

Wickham Skeith History & Film Group

Chairman's Report to Annual Parish Meeting 14 May 2012

Our 8th year sees us, I think, in a good position. We've had a series of really interesting meetings ranging from the story of codebreaking at Bletchley Park, via the building of the Orwell Bridge to the history of Suffolk Traditional Orchards. Not forgetting that we are a history & *film* group, we had another selection of Alistair's village videos and a moving film from the 1960s of a canoe trip down the Waveney. However, what has been important to us since our formation has been to try to include in our programme items of a particularly local interest. This we've done over the last year with Nigel Merriam talking about his life in farming, Pip Wright on Lucky Burrows & his family and, in what I think was one of the highlights, John & Katie Howson talking about & playing traditional music, with a particular emphasis on our own former musicians Charlie Stringer, Clem Pearson & Day Mayes.

A group visit in June is now a fixture in our calendar & we were blessed with excellent weather for our trip to the Mid-Suffolk Railway museum. This year we will be visiting Pakenham water mill on 13 June.

A quick word about the financial situation. I was concerned in my last report that our costs seemed to be increasing at a faster rate than our income, but I'm glad to say that has been reversed this year, due to the number of our meetings that cost us little or nothing to put on, and also to an increase in average attendance from ~23 to over 31.

Finally, I must thank the committee, for their continued support over the last year.