

## THE BURLESCOMBE AND WESTLEIGH HISTORY GROUP

The History Group has been running for well over 20 years and currently has 20 members. Meetings are open to anyone who is interested and we are always pleased to welcome visitors. The group meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday in the month (except December). Spring and autumn meetings start at 7:30 p.m. in the U.R.C Hall, Westleigh and include 5 meetings with a guest speaker and 3 Open Forum meetings. During the summer months there are 3 outside visits.

The group is run by a committee of six volunteers, committee meetings are held, as necessary, prior to a monthly meeting with an Annual General Meeting in February each year. Yearly membership is £5 with a charge of £3 per meeting for members and £4 for non-members

In 2026 our programme includes the following talks; Odette, Devon's Railway Heritage, Wassail, Fairgrounds at War and Leonardo da Vinci. The Open Forums will be a 'show & tell' about Interesting Objects, the story of Our Parents and Films, T.V. Music etc. from our childhood, our visits will be to Coldharbour Mill in Uffculme, a guided walk around Cullompton and a social quiz evening. As you can see topics for talks and discussions are varied and can be local, personal or global.

Although we are a small group, our members come from many local villages plus Wellington. It is certainly an active and engaged group with around 15 people regularly attending meetings. The atmosphere is always pleasant and I think we are a friendly group. Meetings always feature a cup of tea or coffee (and a biscuit or two) and the chatter is always lively, interesting and often very funny.

As this mix of topics and activities seems to work, there are no plans to change the format too much in the future. Our Treasurer Suzanne Larsen kindly researches and organises the speakers and the Open Forums are always a source of amusement and education.

A brief write up of each meeting is printed in the Parsh Magazine along with details of upcoming meetings

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