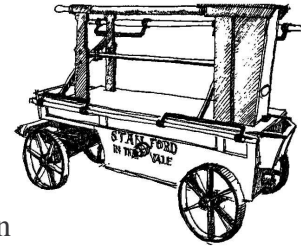


Committee, 2009

- Chairman - David Axford
- Secretary - Phil Morris
- Treasurer and } -
- Minutes Secretary } - Steve Williams
- Committee Members - Bill Lawes, June Leighfield, Tony Malein
- Peter Munn, Lawrence Ward,
- Sue Brandon (Denchworth LHS)



SitV and District Local History Society

Chairman’s Annual Report for 2009

The Society membership has dropped slightly this year at around 40 members (27 households) with a continuing interest in the local history of Stanford in the Vale and its surrounding districts. We have been pleased to see members from Denchworth, Gainfield, Hatford, and Shellingford attending our meetings.

Meetings and Events

During the past year, we held 10 indoor Meetings with Speakers (January, February, March, April, May, June, September, October, November and the December Christmas get together).

This year we were delighted to host the AGM of the Berkshire Local History Association on Saturday 28th March 2009.

In **Annex B** Phil Morris provides a list of the speakers and the subjects that they have described for us since we began in 2004. They have certainly covered a wide field and thanks are due to Phil Morris who has been instrumental in making the arrangements for the majority of them.

Publications and Projects

The Society produced 4 Newsletters in 2009 through the efforts of Bill Lawes, and, as last year, Phil Morris, in his capacity as Editor, produced two issues of the Stanford Historian. Thanks are due to both of them. The Society also remains indebted to Lawrence Ward who looks after the Society’s growing library and archive as well as being the Society Project Leader.

A reprint of Violet Howse’s booklet “Hatford; A Parish Record” was produced during the year and sales have already covered its cost of production.

The Society was delighted to see the production of “A Stanford in the Vale Sketchbook” by Bill Grant, Joyce Gardner and Peter Fahy in October 2009. A copy has been placed in the archives, and, following the total sell-out of the first print-run (250 copies), the Society has encouraged the authors to make a second run of 100 copies. The Society will take 40 copies for sale through its membership and the rest will be sold through the village shop and the authors’ contacts.

There are now only a few copies left of the Society's reprint of The Reverend. Maine's 1860's book about Stanford in the Vale. These are available from Stanford Paper Shop.

Work is continuing on several Projects, and these are explained in **Annex A**. Here I simply list the Headings:

June Leighfield and Betty Morris – Project Leaders

The Oral History Project

Lawrence Ward – Project Leader

- **Census Transcriptions 1841 to 1901**
- **Newspaper Extracts to 1900**
- **Wills**
- **Stanford People Database**

- **Biographical Dictionary**

David Axford – Project Leader

- **The digital photographic archive**
- **Monumental Inscriptions**
- **Elizabethan Terriers**
- **Hatford – A Parish Record** (project completed)

It is hoped that we will make further progress with all of these projects in the coming year, and that some new projects will come on stream.

Finance and Assets

The Accounts are available from the Treasurer.

The Society now holds the following Assets:

- A carousel slide projector – a gift from Peter Fahy – looked after by the Chairman
- A digital projector – purchased 2007 - looked after by the Chairman
- A projector stand – purchased 2007 - looked after by the Chairman
- An overhead projector – a gift from the Vicar - looked after by the Chairman
- Various books and archived data - looked after by Lawrence Ward.

Thanks

The Society would like to thank all those who have made a donation, and those who organised the raffles, coffee and biscuits at all the meetings. Particular thanks go to Phil, Lawrence and Bill who prepared the quiz questions at the Christmas party.

Thanks are also due to the manager of the Stanford Community website (www.stanford-in-the-vale.co.uk), Dan Huby, who provides an excellent service with the Community Website, enabling us to publicise our meetings via the Events page, and includes the "Stanford in the Vale and District Local History Society" section which describes our activities and where our newsletters are published.

David N. Axford, Charman

3 February 2010

ANNEX A to Chairman's Report 2009

LIST of Stanford in the Vale Local History Society Projects in progress - 2009

June Leighfield and Betty Morris – Project Leaders

- **The Oral History Project** – progress has been slow but project continuing.

Lawrence Ward – Project Leader

This report concerns that research concentrating on the **people** of Stanford and the surrounding parishes.

