

Wickham Skeith History & Film Group
AGM Wednesday 18 May 2016 – Chairman's Report

Our 12th year has, I think, maintained our objective of providing a selection of talks that are both varied & interesting.

We had not 1 but 2 talks about the presentation of history & archaeology on television, with Jo Caruth telling us about her time on Time Flyers & Helen Geake giving us a behind-the-scenes look at that much-missed programme Time Team. Joy Bounds told us about the fight for votes for women in Suffolk, Pip Wright gave us the story of the Suffolk Gipsy &, in one of the best talks we've ever had, Horry Parsons gave us the inside story of the building of the Millennium Tower in Bury St Edmunds. Who would have thought that a 10 minute section on scaffolding could have been so absorbing?

Home grown presentations are an important part of what the group has to offer. Liz stood in at short notice when Helen Geake had to postpone her visit & told us about extreme genealogy. A particular highlight of the year was provided by Mike & Seonaid who, in full costume & with many original artefacts, told us about life in the Southern states during the American Civil War.

Finally, we had a perfect evening last July at Flatford when Simon Gallup took us on a guided walk showing us the places where John Constable set many of his paintings. The evening ended at East Bergholt church where we were able to see the bells being rung by hand in the extraordinary cage in the churchyard.

Our finances are in a good state & we've been able to keep the entry fee at £2 now for 10 years. [Explain figures.]

Finally, many thanks to all of you who support us & to the committee, for their continued help over the last year.

Pete Davidson