

## NOTES OF THE 11<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE STONELEIGH HISTORY SOCIETY HELD ON 31/7/12

**Welcome:** Sheila welcomed 10 members of the Society

**Apologies:** Rachel and Philip Gill, Jenny Skidmore, Patrick Sawdon, Jean and David Vaughan, Pete James, Liz Sykes, Sue Crofts, Ann Harris, Jane Taylor

**Thanks:** Shirley had kindly offered to help with refreshments, in Rachel's absence.

### **Matters Arising since the last meeting:**

1. There had been a successful tour at Stoneleigh Abbey on the warm evening of 26 June. The Abbey hopes to introduce a new guided tour which includes the Repton Garden restoration. The Abbey was planning to launch this in September, possibly with a free day, but this may be postponed to next season.
2. The Jubilee weekend had proved a great success with many visitors to the SHS exhibition (Thanks to the Church for hosting this, and to providing the facility for the period of the Leamington History exhibition). Sheila was thanked for co-ordinating the exhibit and for her contribution to its content.
3. Sheila had purchased a projector for use at her own talks, but this could be used by SHS too. Dick and Daphne James had generously donated a screen and projector stand. Liz Sykes had donated some old display boards, and the Church had agreed that these (plus any displays) could be stored in the Leigh Chapel (Thanks to Sarah Ballinger for negotiating this)
4. On 14 September Will Blagburn would re-run the old videos he showed on 2 June, together with photographs he took on the day. The event would be held in the Village Club at 7 pm. Tickets £2 each available from Sheila, Lisa or Nora Blagburn.
5. On 6 October, Sheila was giving a talk 'Who Do You Think We Were?' at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall. Tickets £10 including food, available from Sarah Ballinger, the Parish Office or Sheila.

**Next Meeting:** 25 September, in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm, theme yet to be decided. (Nat Alcock agreed to give a talk at some point during the next year. The Committee would meet shortly to discuss the future programme.

The remainder of the evening was devoted to **WORK IN PROGRESS**

Sheila spoke about the work she had done following Joyce Taylor's transcription of the **Stoneleigh Village School Logbooks**. Biographies of some 20 headmasters were given in outline and extracts from the books read out (see attachment to these notes). It was noted the extent to which boys missed school due to agricultural work and girls were expected to help to look after babies and young children. In the 1890s Lady Leigh sent sewing to be done at the school - towel-initialling, nightshirt making etc. Sheila has two CDS which can be borrowed, one containing anecdotes about boys, the other about girls.

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Lisa spoke about the work she has undertaken to date about the **Birmingham Road houses**. As so many members missed the talk, this is attached. Lisa also made available various documents relating to the houses, including estate agent details of some recently on sale.