- **CENSUSES** Further work has been done in transcribing our district's **censuses**, from 1841 to 1901. Those for Stanford were completed by last year's AGM, and we have now added the 1861 censuses for Hatford and Shellingford, with a start made on the same year for Charney and Pusey. Thanks go to Angela Finn and June Stevenson for their continuing help with these censuses.
- **LOCAL NEWSPAPERS** There has been steady progress in transcribing and indexing references to our parishes in **local newspapers**, principally the Reading Mercury, and, more recently, the Faringdon Advertiser. I now have help with this work from Thea Hawksworth. In the past year the coverage for the Reading Mercury, over the range 1830 to 1898, has been taken from 127 months up to 176 months, that is from 15% to 21% total coverage. Scanning of the Faringdon Advertiser (established 1862) has only just started, with a mere 4 months covered. Looking on the gloomy side, and assuming we can find no more help with this project, at the present rate the Reading Mercury will not be finished until 2023. On the positive side, whatever information we already have is useful and helps in building up a picture of life in our district through the 19th century.
- **WILLS AND INVENTORIES** Last year I started a **list of wills and inventories** for Stanford residents, for dates up to 1858 when the national Court of Probate was established. Subsequently, and on a promise that we would undertake the indexing, we were loaned the substantial collection of copies of West Berkshire wills and inventories that Violet and Jasmine Howse had deposited with the Berkshire Family History Society. This gives us the opportunity to make further copies and transcriptions for those documents covering our own particular parishes, although they represent probably no more than a third of the total on loan. The work is laborious, with only 850 of these wills and inventories having been indexed (with some transcriptions) in ten months or so, with probably another 600 still to do. One side benefit is that I have become fairly proficient in reading old manuscripts, some of which date back to the mid-1500s, and one of which is dated 1489.
- **BERKSHIRE TRADE AND STREET DIRECTORIES** There has been no further progress with collecting data on our district from **Berkshire trade and street directories**. The project entails obtaining copies of all the relevant entries from directories in the Oxford or Reading Local Study Centres, and/or from the internet, and would be a relatively straightforward one for a volunteer to undertake.
- **A STANFORD PEOPLE DATABASE** The **People Database**, which holds names, dates, family relationships, occupations and other significant facts of the people in our area, has progressed steadily with the number of people entered rising in the last year from 4200 to nearly 7000. It has now reached a size where there is about a 50:50 chance of finding something about most heads of households who have lived in or nearby the parish between the mid-1500s and 1890. So far the principal sources of information used have been the parish registers and the censuses, but as more of the available sources are incorporated then it is to be hoped the database will become of increasing use in many aspects of our local history.
- **THE STANFORD IN THE VALE BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY** This people data is also gradually being added into the **Biographical Dictionary**, which is periodically printed and put into our library. In the past year the number of entries has risen from around 850 to 1060.
- **NEED FOR VOLUNTEERS TO HELP** **At the end of last year's report I appealed for help with these research projects. Three people did volunteer and have been making a valuable contribution, but the appeal still stands and the more help we can get the more quickly we can put together a useful foundation of information on which to build our future researches.**

Lawrence Ward
16 January 2010

David Axford – Project Leader

• **The digital photographic archive –**

All the 322 B&W photographs deposited by Violet Howse in the Bodleian Library, Oxford, have been digitally scanned and the descriptions hand-written on their backs have been transcribed and checked with Jasmine Howse. The resulting album with the transcriptions is held in the Society Archives. A copy of the transcriptions has been lodged with the original photographs in the Bodleian. A full index for names, locations, dates and events remains to be provided.

The further 400 plus B&W photographs collected by Jasmine Howse have also been digitally scanned and the descriptions hand-written on their backs have been transcribed and checked with Jasmine Howse. At the instruction of Jasmine, these photographs have been deposited in the Berkshire Record Office (BRO) in Reading with a copy of the transcriptions.

572 colour slides of the village in the late 1950s were also deposited by Violet and Jasmine Howse in the Bodleian Library. Copies of the descriptions of each slide have been obtained and still await transcription. This is the only on-going work on this project

• **Monumental Inscriptions**

Lawrence Ward has included much of the details which were recorded by Violet Howse on the oldest gravestones into his data base. It is hoped to copy all the data into the data bank in due course.

• **Elizabethan Terriers –**

The booklet of transcribed Elizabethan Terriers from the years 1582 to 1589 has now been fully analysed providing much information on the names of the villagers working the fields, their possessions and the name of the many furlongs contained within the four main fields. (Note that a medieval furlong is an area of variable dimensions within a large open “field”, not a length as the term is used in modern parlance.) The resulting paper has been passed to the editor of “Berkshire – Old and New” for comments from him and his editorial readers. Consideration is being given to placing this work on a CD for the archives.

• **Hatford – A Parish Record –**

This project has been completed and reprints are available from the Society and the village shop.

It is hoped that we will make further progress with all of these projects in the coming year, and that some new projects will come on stream.

