

## Kirtlington & Bletchingdon Historical Society Report

The Kirtlington & Bletchingdon Historical Society (now 30 years old) continues to flourish. We meet on the fourth Thursday of the month between September and April (December excepted) in the Kirtlington village hall. Gratifyingly, our membership of about 40 held up well through Covid and attendances at meetings have recovered to previous levels. And we are pleased to be a relatively rare example of inter-village cooperation.

We held six talks this year, as usual, on a variety of historical subjects, local and international, from the recent as well as the distant past, attracting a number of visitors in addition to members. Numbers at our AGM in April were boosted by the presence of resident Shelley van Loen who spoke with great warmth and enthusiasm about Bert, the mannequin bequeathed to her by her tailor grandfather and whose restoration was featured last August on BBC TV's *The Repair Shop*.

We have benefitted greatly from the recent improvements at the village hall: more sympathetic lighting, more comfortable chairs, a state-of-the-art projector, and a new lectern for speakers. Like many village organisations we face the challenge of a gently ageing membership but as things stand we are in good heart.

Paul Clifford (Chair)