Glemsford Local History Society: report to Glemsford Parish Council February 2021

It was intended that our programme began last September with Ron Murrell presenting ‘The Black Death’. This would have been followed by Martin Hedges delivering ‘Living and Dying in the 19th century’. In view of recent events, I think no further comment is needed!

A year of potentially amazing presentations (I particularly looked forward to Buffalo Bill’s tour of East Anglia 1903) has passed us by. We lost ‘The Battle of Barking Creek’, ‘Scott’s Polar Expedition’ disappeared, and ‘Bonfires and Bells’ was extinguished and silenced. But we are not downcast and can keenly anticipate whatever magic Margaret, our wonderful secretary, can weave with a new programme. Once the world has reopened, we might restart with an open event, perhaps a social gathering under the summer sun (last year it would have taken place under the July rain). We shall see what happens as lockdown leaves us, but we keep our fingers firmly crossed for the planned extension to the village hall so we can at last display some of our treasures which currently reside in someone’s loft!

The Society is still working to keep interest in our history alive. First and foremost has been the stunning success of our Facebook page, thanks to Keith Slater, which now has over 1300 members. The sale of the village history books has gone extremely well with recent editions covering pubs and inns and village shops: we have more than covered our costs with both these. Thanks are due to the Parish Council for helping to fund our recent publication on the circular walk. As soon as the weather improves, I’m sure many members will take advantage of this to enjoy our lovely countryside. As always, thanks are also due to the team that produces our vibrant, full colour newsletter which was up to issue 44 in December. I am grateful to Pat Currie for reminding me of the progress the Society has made despite the difficult times we have lived through.

The Society has always been forward looking and now we need to be more so than ever. The Committee remains optimistic about a bright and thriving future and we wish all our members a healthy and well-informed summer.

Rowan Cain - Chairman