

Whilton Local History Society

Saturday 23rd June marked the outing of The Whilton Local History Society. We travelled to Grafton Regis to attend "1000 years in 100 minutes".

Starting from the village hall, once their school, we followed the history of their village through 100 years. As we moved from Village Hall to Church and back we encountered a variety of characters, some of whom were well known to us. Grafton Regis has a number of associations with royalty, as there was once a royal palace there. It was destroyed in the Civil War, but was familiar to Henry VIII and later monarchs, although Elizabeth I did not like it and complained about the lack of pure cold water to drink.

Figures from history were in full magnificent costume and told us of their experiences. We had an opportunity to look round the old parish church and to see monuments to the Woodville family. We met Elizabeth Woodville of Grafton Regis who married King Edward IV. Henry VIII introduced us to Ann Boleyn, and no one was very willing to leave their child in the care of Richard III! There were also less well-known characters including a French abbot and a local vicar's wife, who taught poor girls how to make lace.

The afternoon was rounded off by tea and cakes in the Village Hall. The variety and number of cakes was abundant enough for royalty, and the teapots were replenished as required.