

Stonehouse History Group

Annual Report 2011 - 12

The group has continued to flourish, maintaining a steady membership of 46, with 93 names on our contacts list. This year we have had 10 events, with an average attendance of 43, plus 4 outside visits during the summer. We have met on the second Wednesday of every month at 7.30 pm in the Town Hall.

The excellent Stonehouse History Group website, www.stonehousehistorygroup.org.uk has been maintained and developed by Darrell Webb. It gives details about the activities of the group, as well as a wealth of information about the history of Stonehouse. We have received communications from a variety of people with questions about Stonehouse history as well as photographs and information to contribute. The website is well-used with an average of 20 visits per day, from visitors in at least 20 different countries!

We have continued to interview local residents about their memories of Stonehouse. Shirley Dicker, Jim Dickson, and Vicki Walker have interviewed:

Chris Hemming (Woolpack), Barry Reynolds and Wendy Gabb (Spa Inn and Globe Inn), Mary Webb (Brewer's Arms and Globe Inn), Erwin Gerlach (World War 2), Margaret Taylor (World War 2), Tom Round-Smith (World War 2), Terry Jefferies (Young and Wolf Button Factory).

Shirley Dicker and Vicki Walker have continued to visit groups to show the presentation of High Street photographs old and new. Talks have been given to Stroud Local History Society, Stonehouse Probus Club, Stroud U3A Oral History Group and Nailsworth Local History Research Group. They have also visited Wycliffe College (Year 10) and Park Junior School to give presentations on the History of Stonehouse.

We worked on the series of walks leaflets with Stonehouse Community Partnership and, in June, we did our first guided history walk for Stroud Local History Society. This began at the Crown and Anchor, continued down past the Berryfield to the Canal and Church, through Bridgend and back to the Town Hall for tea and cakes. We are grateful to Colin Wood for opening the church tower for us. We also led a walk down the High Street in September – as part of the High Street Festival - and had a display at the Summer Jolly in July.

We have continued to collect photographs of Stonehouse, many of which have been uploaded to the website. We decided to use some of these to create a set of table mats and coasters for sale. These have sold well making the Group a small profit. We still have some mats in stock and more may be ordered. We also published a 2012 calendar, selling all 100 copies. We intend to produce a new calendar for 2013.

Our main achievement this year was to create a display on World War Two in Stonehouse for the Gloucestershire Rural Community Council's Local History Afternoon on October 1st. The committee used the information and photographs acquired from our research to create 6 display screens. The work we did on this led us to decide to make WW2 the main theme for our first Stonehouse History Group Journal in which this report is published.

We have a healthy bank balance, benefiting from members' generous contributions to monthly fund raising raffles. This money goes towards paying for the speakers and the hire of the premises.

We are grateful to the Midcounties Co-operative for giving us a grant towards the purchase of a new laptop which we use for our presentations and the storage of photographs.

Committee May 2011 – April 2012

Chair – John Peters

Vice-Chair – Linda Greenway

Secretary – Vicki Walker

Treasurer – Carole Crisp

Committee – Valerie Blick, David Boaker-Praed, Shirley Dicker, Jim Dickson, Ken Greenway, Darrell Webb, Colin Wood

Stonehouse History Group

Events 2011 – 12 (Number attending in brackets)

May 11th 2011

Annual General Meeting (36)

Members' reports: Jim Dickson on Hoffmann's Shadow Factory, Janet Hudson update on Stonehouse research: 'A possible assembly site for Blacklow Hundred', Darrell Webb on the Stonehouse History Group website, Vicki Walker and Shirley Dicker on Pubs of Stonehouse.

June 8th 2011

Tony Burton - Levelling along the canals and rivers (47)

June 25th 2011

Steve Mills - Walk down the canal to Eastington (12)

July 2nd 1.30 pm

GRCC afternoon at Fairford (12)

July 20th 2011

Visit to Frocester Court with Arthur Price. (25)

August 10th 2011

Nailsworth local history walk with Nick Peters. (21)

Sept 14th 2011

Ted Currier - The aircraft industry of Gloucestershire (49)

October 12th 2011

Dr Simon Draper – Victoria County History and Writing a Parish History (43)

November 9th 2011

Frank Smith - History of Wycliffe College (46)

December 14th 2011

Alec Hamilton – Friends of Friendless Churches and Christmas social (44)

January 11th 2012

Gwilym Davies - Traditional Carols and Wassails (36)

February 8th 2012

Virginia Adsett - Children's Hour (37)

March 14th 2012

Carolyn Heighway – Anglo-Saxon Gloucestershire (48)

April 11th 2012

Bruce Hall - The Cotswold Canals: a History and the Restoration Project. (48)



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