

NOTES OF THE MEETING OF STONELEIGH HISTORY SOCIETY HELD ON 25 SEPTEMBER 2018

Present: 25 SHS members and 11 guests

Apologies: Margaret Brown, June Burr, Janet & David Gibson, Rosemary Jewel-Clark, Gill & Clive Watson, Mel Dearing, Anthony Bianco and Sarah Ballinger.

Welcome: Sheila Woolf welcomed members and guests, especially former pupils of Stoneleigh School. Sheila announced that she planned to write a history of the school during the coming year and that any memories from pupils would be welcomed.

Sales of Stoneleigh Calendars were going well and, costs having been covered, all future proceeds would be donated to Myton Hospice in memory of Will Blagburn. SHS members who had not already bought a calendar were encouraged to do so. (After the meeting, many did).

A few copies of Philip Gill's book about the Almshouses remained and these were on sale at the end of the meeting.

The church had now re-opened after vandalism early in the summer. Sheila had noticed some very complimentary comments in the Visitors Book which particularly mentioned the SHS display in the Leigh Chapel.

The next SHS meeting would be on 30 October when Richard Churchley will entertain with 'Folklore and Folksongs of Warwickshire and Worcestershire'.

Sheila then introduced Shirley Ball to talk about Stoneleigh Village School.

Shirley thanked Sheila for all the assistance provided in preparing the presentation which comprised a selection of old photographs of year groups of pupils with their teachers, or specific groups, together with some photographs of the school buildings and surroundings, plus some depicting village events such as Christmas pantomimes and Sports Days held in the school (including some attended by Mrs ~~Mills~~ Evelyn Hill of the Hillman family – who was an enthusiastic supporter and in whose memory the Dove tapestry hangs in the church). Some visitors were able to identify classmates and teachers and some shared memories with the audience (and others later with Sheila).

The school had been founded in 1740 by the 4th Lord Leigh, it was closed in 1976 and village children were subsequently bussed to schools in Kenilworth. After standing derelict for some time, ownership was eventually sorted and the schoolhouse and outbuildings were converted to School Bell Mews, the single dwellings and maisonettes we know today.

Thanks to Shirley for a fascinating trip down memory lane. Also, to the refreshment providers – Maggie Moorhouse and Ruth Oliver.