



Stonehouse History Group

Annual Report 2017 - 18



In May 2018 we celebrate the tenth anniversary of the formation of our group. Our membership is now 69 (up from 59) with 120 names on our contacts list. This year we have had 11 events, with an average attendance of 48, plus a visit to Woodchester Valley vineyard in Stonehouse and the GLHA Summer Afternoon in Tewkesbury.

Sadly, Darrell Webb, who was one of our committee members and website manager, died in November. In 2010, Darrell created the Stonehouse History Group's website www.stonehousehistorygroup.org.uk, and developed it for seven years during which he built up a huge collection of information and photographs which continues to attract visitors from all over the World. Darrell also designed the SHG logo which is now in use on all our publications.

We are in the process of creating a new website which will incorporate many of the existing pages. We hope that this will enable several volunteers to work on the site rather than just one manager. Meanwhile Vicki Walker is maintaining the existing site. Shirley Dicker has taken over the management of our Facebook site which generates many interesting comments and photographs.

Two more local history Information Boards were erected outside Park Schools and Wycliffe Chapel. We are grateful for the support of the Town Council and Wycliffe College in funding these. In our next phase we will erect a board by Burdett Road railway station, funded by the Webb family in memory of Darrell, and one in Laburnum Recreation Ground.

We are still interested in talking to people about their memories of Stonehouse. Several people have sent us written memories which we intend to include in future journals or on the website. We have also accompanied visitors to Stonehouse to see where their ancestors lived around the town.

We have continued with local walks and talks. We have taken one group of people (SP3) on a "Canal and Church" walk. Jim Dickson talked to Stroud Rotary Club and Stonehouse Mothers' Union on "Some History of the Canal at Stonehouse". Vicki Walker and Shirley Dicker visited Scarlet House and Stonehouse Pensioners' Club with more of our collection of old photographs.

We have now finished scanning hundreds of photographic negatives which we were given by the Gloucestershire Gazette. Thanks to Shirley Dicker and Judith Matthews for their considerable efforts on this. We have already given several presentations of some of the photos.

Our latest display for the GLHA Local History Day is on the topic of "Stonehouse Between the wars: 1919 – 1939". It was judged 2nd best display in the GLHA competition. This display will be on show at the AGM, and, following that, in Stonehouse Library.

Our journals and calendars continue to sell well. We have printed copies of Journal Issues 2 - 7 available and Issues 1-5 can be viewed on the website. Due to other priorities we have had to postpone the publication of Journal Issue 8 until 2019.

We have built our bank balance back up to a healthy amount through continued sales of the calendar and journals, raffles at our meetings and fees for our walks and talks.

Committee, May 2017 - April 2018

Chair - Jim Dickson

Vice-Chair - Shirley Dicker

Secretary - Vicki Walker

Treasurer - Andrew Walker

Committee - Valerie Blick, David Bowker-Praed, Jane Gulliford, Darrell Webb, Colin Wood.

Journal and displays working group – Janet Hudson

Stonehouse History Group

Events 2017 – 2018 (attendance in brackets)

May 10th (53)

AGM and Show and Tell featuring - **David Montgomery** - *"Metal detecting on Doverow Hill"*, **Pamela Tawse** - *"Surrey farmers Support the Crimean War Effort"*, **Jan Dyer** - *"Antique doll associated with Great Eastern Steamship"*, **Cresby Brown** - *"House and business names in Stonehouse"*, **Terry Fulton** - *"An heirloom and its problems (an old newspaper)"*, **Colin Wood** - *"Memories of Stonehouse"*.

June 14th (40)

Mary Greensted - "Nature, Gardens and the Cotswold Arts & Crafts Movement"

July 12th (47)

John Greene from Gloucester Film Makers – a variety of home movies of the local area.

August 9th (29)

Evening visit to Stonehouse vineyard including wine tasting.

Sept 13th (52)

Jim Dickson - "Some history of the Stroudwater Canal around Stonehouse".

Oct 11th (54)

Bob Lusty - "Me, music and entertainment: 1970s and 1980s".

Nov 8th (41)

Pete Evans – "A lad with a camera: The last of British Rail steam". Original photographs of local railways during the 1960s.

Dec 13th (45)

Cherry Hubbard - "Tudor Christmas." Examples of the customs and food of Tudor times. Followed by refreshments.

Jan 10th (55)

Vicki Walker and Shirley Dicker - "Stonehouse in old photographs". New selection of photographs from the Gloucester Gazette.

Feb 14th (43)

Jennifer Tann – "Woolly Tales of the Severn Vale; the woollen industry from Stroud to Severn."

March 14th (63)

Show and Tell featuring **Steve Lacey** – *"My father: an unassuming Yorkshireman"*, **Jan Dyer** – *"WW1 Sweetheart Cushions"*, **Stephen Mills** – *"J.P. Moore: Architect and Surveyor of Gloucester"*, **Janet Hudson** – *"Archery"*, **Jim Dickson** - *"In amongst the icebergs"*, **Colin Wood** – *"Tales of Stonehouse Court"*.

April 11th (40)

Ian Margeson - "Abraham Lincoln: from frontier boy to greatest American President?"

Average attendance = 48