

**Committee 2010**

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



**SitV and District Local History Society**

**Chairman’s Annual Report for 2010**

The Society membership has remained 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 as well as many guests.

**Meetings and Events**

During the past year, we held 9 indoor Meetings with Speakers (February, March, April, May, June, September, October, November and the December Christmas get together). The January 2010 meeting had to be cancelled due to the snow.

**Publications and Projects**

The Society produced 3 Newsletters in 2010 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 limited re-issue of Violet Howse’s booklet “Lyford; A Parish Record” was produced during the year for our records and for anyone interested. We have also assisted our Denchworth partners in producing a digital copy of Jasmine Howse’s 1967 book “Denchworth through the Centuries”, which will be available for those interested in 2011.

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. 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**

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 digital projector; a projector stand; an overhead projector; 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 John, Phil, and Lawrence 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](http://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.

## **ANNEX A to Chairman's Report 2010**

### **LIST of Stanford in the Vale Local History Society Projects in progress - 2010**

#### **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** No further work has been done in transcribing our district's **censuses**, from 1841 to 1901. These are all completed for Stanford, as are the 1861 censuses for Hatford and Shellingford. All other years and parishes are awaiting effort.

**LOCAL NEWSPAPERS** Further work has been done in transcribing and indexing references to our parishes in **local newspapers**, principally the Faringdon Advertiser after its establishment in 1862. This newspaper has more detailed and frequent references compared with the Reading Mercury, making progress by date a little slower, and in the past year the coverage for the Faringdon Advertiser has only risen from 4 to 26 months. Transcribing to computer format has been speeded up by the purchase of voice-input dictation software, but the whole process is inhibited by Oxford Local Studies' restrictions on photography and high costs for photocopying of their newspaper microfilms. Nevertheless a very useful history of our area is now being built up in these extracts.

**WILLS AND INVENTORIES** The indexing of the more than 1600 copies of West Berkshire wills and inventories belonging to the Berkshire Family History Society has been completed. They have agreed to our retaining the collection while we take copies of the 770 or so of interest to our society. Of these we have so far digitally scanned nearly 500; since many of these documents cover several pages, each larger than A4, there are many scans involved and 14 CDs have so far been filled. Hopefully the work will be completed in the next few months. In addition to the scanning, more than 100 have now been transcribed.

**BERKSHIRE TRADE AND STREET DIRECTORIES** There has been no further progress with collecting data on our district from **Berkshire trade and street directories**.

**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 risen in the last year from just under 7000 to more than 8200 entries.

**THE STANFORD IN THE VALE BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY** Information from the people database, from transcribed wills and elsewhere, continues to be added into the **Biographical Dictionary**. In the past year the number of entries has risen from 1060 to around 1270.

**NEED FOR VOLUNTEERS TO HELP** **If you have some spare time and would like to get involved in any of the above research topics, please contact Lawrence Ward. Help is always needed and would be most welcome.**

#### **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 are 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 (specific areas) contained within the four main fields. Consideration is being given to placing this work on a CD for the archives.

##### **Lyford – A Parish Record –**

This project has been completed and a few reprints are available from the Society.