

# NOTES OF THE MEETING OF STONELEIGH HISTORY SOCIETY HELD ON 29 OCTOBER 2019

**Present:** 28 members and 4 visitors

**Apologies:** Pam Baker, Shirley Ball, Mel Dearing and Susie Thompson

## **Welcome and announcements:**

Sheila Woolf welcomed everyone to the meeting. She announced the recent death of Jenny Skidmore, a founder member of SHS and paid tribute to her. The funeral was to be held in Stoneleigh Church on 30 October at 11.30.

Thanks were given to Liz Sykes and Margaret Brown who provided that evening's refreshments and to the many who helped at the previous meeting. Also thanks to those who had attended the Leamington History Day which had been good for networking.

The book on the History of Stoneleigh School was selling fast. Copies were available for sale that evening.

David Vaughan was thanked for his assistance with the legal aspects of copyright associated with the gift of the Roseblade watercolours. This matter had now been settled and the family were very pleased with the outcome and had sent £50 in appreciation.

Details of forthcoming Warwick Local History Society events were available on the platform. Eg. On 7 December at St. John's Church Warwick Richard Churchley was performing songs (with audience participation) from the Middle Ages to White Christmas. Tickets £17, including tea.

Six members were to attend the visit to the Shakespeare Trust archive on 9 November. (They subsequently reported that it was a great success).

At the SHS meeting on 26 November, Ann Langley would speak on the Warwickshire County Asylum.

Sheila then welcomed members of the **Coventry Women's Research Group**.

The Group was established in 1998 following a series of lectures at Coventry University about women in the city. Since then they have produced ten books about women who have contributed to the history of Coventry (often in jobs previously held by men). The books include 'Making the Best of Things' – reminiscences from World War Two – and nostalgic recollections of the opening of the Locarno Ballroom in 1960, site of many searches for 'Mr Right'. The next book would be on festivals and customs. New members are always welcome; contact Elizabeth Draper on [draperelise@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:draperelise@yahoo.co.uk)

Two members took it in turns to summarise some of the associated stories e.g. Pearl Hyde (the first woman lord mayor, responsible for huge expansion of the WRVS, 25 years on the Council and founder of the Country Holidays scheme for poor children). Clarice Leigh (a suffragette imprisoned in Holloway Prison). Kate Tatlow (ran the Rainbow Pub in Allesley Village during the 1930s). The Ager family who ran a shoe shop in Corporation Street for six generations and who introduced the foot x-ray.

The two members of the Group brought the women and their times to life and after the official presentation several members bought books and asked further questions, and shared their own memories.

(Elizabeth Draper later emailed to say that they were delighted and grateful to have sold £46 worth of publications during the evening).