

Stonehouse History Group

2008 - 2009

A meeting was held on 16th April 2008 to propose setting up a History group in Stonehouse. About 20 local residents attended and a small committee was nominated to set up the group.

Our first committee meeting was held on 23rd April 2008, which led to the Stonehouse History Group's first official meeting on 14th May 2008. At this meeting the committee was officially elected, the aims and rules of the group were agreed and suggestions made for future events. Jim Dickson's presentation on the World War II pillboxes around the Stonehouse area was the first in the varied and interesting range of events that the group organised during our first year.

The group has met in the Town Hall on the second Wednesday of every month at 7.30 pm. Meetings officially finish at 9 pm but members often find themselves discussing the talks and viewing old photographs until much later!

At the end of our first year we have 38 members and more waiting to join in May.

Committee members

Chair – John Peters

Vice-Chair – Kate Meyer

Secretary – Vicki Walker

Treasurers – Myra Peters and Carole Crisp

Committee – Jim Dickson, Shirley Dicker, Francis Wathan

Committee Meetings

The committee has met approximately once a month to develop the group's activities and organise the events.

- We have drawn up a list of Aims and Rules of the group.
- A bank account has been opened.
- The Group has acquired insurance for all its activities.
- We are members of the Local History Committee of the Gloucestershire Rural Community Council and have attended some of its meetings.
- A range of resources has been purchased using funds from the Town Council, the Stonehouse Partnership and grants from organisations including the Midcounties Co-operative. These include a ceiling-mounted projector and pull down screen in the Town Hall, a scanner for copying and saving old photographs, a digital recorder which we have used to record our speakers and hope to use for recording oral history, and resources for research.
- We are building up a collection of photographs of Stonehouse and hope to continue to develop this to include local history books.
- Information about the History Group has been added to the Stonehouse Partnership website. We intend to develop this further.
- Future meetings and events have been arranged for the Group.

Events of 2008 -2009

May 14th 2008. (27 people attended.)

First meeting.

Members signed up, the committee was elected, aims and rules agreed and suggestions put forward for future events.

Jim Dickson gave a presentation of photographs and information about the World War II pillboxes to be found in the area.

June 11th 2008 (20)

Don Gaunt. "Stonehouse then and now"

The committee reported back on the actions taken as a result of the first meeting.

The chairman introduced guest speaker Don Gaunt with his presentation of photographs of Stonehouse in 1997 and 2007. Don gave his comments on the changing face of Stonehouse and members added comments and questions. The presentation was enjoyed by all and it was hoped that Don would continue to record the features of Stonehouse in photographs for the future.

Members had brought interesting old photos and memorabilia to show.

July 13th 2008 (20)

Canal Walk

Joan Tucker, Archives Director of the Company of Proprietors of the Stroudwater Navigation and author of "*The Stroudwater Navigation*", took 20 members on a towpath walk along the Canal from Bond's Mill to Ryeford.

August 13th 2008 (20)

Stroud Industrial History Walk

The group met again on 13th August for an industrial history walk with Dr Ray Wilson of GSIA visiting sites of interest around Stroud including the railway station and canals.

September 10th 2008 (28)

Ann Taylor, Stroud Museum Learning Programmes Officer

Ann Taylor outlined her role at the Museum in the Park, Stroud, where she promotes the museum and its collections to schools and organises events and talks for all. She also has experience in Oral History about which she gave us some guidelines for starting a collection.

Special Interest Groups were set up.

Leaders of groups as below. Groups have met occasionally over the year and are due to report to the whole group in November 2009.

Oral History	Stonehouse Court and Church	Industries	People and social history	Town and buildings
Vicki Walker	Shirley Dicker	Francis Wathan	Kate Meyer	John Peters

October 8th (24)

Howard Beard “Stroud and its surroundings”

Howard Beard presented his collection of slides of “Stroud and its surroundings” Howard is the author of many books of local photographs including his latest book “*Stroud Through Time*” published in November 2008.

We requested members and guests to bring along old photographs of the local area and began to make a collection of these.

November 12th (36)

“The History of St Cyr’s Church” with June Sturm and Colin Wood

Colin and June brought a display of items connected with the church. June gave a very interesting talk about the history of the Church, using her research of the Church archives and bringing in her own memories as a member of the Church for many years. Colin assisted in answering the many questions from the audience.

December 10th (39)

Jenny Bailey “The Buildings of Stonehouse”.

Jenny Bailey of Stroud Civic Society gave a presentation on local buildings and the features to look for. This evening also included a social event with refreshments and a Christmas raffle. Members enjoyed seasonal refreshments.

January 14th. (32)

“Family History Introduction” by Jim Dickson and Shirley Dicker.

Jim and Shirley gave presentations on how they had researched their own family history with guidelines on the best way to approach this. Helpful advice on which sources of information to use was given. We have copies of the Powerpoint presentations available for anyone interested.

February 11th. (61)

Peter Griffin.”Local History of the Stanleys”

A record breaking crowd of 61 people just managed to fit into the Town Hall to view Peter Griffin’s slides and listen to his very knowledgeable outline of the history of the Stanleys from earliest times until the 20th century.

March 11th. (38)

Liz Godsell. Talk on “Cheese-making and Tasting”.

In March we had another enjoyable social evening tasting Liz’s delicious samples of cheeses from her farm. She explained how her cheeses are made and showed some examples of traditional cheese making methods.

April 8th (41)

Ian Mackintosh “400 years of Stroud Textiles”.

Ian explained both the methods of cloth making and the history of the industry in the Stroud Valleys with many interesting slides of mills and their equipment. He brought samples of the cloth in several manufacturing stages.

We are looking forward to a full programme of events for 2009 – 2010.