.org)