



Hatfield Regis
Local History Society
President: Lord of the Manor

Programme Synopsis 2013

March 19

Annual General Meeting

Following the meeting a talk on John Archer Houlton by Philip Hays. Houlton was the Victorian Squire of Great Hallingbury. For 54 years he lived at Hallingbury place which he inherited in 1831. He was responsible for many good works in the village, paying for the local school, improving the environment and renovating St Giles Church which was heated by warm water pipes. Houlton, a Christian gentleman although strong willed was held in respect by everyone. He died in 1891.

April 16

POW Camp 116

A well attended meeting followed the local history of the Camp and a general introduction to POW Camps in the British Isles. The starting point was a series of aerial photographs and images of the Camp of both the Prisoner Section (now occupied by Greenways Egg Distributors) and the unoccupied Guards area now overgrown and subject to vandalism. This area contained buildings with examples of the Prisoners artistic abilities which have been demonstrated by examples given to some Villagers.

A question and answer session followed the talk concluding with a book launch of a Camp history.



It is pleasing to note that this publication has been well received to necessitate a second printing.

June

Summer outing and School Essay Presentation

The summer outing was a visit to St Giles Church, Little Hallingbury, following the earlier talk by Philip Hays. Largely restored and rebuilt in 1874 by John Houlton. Philip covered a wide range of historical and architectural areas which the group explored for themselves at the conclusion of the talk.

School Essay. The presentation of Certificates and prizes to the successful pupils by judge Frank Walsh who stated '*their level of creative writing was amazing*' They are a credit to the school and their Teacher Miss Sharon O'Mahony said Frank and fellow judge Ivan Cooper who presented a Power Point visual tour of the camp.

October 15

The Enumerators Tale

A talk given by Meryl Catty

Meryl Catty gave a talk entitled **Duffins, Langles and Scummers** encouraging family historians to discover not only who our ancestors were but also something of the lives they led. Done in part by researching wills and probate inventories. She highlighted several examples concluding with the inventory of her own ancestor who died in Stowmarket in 1675. Meryl described the inventory in detail following the appraisers as they went from room to room itemizing the contents even down to a chamber pot.

November 19

Talk by Tony Carter

Metal detectorist Tony Carter brought along a selection of his finds from Essex and further afield. Examples from almost every period of British history were shown including the reign of Henry I, gold coins from a Celtic starter to a guinea of George III. Tony's most valuable find was a gold ring of the early Saxon period which he correctly referred to the British Museum authorities. Tony's collection comprised a fascinating look at the coins and household articles that our ancestors had used.

The Society records its appreciation to the Hatfield Heath Magazine for its continued support in printing articles and advertisements.

John Sly and Ivan Cooper