

Kimpton History Group

2025 Programme

January 2025 to January 2026



Aerial view of Kimpton, looking west, 22nd June, 1964

The Aims of the History Group

- ☆ To provide a forum for discussion, research and sharing of information
- ☆ To provide a means whereby interest and awareness can be raised in the richness and importance of our local heritage
- ☆ To provide a central means of storing, preserving and caring for village historical and contemporary material which can be accessible to the public
- ☆ To encourage the recording of visual and oral images and memories through photography and taped interviews
- ☆ To take appropriate care of such material given to the Group whether within the village or with the County Records Office

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The Annual Subscription has been held at £12.50 per person for 2025, payable at the January meeting.

All visitors are extremely welcome to attend our evening meetings, for which we charge just £3 per visit.

Tea/coffee and biscuits are provided at no charge.

PROGRAMME 2025

Evening meetings start at 8.00 pm in the Green Room of the Memorial Hall unless otherwise indicated

Wednesday 15th January

'English Oak'

Warren Phillips will give a talk on The English oak and all its historical connections.

Wednesday 19th February

'Farming in Hertfordshire'

Following a short AGM, Ian Pigott, who farms at Thrales End Farm near Harpenden and has been awarded an OBE for his services to agricultural and countryside education, will tell us about the realities of farming in 2025.

Wednesday 19th March

'Made in St Albans'

From straw hats to steam trains and from brickmaking to bouquets of orchids and Roses Lime Marmalade, the industrial past of St Albans is rich and varied. Steve Potter will give us an illustrated talk on the industrial archaeology of the city from the picturesque watermills and blacksmiths to breweries and printing works. A trip down memory lane.

APRIL – NO MEETING THIS MONTH

Saturday May 3rd & 4th

May Festival Weekend

The History Group's 25th anniversary exhibition in Church House.

Wednesday 21st May

Kimpton Parish Church

(Start 8pm at the church.) John Pollington will tell us how Kimpton Church evolved from the 12th century to the present day, followed by a tour of the most interesting features in the church.

Wednesday 18th June

Old Welwyn Village walking tour

Liz Eastwood will be our guide to a village whose origins lie in a small Roman settlement and which was once an important coaching stop. Had the plans of an enterprising Rector come to fruition Welwyn would have become a spa town.

Transport will be by members' cars and a contribution of £5 a head is requested. Meet at the school at 6.15pm to share lifts for a 7pm start. Contact Jane if you need a lift or can share transport.

Wednesday 16th July

Luton Hoo Walled Garden

An *afternoon* visit to the Walled Garden. Alex Amos has promised a fascinating guided tour of the restored gardens with 'extra bits'. The fee is £7.50 per head. Meet in the Memorial Hall car park at 1.15pm to share lifts for a 2pm start.

AUGUST – NO MEETING THIS MONTH

Wednesday 17th September

KHG 25th Year Celebration

(Members only) We meet at Tallents, Kimpton Bottom, to celebrate the establishment of Kimpton History Group, 25 years ago, by Juliet Morton and Catherine Tees. We plan a social gathering to celebrate all we have achieved in that time. John Pollington will be on hand with slides and past programmes to remind us of our activities. Members are asked to bring a plate of finger food and donate towards the drinks.

Wednesday 15th October

'The Gunpowder Plot'

We all remember the rhyme but how much do you actually know? Come and find out from Gary Fisher.

Wednesday 19th November

'A School at War, 1914-1919'

Andy Gibbs will tell us how the 'Great War' affected one small school in one small town. This school - The Hitchin British Schools - just happens to be on our door step! *(TBC)*

Wednesday 17th December

Christmas party: (Green Room)

An 8 pm start for a lively evening's entertainment! Members are asked to bring a plate of finger food and donate towards the drinks.

Wednesday 21st January 2026

Juliet Morton will give an illustrated talk on 'Kimpton Village 2000-2025 ...the first quarter century'.