

NOTES OF THE MEETING OF STONELEIGH HISTORY SOCIETY HELD ON 28 OCTOBER 2014

Apologies: Rachel Gill, Philip Gill, Sandra Cross

Introduction: Sheila welcomed members and 8 visitors to the meeting. There were several items to report since the last meeting.

- The SHS calendars had sold well. Profits would go to the purchase of the Henry Parkes' plaque (see below)
- Poppies were on sale at the meeting
- Thanks to Margaret Wallis for a very successful and touching evening about the Church cushions and the Stitchers involved
- Warwickshire Local History Society was holding a meeting on 18 November at the Quaker Meeting House with a talk on the 'Archaeology of Farnbrough Hall'
- There was to be Craft Fair at Stoneleigh Abbey stables on 30 November. Admission free. Sheila and Lisa would be on hand to sell calendars and to promote the SHS
- There was a Christmas event at Baddesly Clinton on 6 December. This would include a talk by Nat Alcock in the church at 2 pm then a Christmas tea in the restaurant. Price £14 for National Trust members. (n.b. If you would like to attend but did not put your name down on 28 October, please let Sheila know by 6 November as the booking form needs to be submitted then. You can reimburse SHS at the November meeting).
- The SHS display on WW1 will be removed after Remembrance Sunday as the dampness in the Leigh Chapel was causing some problems. Log books and the church record files would remain.
- The SHS Committee had met recently and finalised a programme for 2015. Of particular importance was 11 am on Sunday 5 July when the Parkes' plaque would be unveiled as part of the morning service, followed by a reception (more details later)
- Membership renewals would be taken at the December social meeting onwards.
- At the November meeting, Lisa would talk about some former Stoneleigh residents and Sheila would talk about the Rench family and it was hoped that Sheila Rench would be fit enough to attend the meeting
- The SHS had submitted a petition about Stare Bridge to the parliamentary Standing Committee on HS2. Sheila, Anthony Bianco and Martin Smith had met the delegation on 7 September when they visited the area and Sheila had made a brief presentation about the significance of the Bridge. As there was insufficient time for a site visit that day arrangements had been made for a member of HS2 Ltd staff to return to gain firsthand information. There was an ongoing attempt to discourage Sheila from presenting the SHS petition to the Committee personally but she had every intention of doing so when the date was announced.

Hazel Fryer then gave a fascinating talk about the Humphry Repton Gardens at Stoneleigh Abbey, including the changing nature of the Abbey lands and the more recent split when the Royal Show came to Stoneleigh, and Stoneleigh Park developed which in turn allowed a gap through which it was now proposed to place HS2.

MSW/30/10/14

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Special thanks: The projector (Sheila's own) broke down before the meeting began and despite sterling efforts by Patrick, Pam and Anthony it could not be revived. Pete then drove home to collect his own machine, thus saving the day. Many thanks, Pete. Two new projectors have since been bought – one a replacement for Sheila, the second the SHS's own, thus guaranteeing that such a nerve-wracking incident can be avoided in future.

Thanks to Liz for refreshments.

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