

Chairman's Report 2019

We are now in our 10th and most successful year. Our numbers have grown and this evening we are experimenting with using this big hall rather than the Bowden room in which it was difficult to accommodate everyone.

There is increasing interest in local and social history demonstrated by 154 people on contacts list. We try to get speakers on a variety of subjects and if anyone has a particular subject they would like to hear more about please let me or the committee know.

One of the gratifying things to happen in the group is the ever-increasing numbers of volunteers. I want to thank all of them. They are, in turn, the general committee which offers suggestions for people to approach for talks. We are particularly grateful to Sue Knox who has been so valuable in her contributions so are sorry to hear that she has resigned due to her travelling commitments.

The refreshment committee consisting of **Maggie Bonnell, Phil Taylor, Jenny Thompson, and Chrissa Cook**, without whose help half way through our meetings, you would wilt.

The stalwarts who come early to the hall to set up the room and equipment; David Taylor Tony Cook, Andy Cook, Steve Collins. I apologise if I have left anyone out. Your help is still appreciated.

We also need to thank the IT experts in the audience who rescue us from the embarrassing failures to understand how to connect our projector to a laptop and show the results on the screen!

We also owe a show of appreciation to both **David Taylor**, our treasurer, for keeping our accounts in order and telling us if our spending plans are appropriate, and **Kerry Hawkins** for checking the accounts each year.

Mention should also be made of **Nick Kirkland** for setting up and maintaining our website, teignvalleyhistorygroup.org. We update it with news of our meetings, new research and announcements from other local societies as it is important to liaise with them to broaden our scope.

Finally, we are indebted to **Maggie Walker and Ian Mentor, Sandra Bond, Alden Rodwell and John Ralston** who go around the villages to put up notices of our meetings. We would be grateful if there was anyone able to volunteer to extend coverage to Doddiscombsleigh and Trusham. Thank you to **Maggie** as well for writing the reports for the media and our website. This year we have extended our Summer show coverage to 5 venues. Those are Doddi, Dunsford, Bridford, Hennock and Christow. All these need planning and setting up the stall for the day. It could not happen without the help of our volunteers; Saul Ackroyd, Hibly, Andy and Philippa Cook, Tony Griffin, and Tony Cook. We are, however, still in need of a secretary and I 'll be circulating by email what a secretary would do. There is scope for splitting the job so please give your consideration as it would greatly reduce my workload.

One development this year has been the establishment of a house history group to look at local houses in detail. **Julia Kirkland** has produced an excellent study of Huxbear House and farm. We were able to present our results to the owner who was amazed at how far back the house has been recorded. The earliest date being 1187. Other houses are in the process of being researched.

I invite anyone who has an interest to join us. Support will be given to anyone who has not done this before. Just let me know.

If I could make brief mention of our sister organisations, TV History Centre and East Dartmoor History Association; the popularity of Teign Valley History Centre reflects this increasing interest and we are now drawing up detailed plans to present to the planning authority. EDHA still runs courses for those who need encouragement to research their own interest, be that House, family or social history. Later this year we hope to team up with Devon History Society in a study of Devon in the 1920s. If anyone would like to receive details of forthcoming courses please let me know.

Our Programme for this year has been circulated and all the speakers are well known for how clearly they explain their topic. If you require a printed copy there are some available on the table. Please come to as many as you can to support our speakers who have often travelled a considerable distance to be here.

Graham Thompson
16/7/2019