Wingrave-with-Rowsham Heritage Association (WwRHA)

Life in the Rothschild Village of Wingrave with Rowsham in the 1800s

Last summer the Wingrave with Rowsham Heritage Association (WRHA) completed a three-year project supported by a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to research and document everyday life in the parish during the course of the 19th century.

An important aspect of the project was the involvement of parish residents, many completely new to local history research, who enthusiastically delved into a wide spectrum of topics including emigration, law and order, parish politics, local occupations, and the challenges of daily life without 21st-century necessities such as running water. Their research drew on material from a wide range of sources including documents in the Centre for Bucks Studies, contemporary newspapers, census returns and individual family histories.

The project was divided between four groups of parish residents; three groups focused on different areas of the parish – Nup End, Castle Street (formerly Cat Street) and Rowsham – and the fourth group explored the parliamentary enclosure of 1798.

Each group has created a booklet about their research topic, with a parallel exhibition. Copies of the booklets have been deposited in the BAS library and the Centre for Bucks Studies, and more information about the project can be found on the Association's website at http://wingrave-rowsham-heritage.org.uk/the-hlf-project

The WRHA is grateful for the support from the Heritage Lottery Fund throughout the life of the project, from the initial application to the formal closure. The HLF's senior grants officer's response to the closure report was 'Well done on completing the project and for producing a thorough evaluation report. It is also nice to see the notes that were provided to the groups to give them support on producing the booklets and exhibitions. The Fund's logo stands out on the front covers of the booklets very well and I expect I will use it as an example to other grantees of how to correctly acknowledge our grant.'

Andrew Muir