

## **STANFORD IN THE VALE AND DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER No. 3 AUGUST 2004**

**2004 Committee:** David Axford – Chairman; Phil Morris – Secretary; Cheryl White – Treasurer; Lawrence Ward – Committee Member

The Society's Patch. .. When we came into being in Spring 2004, we took as our title 'Stanford in the Vale Local History Society'. Soon it was decided to add the 'and district' bit, to make members from the neighbouring smaller villages and hamlets feel at home. It was felt the Society should cater for the area between those parts served by existing Societies in Longworth (with Kingston Bagpuize and Southmoor), Shrivenham, Faringdon and East Hanney. Because of the available hall space, monthly meetings with speakers (second Tuesday in the month) will be in Stanford, and notice given in the 'Faringdon What's On ?' publication, and the Stanford Parish Newsletter. However, posters will appear in other places advertising these meetings. Research on local history topics within our patch is obviously not the sole prerogative of our Society. The committee is now aware that a small research group exists in Denchworth. We hope that some members of the group may decide to attend our meetings, and share some of their findings with us.

Membership and finances... Like any new society it is essential we attract members. We also need to build up our finances to pay for speakers and to fund future projects. For these reasons we took a stand at the Stanford Summer Festival. Our two raffles - (a big thank you to all who donated prizes to Cheryl's hampers, and special thanks to Mrs. Wentworth for the gift of the fine picture of St.Denys Church) - raised over £80. It was nice that the picture went to one of our members, Mrs June Leafield. We also attracted three new members on the day. At present subscriptions are intentionally low - £4.50 per year, per family, due January. Any newcomers attending meetings over the next 4 months will be asked to pay the guest fee at meetings.

### **Programme- September and October 2004**

**URGENT** ...We have managed to arrange for a small party (only 8 on this occasion) to be shown round The Oxfordshire Museum Service Collection at Standlake on **THURSDAY 2 SEPTEMBER** -3 p.m. for a one hour guided tour. The group will go in two cars leaving Stanford Village Hall at about 2.40 p.m. depending on pick-up points. Please phone Lawrence Ward in the next couple of days if you are interested (01367710255).

The first Tuesday evening meeting of the new season will be held on Tuesday 14th September at 7.45 p.m. in Stanford's Small Village Hall, when Charles Tyzack from Charlbury will tell us something of the 'Establishment and eventual decline of the Forest of Wychwood'. As well as what promises to be a very interesting talk there will be refreshments and a raffle.

For our **October** meeting, our speaker is coming from a much greater distance. She is **Jill Chambers** from Hertfordshire, an acknowledged expert on the '**Swing Riots of 1831**', when throughout many of the southern counties agricultural workers took drastic action for better pay and working conditions. Some men suffered for their acts by being executed but many more were transported to Australia. She will be dealing with the Berkshire riots, one of which took place in Stanford, and some names may be familiar to many in the audience. **Tuesday, October 12th. at 7.45 p.m.** Jill will have copies of her book 'Machine Breakers in Berkshire' available for purchase after her talk.

Phil Morris, Secretary 27.08.04