ANNEX B to Chairman’s Report 2009

PROGRAMME OF SPEAKERS AND TOPICS, 2004 - 2009

2004

- Feb. EARLY PHOTOGRAPHY AND LOCAL HISTORIANS, Dr John Wilson
- Mar. OLD OCCUPATIONS OF THE THAMES, Steve Capel-Davies
- Apr. No meeting (Easter week)
- May. THE WHITE HORSE, UFFINGTON PROJECT, Sharon Smith
- Jun. MORLANDS BREWERY - HISTORY & CLOSURE, Bruce Hedge
- Sep. THE RISE AND DECLINE OF WYCHWOOD FOREST, Charles Tyzack
- Oct. SWING RIOTS IN BERKSHIRE, Jill Chambers
- Nov. SOURCES & TOPICS FOR LOCAL HISTORY RESEARCH, Phil Morris
- Dec. Society Social Evening

2005

- Jan. CHARNEY BASSETT & ITS WATER MILL, Bruce Hedge
- Feb. AG.M. and THE BERKSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOC. Sue Matthews
- Mar. LOCAL NEWSPAPERS - SOURCES FOR LOCAL HISTORY, Ann Preston
- Apr. HISTORY OF ENGLAND'S LOCAL GOVERNMENT, Phil Morris
- May. Visit to Charney Bassett Mill, led by V.W. H. LA Group members
- Sep. WAYLANDS SMITHY, Clive Spinage
- Oct. CHAPELS AND LOCAL HISTORY, Kate Tiller
- Nov. WILTS & BERKS CANAL- PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE, Brian Stovold
- Dec. Society Social Evening

2006

- Feb. AG.M. and MRS HOWSE'S PHOTO ARCHIVE, Dr David Axford
- Mar. GRAVE MATTERS - WHAT ARE M.I'S? Phil Morris
- Apr. ENGLISH CIVIL WAR, S.E. COTSWOLDS, Dr John Paddock
- May. TURNPIKE ROADS, VALE OF WHITE HORSE, Alan Rosevear
- Jun. RECUSANTS IN THE VALE OF WHITE HORSE, Tony Hadland
- Oct. MILLING ON THE THAMES, Steve Capel-Davies
- Nov. GOD'S OWN ACRE - ST DENYS CHURCHYARD, Margaret Grant
- Dec. Society Social Evening

2007

- Jan. AERIAL SURVEYS & LAMBOURN DOWNS SURVEY, Sharon Bishop
- Feb. AG.M. & THE HOWSE PHOTO ARCHIVE II, Dr David Axford
- Mar. THE STORY OF VINE COTTAGE, John Steane
- Apr. MALTING IN ABINGDON, Bruce Hedge
- May. Walkabout in Denchworth, led by members of Denchworth Local Hist. Gp.
- Jun. THE ANGLO-SAXON CEMETERY, LECHLADE, Dr John Paddock
- Sep. THE HARWELL STORY(Part 1), Nick Hance
- Oct. BREWERIES AND PUBS OF THE ILSLEYS, Dr Sue Burnay
- Nov. DATING OLD PHOTOGRAPHS, Jean Debney
- Dec. Society Social Evening

2008

- Jan. THE PARISH OF ST THOMAS THE MARTYR, OXFORD, Liz Woolley
- Feb. AG.M.& MORE ABOUT STANFORD PHOTO ARCHIVE, Dr David Axford
- Mar. THE MEDIEVAL HOUSEHOLD, Dr Elizabeth Gemmill
- Apr. CHANTRIES & CHANGE IN THE C 14, Avis Lloyd
- May. THE HARWELL STORY (Part 2), Nick Hance
- Jun. WOMEN IN FARMING IN VICTORIAN TIMES, Dr Pamela Horn
- Sep. BERKSHIRE IRON AGE HILL FORTS, Andrew Hutt
- Oct. SEVENTEENTH CENTURY VILLAGE LIFE, Deborah Hayter
- Nov. THE GREENS OF STANFORD IN THE VALE, Dr David Axford
- Dec. Society Social Evening

2009

- Jan. FIVE MILLION POUNDS! THE RESTORATION OF LYDIARD PARK, Bruce Hedge
- Feb. A.G.M. & NATURAL HISTORY OF ST DENYS CHURCHYARD, Margaret Grant
- Mar. THE RIDGEWAY, PAST AND PRESENT USES, Ian Ritchie
- Apr. DANIEL HARRIS, OXFORD GAOLER, ARCHITECT, ETC., Mark Davies
- May. THE PARISH CHEST, Jean Debney
- Jun. MAPS & TERRIERS FOR RESEARCHING LAND OWNERSHIP, Dr Sue Burnay
- Sep. C16 & C17 ABINGDON PERSONALITIES, Manfred Brod
- Oct. THE TANNING INDUSTRY OF WANTAGE, John Parrot
- Nov. SOME ELIZABETHAN COPYHOLDERS OF STANFORD IN THE VALE, Dr David Axford
- Dec. Society Social Evening