



Chearsley Village
Historical Society

Living History

**Governance of the
Chearsley Village Historical Society
February 2023**



'Living History'

Chearsley Village Historical Society

Introduction

This document provides a high-level statement of why the Chearsley Village Historical Society (CVHS – The Society) has been formed and how it will operate.

Our Purpose

- Our purpose is to:
- stimulate interest in and understanding of our village history across all ages and amongst all residents
 - understand the village history in the context of County and National history
 - enhance our sense of community, appreciation of and pride in the village
 - engage with other local communities and organisations with similar interests
 - build historical records of our distant past, our immediate past (living memory) and contemporary activities, recognising that today will become our past
 - support the preservation of important aspects of the village of historic interest and act as a reference resource to provide context and background

Our Method

This describes the types of activity we will engage in to achieve our purpose.

It is important that The Society tries constantly to evaluate and thereby improve the way we operate. The following diagram, partly borrowed from the BBC Royal Charter Mission statement **Inform, Educate and Entertain** summarises how we will do this.

CVHS		CVHS with the Community in Chearsley and beyond			CVHS	
Research	Learn & Interpret	Engage	Inform & Educate	Entertain	Evaluate & Adjust	Archive

Examples of activities that might be undertaken under each of these sub-headings are provided in the following table:



Research	<p>Gather whatever historical documents and records that can be located</p> <p>Carry out specific historical research projects</p> <p>Record interviews with longstanding Chearsley residents</p>
Learn & Interpret	<p>Seek out and create opportunities to learn more about the history of our village</p> <p>Use as necessary external resources and create the materials to tell the Historical Stories</p> <p>Books – Pamphlets - Explanatory texts in all media – Photographs – Illustrations</p>
Engage	<p>Connect with the widest possible audiences, including children, using engagement channels including:</p> <p>E mail – Social-media – Handouts – Posters – Signage - Word of Mouth</p> <p>Interpretation Boards - The Chearsley web site</p> <p>Include the community in Chearsley, and other Buckinghamshire heritage organisations</p> <p>Contact with relevant local groups:</p> <p>The Parish Council - The Parish Church – Schools - Youth groups</p> <p>Walking groups - Visitors to the village - Community groups</p> <p>Local Bucks Community Board (Haddenham and Waddesdon)</p> <p>Other local history clubs and organisations</p>
Inform & Educate	<p>Organise talks, events, displays and presentations, both by members and invited speakers</p> <p>Contribute to the education of local children</p> <p>Spread the knowledge and understanding gained</p>
Entertain	<p>Engage with the community in an informal manner with refreshments and hands on activities</p> <p>Use the Society to enhance the village sense of community and pride in Chearsley</p>
Evaluate & Adjust	<p>Hold regular Society public meetings to inform and share progress</p> <p>Establish a Steering Group to facilitate, but not undertake, these activities</p> <p>Contact other historical and archaeological societies to learn best practice and to boost support</p> <p>Use questionnaires and face to face interviews to gain feedback</p>
Archive	<p>There is no history unless there is a record. History is built on the information laid down in the records from the past</p> <p>Therefore, central to our purpose are the activities to:</p> <p>Research existing records</p> <p>Record information</p> <p>Leave a legacy of records that can be investigated by future generations</p> <p>Order and index the records as an archive</p> <p>This will include:</p> <p>Documents – Photographs – Books – Pamphlets – Maps - Audio records and other artefacts and memorabilia</p>



Living History

Heritage Engagement - Regular Meetings

To maintain the **engagement** and initiate the **heritage activity** it is proposed that meetings or events are set up at regular intervals. Each meeting/event would have one or two themes selected from the projects and themes below and would present back to the village the activity to date and future plans. The meeting would also present the opportunity for guest speakers.

The Steering Group will use the regular meetings to report on activity, plans and budgets.

Our Projects and Themes

Projects are specific pieces of work undertaken by individuals or a group. A project will happen when someone, or a group, is willing to get on and do it. Each project needs a clear responsibility to be allocated to deliver the heritage activity and engagement, while also generating the records and archive for the future.

They can vary in size from a half day's reading followed by a write up or presentation, through to a major activity that involves funds, project management and possible infrastructure in the village. Any topic that interests a member or group of members is a valid Society project. Only when funds are involved will we need to think about it carefully.

Some initial project ideas that have been identified to date include:

Village locations

- The Stockwell Restoration
- Chearsley Village Heritage Trail
- History of the Church
- Village pubs
- The Village Hall
- The Village School – a reunion?
- Excavations of land around the village – e.g. the 'Moated Site' below the church
- The Farms
- The War Memorial

Village events

- Past Village events such as the Millennium and Royal Jubilees
- The Car Show
- Remembrance Day
- Inspector Morse and Midsummer Murders using the village on film location

Village activities

- Village pubs walking tour
- Develop a 'Guided Tour' programme
- The Cricket Club

Village history

- The English Civil War in Buckinghamshire
- Derivations of the name Chearsley eg King Cerdic of Wessex
- The history of specific houses of interest in the Village
- Sunken Lanes



Finance and Funding

Planning and budgets

A medium term budget will be needed, both for planning and any grant applications. This will be based on a two or three year rolling, flexible forecast covering regular meetings, events, projects, setting up costs, etc.

Typical expenses will be: hire of the Village Hall, promotional materials, speaker fees, project specific expenses, provision for one-off activities (e.g. setting up the physical and virtual archives), creation and maintenance of a web site or other relevant communication channels.

A potential format is:

Year 1			
Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4
Year 2			
Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4
Year 3			
Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4

Planning, setting and monitoring of the budget will be the responsibility of a Steering Group. The Steering Group will appoint a Treasurer, responsible for producing the overall Society budget, to include the individual event budgets and accounting for other income and expenditure as well as leading on budget setting and monitoring.

Funding and grants

Funding will be sought from a broad range of sources including the Village Trust, the Parish Council, The National Lottery Heritage Fund and other relevant heritage organisations. The timing and the detail of each application can be considered once the infrastructure proposed has been discussed further and agreed.

Members Subscriptions

It was agreed that in the early stages of the Society a formal membership system was not needed. This would be a topic for further discussion as the Society developed and the possibility of membership subscriptions and other relevant fundraising opportunities would be considered.