

## **NOTES OF THE MEETING OF STONELEIGH HISTORY SOCIETY HELD ON TUESDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2014 IN STONELEIGH VILLAGE HALL**

**Present:** 17 SHS members and 8 visitors.

**Apologies:** Anthony Bianco, Sue Crofts, Dick and Daphne James, Sheila Skinner, Avril Newey, Peter Thompson and Ken Wallis

**Welcome:** Shelia Woolf welcomed everyone to the meeting.

- i) As this was the last formal meeting of the year Sheila wanted to place on record her thanks to those SHS members who had undertaken so much work in discovering and making local records so much more accessible.
- ii) The Christmas Social would be held in the Club on Tuesday 16 December but would start **at 7 pm** (not 7.30 as previously advertised) as carol singers from the Stoneleigh Ladies and Men's Choirs would be assembling and returning to the Club the same evening so the Club would be very busy – and festive. More details would be circulated nearer the time.
- iii) Membership renewals would be taken at the December meeting, and new members would be welcomed. Lisa had laminated membership cards and these included the dates of 2015 meetings on the back.
- iv) On January 27<sup>th</sup> there would be an informal meeting in the Club, taking advantage of their Wi-Fi, at which members could receive help with accessing records from the various available sites.
- v) This evening new projection equipment was being used for the first time, purchased following the technical problems encountered at the previous meeting.
- vi) On the afternoon of Tuesday 28 April there would be a visit to Arbury Hall 'The Gothic Gem of the Midlands' which was rarely open to the public. The visit would be open to members and non-members and a minimum of 25 people were needed to qualify for the discounted entry fee.
- vii) Lisa's talk on Stoneleigh Families would be given during 2015 as she was still discovering plenty of material.

### **'One Family's Story – The Rench Family in Stoneleigh'**

Sheila then gave a fascinating talk about Sheila Rench's family. Sheila was born in 1931, her father was a carpenter for the Stoneleigh Estate and the family lived in 'School Cottages' (now Church Meadow Cottage). Sheila knew that her family connection with Stoneleigh had gone back two generations but until Sheila began her research she had no idea it could be traced back to fullers in 1545, all through the female line. Tracing church records, Sheila had found records of each generation, with more details in the notebooks of James Wentworth Leigh, and this information was presented with illustrations of the monarchs of the time.

It was regretted that Sheila Rench was too unwell to attend the meeting but SHS recorded its thanks and good wishes to her.

Thanks to Rachel and Liz for providing the refreshments.