

BACTON & COTTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Chairman's Report to the AGM 2019

Firstly may I thank each and every one of you for your continuing support. It is encouraging to me and your Committee to feel that attendances at meetings hover around twenty or so people each time. However, as elsewhere, our costs are rising too – rental of the village hall, speaker's fees etc. mean that while we have stable finances, thanks to Beryl's work, we would like to see more people signing up for annual Membership and more attending our meetings. Maybe you can encourage family and friends to come along too as we're a friendly, welcoming bunch of people.

I am delighted to announce that our search for a Programme Secretary to take over from Mike Hardy has been answered by Steve Ruthen of Wyverstone offering his services. Steve has a great and active interest in local and regional history. I look forward to working with him on a varied and interesting programme for 2019/2020. May I also express my appreciation of the dedicated work done by Mike in recent years.

We have enjoyed another year of varied and well illustrated talks by a diversity of speakers. It never ceases to amaze me as to the extent so many of them go to to provide superb illustrations. We are indeed the beneficiaries of many truly first class presentations.

I would also like to thank your Committee of Peter Gibbs, Beryl Craighill, aided by Julia Fowler, John Insley and Angela Jenner, the last greatly helping our publicity through her contact with Lesley Dolphin of BBC Radio Suffolk. Their help in setting up and dismantling the room for each meeting on top of their Committee responsibilities is invaluable. My thanks also to Rose Graham, our Local History Recorder with the Suffolk Local History Council, for her long continuing support and the lamination of our posters (90 a year) so that they remain clean and bright in all weathers.

It is my honour to be your Chairman and to have such support from you all.

Peter Wenban