

STANFORD IN THE VALE & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Newsletter number 13 February 2007

Another large audience attended last month's meeting - including several new faces - to hear Sharon Bishop from English Heritage's National Monument Record Section describe some aspects of the Section's aerial survey work, in particular the recording of interesting prehistoric features on the Lambourn Downs. Sharon has sent me copies of two of the N.M.R.'s brochures which may interest some members and these will be available on the 'publications table' at the February meeting.

NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY FEBRUARY 13

The first half hour will consist of the Society's A.G.M. The Agenda is as follows:

1. Welcome by Chairman, and apologies for non-attendance
2. Minutes of the last A.G.M. held 14 February 2006. (Copy attached below)
3. Chairman's report of the Society's activities during past 12 months
4. Treasurer's report
5. Subscriptions for ensuing year - the Committee is proposing a figure of £6 per family.
Members will be asked to vote on this proposal
6. Nominations for members of the Committee
7. A.O.B.

Refreshments will follow, and then David Axford will show us a further selection of local photographs from the Violet Howse Photographic Archive.

On TUESDAY MARCH 13 John Steane will give an illustrated talk on the history of Vine Cottage, Church Green, based on the investigations that have taken place over the past few years, whilst the building has been refurbished. He will also mention what has been learnt about the nearby cottages which were gutted and rebuilt after the fire of 2005.

Mr Andrew McCallum, one of the owners of Vine Cottage since the 1960s, has expressed a wish to be present to hear the talk, and has stated he may be able to open the Cottage for a party of members to look over it, the next morning.

The April meeting will be a talk by Bruce Hedge, about the maltings of Abingdon, which supported Morlands brewing operation.

The May meeting will be outdoors, and will take the form of a walk around Denchworth led by members of the Denchworth Local History Group.

In June, Dr. Paddock, Curator of Cirencester Museum, will talk to us about the very large Anglo-Saxon cemetery discovered at Butlers Field, Lechlade (about 1 km NE of Lechlade garden centre). Dating evidence suggests this area was used between about 450 and 800 AD and was used for both pagan and later Christian interments.

Further details of activities in the April to July period will appear in the next newsletter, which will appear at the end of March. The next edition of THE STANFORD HISTORIAN will appear at about the same time. This will be issue number ten, and it is planned that it will be an enlarged issue of 40 pages.

Phil Morris

Hon. Sec.: Newsletter and 'The Stanford Historian' Editor.

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MINUTES OF THE SECOND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD IN THE SMALL VILLAGE HALL, STANFORD, TUESDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2006

The Chairman, Mr. David Axford, opened the meeting at 7.45 pm by welcoming the 27 members and guests. Apologies were received from 11 members.

The minutes of the Society's first AGM held 8 February 2005 were accepted as a true record (proposed J. Taylor, seconded W. Grant).

Summary of Chairman's Report: Membership was currently 60. Seven indoor meetings were held in 2005, plus a Christmas Social Evening, and a visit to Charney Bassett water mill. The Society participated in the Stanford in the Vale Village Forum held in October, to advertise village societies and clubs. Four newsletters had been circulated to members during the past year and two issues of 'The *Stanford Historian*' had been published with good sales. The Society's reprint (150 copies) of the Rev. Maine's 1866 book about Stanford went on sale during the year, and currently another 20 copies @ £8 need to be sold to clear production costs. Work continues on several projects, including oral history - interviews with older residents; transcriptions of local census records; digitalisation of the Howse photographic archive. The Chairman thanked those who had helped at meetings (refreshments and raffles) and current committee members, plus Peter Wright, who had resigned from the committee during the year, and Jim Belcher (who would not be seeking re-election) for his initiative in commencing the digitalisation of the Howse photo collection. Details of Society activities appear regularly on the S.I.V. community web site.

The report was unanimously accepted, after a proposal by W. Grant, seconded P. Morris.

Finance: The Treasurer, Steve Williams, outlined the Society's finances for the past thirteen months. The financial year will in future be from AGM to AGM rather than the calendar year. He stated that the Society was just breaking even, with raffles at monthly meetings covering hall hire, and subscriptions paying for speakers. He thanked those members who had made donations to the Society. The balance in hand, to be carried forward to next financial year was £188.81

The committee had decided that for one more year subscriptions should stay at £5 for a maximum of two persons at same address, but depending on hall fees, etc. it is likely that a revision will be needed at next year's AGM.

The report was unanimously accepted, after a proposal by L.Ward, seconded by J.Owen.

Election of Committee: The meeting elected David Axford, June Leighfield, Tony Malein, Phil Morris, Lawrence Ward and Steve Williams as members of the committee for 2006-07. Posts will be agreed at the committee's first meeting.

There being no further business, the chairman closed the meeting at 8.10 pm. He announced that after refreshments he would be giving a presentation, with illustrations, outlining the progress made to date with the digitisation/ cataloguing of the Howse collection of pictures, made available by Jasmine Howse.

P.P.M. Hon. Sec. 14/02/06