

**NOTES OF THE SIXTH MEETING OF THE STONELEIGH HISTORY SOCIETY HELD ON 31 AUGUST  
2011 IN THE VILLAGE CLUB**

- 1. Present:** Sheila Woolf (Chairman), Lisa Reay, Jean Vaughan, David Vaughan, David Brooks, Roger Gilbert, Jenny Skidmore, Pam Baker, Shirley Ball, Rachel Gill, Philip Gill, Anthony Bianco, Liz Sykes and Margaret Wallis. Patrick Sawdon, Richard Upton and Julian Birditt were welcomed to their first meeting.
- 2. Apologies:** Eileen Burman and Betty Craddock.
- 3. Notes of the fifth meeting:** These were accepted.
- 4. Matters Arising:**
  - i. Thanks to Sheila, Lisa, Pam and Shirley for assistance with the display about Stoneleigh Blacksmiths shown in the church during the Duck Race.  
Also, thanks for the book, Pam prepared listing village people and houses in 1851. Both exhibits had attracted a lot of attention. The Blacksmiths display would be available at the NADFAS New Members' coffee morning in the church on 29 September.
  - ii. Warwickshire Local History Society had sent their Bulletin and Programme Card for the current year. Several activities were likely to be of interest to members who could attend lectures free given that SHS is now affiliated.
  - iii. There had been considerable progress on work announced at the last meeting, including more discoveries by David and Jean about Wentworth House (Workhouse and Vicarage), by Lisa about Birmingham Road, David B about enclosures and Pam about censuses.
- 5. Stoneleigh Maps and Residences.** Pam gave a fascinating presentation, initially based on an 1810 estate map discovered by David V. Pam had superimposed previous and later maps of the village and surroundings and added buildings which were recorded in documents and maps through the centuries. The original numbering system had changed once Post Office systems had been introduced, but these original numbers, and named buildings, were clearly evident in today's Stoneleigh. Some old buildings had disappeared, or had been incorporated into other buildings. Old pathways/cart-tracks tied in with more recent records - the route to the ford near the current road bridge, for instance. The maps and other records also listed many of the residents of the village, some of whom changed addresses within the village with remarkable frequency. Pam had produced a current map with different colours to represent listed buildings, interesting old buildings and current buildings, with current postal names. More work was required but it was clear that a much fuller picture of the village and its developments could be achieved, including land usage over the centuries.
- 6. The Swan Inn.** Sheila spoke about the history of the Swan Inn as far as she had been able to discover so far from a variety of sources. The Inn stretched from 'The Old Post Office' to the current Club, so was quite extensive and was clearly used for accommodation and stabling as well as an alehouse over several centuries until 1821 when the inn keeper, William Walker (nothing to do with Walkers Orchard), left under a cloud. Sheila had produced an interesting handout documenting the Inn's history.

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7. **Feedback on other projects.** Given the time, it was agreed that detailed feedback would be provided at a future meeting.
8. **Any Other Business.** There was none.
9. **Date of Next Meeting.** It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on **Wednesday 12 October at 7.00 pm in the Village Club.** Jenny and Margaret gave their apologies in advance.

*N.B. Subsequent to the meeting, the Committee agreed, given that several members, including our new ones, had many memories of growing up in Stoneleigh, that the main body of the October meeting should provide the opportunity for bringing along memorabilia/photographs and/or simply reminiscing. All members are therefore invited to bring anything to the meeting which they would like to share – no doubt some interesting memories will be revived!*

*Updates on other projects will be held over until a later meeting.*

*Additionally, after the meeting Roger Gilbert made the excellent suggestion that Nat Alcock be invited to become an honorary member of the Society. Margaret has tracked him down and Sheila will be contacting him with such an invitation.*

2/9/11