

**NOTES OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE STONELEIGH HISTORY SOCIETY, held in  
the Village Club on 2 March 2011**

1. Sheila Woolf welcomed everyone to the second meeting of the group.

2. Present:

Sheila Woolf (Chair), David Vaughan, Jean Vaughan, Lisa Reay, Rachel Gill, Philip Gill, Dick James, Pam Baker, David Sarginson, Eithne Sarginson, Beverley Mills, Betty Craddock, Shirley Ball, Roger Gilbert, Anthony Bianco, Margaret Wallis (Secretary)

Apologies: were received from Liz Sykes, Jayne Brooks, Jenny Skidmore.

It was reported that Barbara Gee, Rosemary Williams and Eileen Burman were interested in joining the group; this would be followed up.

3. The notes of the first meeting, held on 26 January, were accepted as a correct record.

4. Sheila reported on the first meeting of the Committee, held on 7 February.

- i. She was delighted to accept the role of Chair. Lisa Reay would be Hon. Treasurer and Margaret Wallis Hon. Secretary. Other members were Pam Baker, Philip Gill, David Vaughan and Anthony Bianco.
- ii. The name of the group would henceforth be the Stoneleigh History Society (approved).
- iii. Annual subscriptions would be £10 per head, with additional payments for visits, talks etc. perhaps twice a year (agreed).
- iv. Initially the emphasis on research would be Stoneleigh village and its immediate environs, rather than the boundaries of the original parish.
- v. Pam had submitted suggestions about indexing findings, but it had been felt that initially just collecting/collating materials under agreed headings in a large ring binder would be sufficient. Eventually there might well be leaflets on specific areas, or publications such as those produced by other local societies. However, a book such as the one about Bishops Tachbrook was very much a long-term ambition.
- vi. A constitution was required, and David Vaughan had agreed to draft one, to be considered at the next meeting (see below). However, it was agreed that there should be open membership with no application forms although contact details would be required and a membership card would be provided. Future Committee members would need proposers and seconders and terms of office would be defined in the constitution.

5. It was agreed that the best way forward would be for members to declare their interests and to work on these, most likely in small teams, with reports being given to subsequent meetings of the Society. Following discussion, a pattern of interests/plans emerged and working groups formed.

- i. David Vaughan - ancient maps, how the village developed
- ii. Jean Vaughan - the history of Wentworth House
- iii. Pam Baker - collation of materials (those already in existence e.g. the Nat Alcock books plus various PhDs, and new ones) in a systematic way, developing a database of sources and findings

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- iv. Rachel Gill - trade development from individual houses (n.b. Sheila had already done this with one house and could do a PowerPoint presentation on the process involved at a future meeting)
- v. Betty Craddock and Shirley Ball - oral history of modern Stoneleigh (with photographic/video/slide etc illustrations). As much 'living history' as possible to be gathered e.g. photographs of the Stoneleigh Close land (Will Blagburn), Walkers Orchard (the Paulings), the old Hillman House (Rosemary Williams has scrapbooks)
- vi. Philip Gill - Census returns plus the development of modern Stoneleigh
- vii. Lisa Reay - similar to Rachel
- viii. David and Eithne Sarginson - inquests through the ages
- ix. Dick James - Planning and mapping, plus inquests
- x. Roger Gilbert - history of the existing 'old school' plus the earlier one (next to the current post box)
- xi. David Brooks - Land use and management through the ages
- xii. Anthony Bianco - Mapping (with David V), plus ancient history e.g. the Roman wood, the Saxon trackway etc.
- xiii. Beverley Mills - census and hundreds records
- xiv. Sheila Woolf - the Leigh family in Victorian times (work already in progress)

6. Arrangements for a visit to Warwick Record Office. Sheila had checked arrangements for visits. It was possible to have a tour and talk about what a society such as ours might go about its work, with local sources, on Monday afternoons in groups of 10. It was agreed that it would be helpful to have such a visit (s) as soon as possible. (Subsequently Sheila discovered that all Monday afternoon slots had been booked until the end of May so alternative suggestions about evenings in March were suggested. There will be two visits - on 21 and 22 March at 7 pm. Those able to attend are listed below\*).

7. Future meetings would be scheduled for the last Wednesday of alternate months. However, given the need to accept a constitution and to work within a clear framework as soon as possible, it was agreed to meet on **24 March at 7 pm in the Village Club**. This would enable the SHS to set a pattern of holding a general meeting by the end of March, with subscriptions due by 1 April. The first official annual general meeting would be held in April 2012. It was hoped to continue holding SHS meetings in the Village Club which would open at 7 pm (rather than 7.30 pm) on those days.

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\* March 21: Anthony Bianco, Roger Gilbert, Lisa Reay, Beverley Mills, Dick James, Eileen Burman and Sheila Woolf

March 22: Jenny Skidmore, Pam Baker, Margaret Wallis, Philip Gill, Shirley Ball, Betty Craddock, and Sheila Woolf.