



Stonehouse History Group
Annual Report 2018 - 19



During our eleventh year, our membership has increased slightly from 69 to 71. With new regulations concerning use of data, we contacted everyone on our mailing list to confirm their consent. During the year we had 11 events, with an average attendance of 48, plus a visit to the GLHA Summer Afternoon in Cirencester. The outstanding event of the year was a performance of the play "*Tommy Atkins and the Canary Girl*" which attracted an audience of 100.

Much of our time has been spent in creating a new website using Wordpress. This enables several editors to work on the site to update it and add new pages. We have uploaded all our journals and displays and hope to add more information over the coming year. Thanks to members of the working party for their ideas and input.

Shirley Dicker has continued to manage our Facebook site which generates many interesting comments and photographs. We have been able to show some of the photographs from the Gloucestershire Gazette. These have prompted comments from people who recognise themselves from several decades ago!

Two more local history Information Boards have been erected: one outside Burdett Road railway station by Upper Queen's Road and the other in Laburnum Recreation Field near the Community Centre. The railway board was sponsored by the Webb family in memory of Darrell. We are also grateful for the support of the Midcounties Co-operative and the Town Council in contributing to funding, and to the Council's groundsmen who erected the boards for us.

Jim Dickson has ensured that the milestone on Bristol Road has been re-erected close to its original position. SHG are hoping to replace the original plaque, giving the distance to Stroud, which has been missing for some time.

We have continued to give local walks and talks. We took one group of people (SP3) on a "High Street" walk. Vicki Walker and Jim Dickson visited Year 9 classes at Maidenhill School to talk about how the First World War affected the people of Stonehouse. We appreciate such opportunities to help young people to learn about the history of our town and hope to continue this link with the school.

We have joined with other local history groups in the Stroud area in creating a display at Stroud Museum on the effects of the First World War in our area. This concentrated on the Home Front rather than the stories of the soldiers which were researched during 2014.

We have continued with research into different aspects of our town's history. Thanks to Philip and Alex Walmsley for donating documents and photographs from Jack Anderson's collection. These are an excellent addition to our records of the Town. In due course we will deposit the collection at Gloucestershire Archives where it can be preserved for future research.

We are pleased to publish Issue 8 of the SHG Journal in May 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 walks and talks that we have given.

Committee, May 2018 - April 2019

Chair - Jim Dickson

Vice-Chair and Facebook manager - Shirley Dicker

Secretary and Website manager - Vicki Walker

Treasurer - Andrew Walker

Committee - David Bowker-Praed, Jane Gulliford, Janet Hudson, Richard White, Colin Wood.

Website working group – Cresby Brown

Stonehouse History Group
Events 2018 - 2019 (attendance in brackets)

May 9th (47)

AGM and Ten Year Review including “*Achievements and past events of SHG*” (**Vicki Walker**), “*Changes in Stonehouse over the past 10 years*” (**Jim Dickson**) and “*What History Group means to me*” (**Shirley Dicker**). We celebrated our ten year anniversary with an exhibition of some of our displays, plus refreshments.

June 13th (40)

Rich White - “*The Birth of Radio - The experimental years before the BBC*”.

July 11th (42)

Richard Lacey – “*Marling & Evans - personal memories of growing up in a mill community*”. Richard showed us many of his photographs of Stanley Mill, Ryeford and the surrounding area, along with stories from his youth.

Sept 12th (60)

Ray Wilson - “*Stroud’s other industries*”.

Ray showed us a selection of photographs outlining the many industries (other than cloth) along the Stroud Valleys.

Oct 10th (55)

Richard Kelsey and Dave Lamb - “*The Severn from the air - the last 80 miles*”.

Rich and Dave showed us their aerial photographs of landmarks along the River Severn including the bridges.

Nov 14th (100)

Spaniel in the Works - “*Tommy Atkins and the Canary Girl*”. (WW1 play)

A brilliant play based on the lives of a local family affected by the War - either as a soldier or working in a munitions factory.

Dec 12th (49)

John Putley - “*Medieval Pets*”.

Archivist John used historic illustrations to show us how people kept pets in the past.

January 9th (50)

Show and Tell.

Bob Lusty - “*Down at Mill: working at Marling and Evans 1959-1962*”.

Eric Winder - “*The Crossbow in Medieval Times*”.

Stephen Hawksworth - “*Fergus O’Connor’s Loyal Followers - A Century of Chartist Life in Gloucestershire*”.

Cresby Brown - “*Local Ordnance Survey Benchmarks*”.

Vicki Walker - “*William Pile & Co. Saddler*”.

February 13th (55)

Lois Francis and Jane Bethell - “*Trials & Triumphs: stories from the Stroudwater Canal Archives*”.

March 13th (38)

Tony Conder - “*Royal Gloucester*”.

April 10th (47)

Howard Beard - “*People of the Stroud Valleys in old photographs*”.