

Wargrave Local History Society

Latest News - June 2011

Wargrave Village Festival

The Wargrave Local History Society arranged one of its ever popular guided 'Historic Village Walks' for the Wargrave Village Festival on June 12th, when on a gentle stroll around the village centre participants could hear about the people, places and events of time past.



Later in the month, on the 25th, the Village Festival Parade took place, leading to the Festival Fete held on Mill Green. The theme for this year's Festival was 'Wargrave on Water', the Society's

'float' in the Parade being a vintage motor coach, complete with crossed oars on the front. This then formed the backdrop to the Society display at the Festival Fete, (above, left) where the displays included several of the river - and also of times when it burst its banks, becoming 'Water on Wargrave'. (above, right)

The Festival Fete was the occasion when the Society published its latest book about the village, *The Illustrated Book of Wargrave* (below). Having previously published *The Book of Wargrave* and *The Second Book of Wargrave* (both still available), the Society has acquired several collections of photographs and old postcard views of the village. *The Illustrated Book of Wargrave* is a collection of some of these historical images, showing the village over the past 140 years.



The views include events, people and places in the village, with aerial photographs, the High Street, church, schools, boating and the river, all being featured. A number of the photographs come from the personal albums of Harriette Cooke Smith, and are published here for the first time. Harriette, the daughter of a one-time Vicar of

Wargrave, was one of the most generous benefactors the village has ever had, giving us the Woodclyffe Hostel, Woodclyffe Hall, Recreation Ground, Almshouses, Allotments, all named after her home in the village. Many other old photographs have only been discovered recently, and the Society is pleased to be able to share them by including them in this book. *The Illustrated Book of Wargrave* has about 200 images attractively presented in its 112 indexed pages, and printed on good quality paper. It will appeal to all who love and have an interest in Wargrave. It costs just £9.95, and will also be available from Victoria News, Harehatch-Sheeplands or Wargrave Library.

Our next event will be the Society visit to a place of local history interest, and this year will be a private guided tour of Stonor House - a fascinating collection of medieval buildings behind a Georgian facade in Oxfordshire, and home of the Camoys family for 850 years. Then on Tuesday, September 13th, Peter Smith's talk on The Royal State Coaches will be illustrated with some of the detailed scale models that he has made that show the characteristics and uses of these magnificent carriages. For more information, visit the Society website at www.wargravehistory.org.uk