

# Stonehouse History Group

## Annual Report 2012 - 13

In May 2013 we celebrate the fifth anniversary of the inauguration of our group. We have increased our membership from 46 to 54 with 105 names on our contacts list. This year we have had 11 events, with an average attendance of 48, plus a visit to Byford's Farm during the summer.

Our first two Journals have been successful. We sold out of our initial run of 250 copies of Issue 1 and have ordered extra, now available. Issue 2 is also selling well, with our third issue out now. We have donated copies to the Gloucestershire Archives and Stonehouse Library. In future, Journals will be produced annually in May. Our second calendar, featuring photographs of Stonehouse in the past, also proved popular.

In October, the unveiling of our first information board was an exciting event. The board was sponsored by Valerie Blick who also provided us with photographs and information about the opening of the Post Office building in 1933. The board, which is now on permanent display on a wall of the Town Hall, has attracted many favourable comments. We hope to produce further boards in the future.

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

Terry Jefferies (Young and Wolf), Tom Round-Smith (World War Two), Betty Powell (Standish Hospital), Colin Wood (Young and Wolf, Stonehouse Court), Betty Baker (Parish Council), Bert Carter (Railway signalboxman), Eric Clark (Telephone Exchange), Ernest Weaver (WW2 evacuee), Robert Jefferies (Jefferies Brickworks), Martin Morris (Crown and Anchor), Barbara Dipple (Crown and Anchor), John West (Little Australia).

The Stonehouse History Group website, [www.stonehousehistorygroup.org.uk](http://www.stonehousehistorygroup.org.uk), is maintained and developed by Darrell Webb. It has been successful in prompting residents (past and present) to get in touch, and to communicate their memories to us and sometimes to provide photographs. We have been successful in answering many questions about the history of Stonehouse. We are particularly grateful to Janet Hudson for her valuable help in dealing with these questions.



Shirley Dicker and Vicki Walker gave their presentation of High Street photographs old and new to Stroud U3A group. Vicki Walker has worked with Park Junior School to develop the children's knowledge of the history of their town. We have assisted with projects on World War Two and the Victorians, including local walks.

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.

### **Committee, May 2012 – April 2013**

Chair – John Peters; Vice-Chair – Shirley Dicker;

Secretary – Vicki Walker; Treasurer – Carole Crisp

Committee – Valerie Blick, David Bowker-Praed, Jim Dickson, Darrell Webb, Colin Wood

## **Stonehouse History Group**

### **Events 2012 – 13 (number attending in brackets)**

#### **May 2nd 2012 (45)**

Annual General meeting.

Presentations by members

Jim Dickson -The Kemmett Canal

Darrell Webb -Stonehouse History Group Website

Followed by refreshments

#### **June 13th (76)**

Colin Maggs – Railways of the Stonehouse area

#### **July 11th (40)**

Pamela Tawse - Gloucestershire Voluntary Aid Detachments in the First World War, including Stroud, Nailsworth and Standish.

#### **August 26th (26)**

Visit to Eric Freeman's farm at Taynton

#### **September 12th (58)**

Dr Nicholas Herbert – Road Travel and Transport in Georgian Gloucestershire

#### **October 10th (42)**

John Heathcott (a Cotswold Warden and a member of the Woodland Trust) - Ancient Woodland in Gloucestershire

#### **November 14th (52)**

John Putley - Stand and Deliver– a much admir'd treatise on highway robbery and the dashing highwaymen of Gloucestershire.

#### **December 12th (37)**

Patrick Furley – Christmas magic lantern show

#### **January 9th 2013 (57)**

Vicki Walker and Shirley Dicker – The Pubs of Stonehouse

#### **February 13th (33)**

David Harrison - Naughty Samuel Pepys

#### **March 13th 2013 (48)**

Ray Wilson – The Industrial Heritage of the Cotswolds

#### **April 10th (47)**

Steve Hill – Roman Gloucestershire