Kirtlington & Bletchington Historical Society report to Kirtlington Annual Parish Meeting, May 12th 2026

The Society continues to flourish, its membership of 39 now almost equally divided between the two villages. We have met 7 times since the 2025 APM (6 times for talks by external speakers and one combined AGM and members' evening). We also organised an historical walking tour of the parish of New Hinksey in Oxford led by local historian Liz Woolley last June (on an afternoon whose weather would have been a disgrace in a normal April).

The six talks covered the Mitford Sisters, British Colonialism, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, salt in prehistoric Britain, Christopher Wren's Oxford and the Cotswolds. Between them they attracted a total of 27 visitors in addition to the membership. We are fortunate that our proximity to Oxford enables us to attract expert speakers from the academic community as well as local amateur historians.

We much appreciate being able to meet in our increasingly well-appointed village hall. This year, one meeting took place in church because of a prior booking which also worked well. Our January and February meetings are held in the afternoon rather than the evening which has boosted attendance by those who would not otherwise venture out of doors after dark. We solicit the generous help of one of the directors of ComputerPro to ensure that the technology works before each meeting which has reduced the stress levels of the committee members.

Our treasurer, who has served for 20 years, retired at our AGM last month. Remarkably, we found a replacement within a matter of days of his serving notice.

Paul Clifford (Chair)