

MINUTES OF THE STONELEIGH HISTORY SOCIETY AGM
held in Stoneleigh Village Hall on 31 March 2015

Apologies: Patrick Sawdon, Clive and Gill Watson

Present: 34 members of the SHS, 4 visitors who subsequently became members and 5 guests.

Welcome: Sheila Woolf (Chairman) welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Chairman's Report: 2014 had been a very busy year for the Society and highlights were featured in her report (attached). Particular thanks were recorded for Pam Baker and Lisa Reay for their extensive work on the World War One display and associated activities. Other members of the Committee were also thanked.

Sheila asked members to consider volunteering to take responsibility for particular activities e.g. outings.

The Bicentenary of Sir Henry Parkes would be a key feature of SHS activity in 2015. Sales of the Stoneleigh Calendar had raised sufficient funds to cover the cost of a plaque noting his baptism in Stoneleigh Church and its unveiling by Ian Thom (a great, great grandson of Sir Henry) during morning service on Sunday 5 July. (Margaret Wallis then outlined plans for the event which would be followed by an informal reception. The event would be by invitation only and members were asked to give an early indication of their interest so that this information could be factored into a forthcoming meeting with Rev Sharon Goble and Sarah Ballinger – 18 members with 3 potential guests. All members would be given further information and sent invitations in due course).

Sheila announced that David Starkey would give a talk on Magna Carta on 24 April in the Albany Theatre, The Butts, Coventry.

Also on 24 April, Sheila and Lisa were due to attend a talk at the Kineton Local History Group on their churchyard data project.

Payments had been made for the visit to Arbury Hall; details from her.

Treasurer's Report: Lisa presented the attached report which showed a healthy increase in SHS funds, largely due to a grant from the Community Grant Forum and sale of the Stoneleigh Calendar. The closing bank balance was £889.75. Thanks to Pam Baker for auditing the accounts. With effect from April 2015, the monthly fee for non-members would be increased to £2.50; members' fee would remain at £1. This fee was to cover the cost of room hire and refreshments.

Talk: Jan Cooper, Chair of the Kenilworth History and Archaeology Society then gave a fascinating, illustrated, talk about 'The White Monks (aka Cistercians) with particular reference to Stoneleigh Abbey'. Jan outlined the history of the Order in England and referred to the ruins of once-huge abbeys at Riveaulx, Fountains and Byland, before describing the remaining links in the architecture of Stoneleigh Abbey.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 26 May in the village hall at 7.30. The theme of this meeting will be the life of Sir Henry Parkes – 'Stoneleigh boy made good'.