

**NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STONELEIGH HISTORY SOCIETY HELD ON 26 MAY
2015 IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

Sheila Woolf welcomed 22 members of the Society and 9 guests.

Apologies were received from David Eaves, Dorothy Ingle, David Brooks, Jenny Skidmore and Barbara Gee.

Sheila referred to the display boards depicting the life and times of Sir Henry Parkes (the 200th anniversary of his birth in Canley - then part of Stoneleigh Parish - was on 27 May). Thanks to Margaret Wallis and Pam Baker who had prepared these with her. They would be moved to the Leigh Chapel the next day in time for the visit of the Australian High Commissioner, Sir Alexander Downer, and would remain on display throughout the summer. Sheila had written a long article which would appear in Thursday's *Coventry Telegraph* which 'reclaimed Henry for Stoneleigh'.

Arrangements were well in hand for the special church service on 5 July during which a plaque would be unveiled by Ian Thom, Sir Henry Parkes' great great grandson. An added event on the day would be a cricket match at the Abbey between Stoneleigh and 'The Reds' a visiting team from Melbourne. Paul Smith outlined plans for the afternoon. The match would be at 2.30 with tea in the Orangery at £10 (bookings to be made with him on 07989 544229 or pandorasmith@me.com). The team would attend the church service. There would be a BBQ at the Club in the evening.

Sheila reported that the visit to Arbury Hall had been a great success.

Lisa Reay asked for receipts to be presented for refreshment purchases otherwise she could not reimburse the cost.

Although the 5 July event meant that there was not a scheduled meeting in June, on 30 June at 7.30 pm there would be a repeat of the informal family history/IT evening in the Village Club. Members would be invited to bring their queries and ongoing research.

The business part of the meeting was followed by talks by Ken Wallis on 'Sir Henry Parkes: a personal journey of discovery' and Sheila Woolf on Sir Henry's lifelong links with Stoneleigh.

Margaret gave a vote of thanks to Sheila who had drawn the attention of SHS to Sir Henry Parkes' bicentenary some years previously and had worked tirelessly since to ensure that he was honoured appropriately in Stoneleigh.

Msw/5/15