



Stonehouse History Group
Annual Report May 2021 – April 2022



The corona virus pandemic was still affecting our meetings during 2021-22. The first three meetings of the year were held via Zoom, with attendances averaging around 40 people. The Annual Report and Accounts were sent by email and the committee and officers were elected at a Special Meeting on September 8th. In October 2021 we welcomed Kate Quarry on to the committee as a co-opted member.

From September to December we met at Park Junior School with an average attendance of 38 but in January reverted to Zoom once again. The last three meetings were held at Park with increasing numbers, so we hope that we shall see attendances return to our normal average of around 48 during 2022. Our membership is the highest yet at 77 paid up members with another 30 on our mailing list.

We were sad to lose several of our most enthusiastic members: Bob Lusty, Jane Gulliford and Richard White. They all made valuable contributions to the Group by giving talks, researching and writing articles and giving practical help with events and projects. They will be much missed.

Despite the difficulties, we have continued to work on our community projects. The 18th century milestone on Bristol Road has been re-erected and the new cast iron plate has been painted and fixed to the stone by Rich White and Jim Dickson. We have plans to restore the milestone near the High Street Medical Centre and the plate has been repainted by Paul Dicker. We took part in the Stonehouse Walking Festival offering three history walks. We have also visited Moreton Hill Care Centre to give two of our presentations.

The Information Board on the history of the schools has been placed by Church Way between the entrances to the Park Schools. We intend to create another board on the history of Blick's Builders, sponsored by Valerie Blick, to be placed in Queen's Road.

Shirley Dicker has continued to manage our Facebook site which generates many interesting comments and photographs. We have added information to the website and hope to continue to add more as time allows. We have done our best to answer a variety of enquiries about different aspects of Stonehouse history.

We are grateful for the donation of old Stonehouse photographs to add to our extensive collection. Thanks to Rick Jordan for Stonehouse in 2017, Maureen Arthur for the Brushworks at Upper Mills, David Thomas (via Gill Callinan) for Stonehouse in the 1960s, Diane King for dance photos, Park Junior School for school photos and James Tawse for Burdett Road Station before the old buildings were demolished. Paul Wellings, site manager at the recently closed SKF bearings factory, took some of the committee on a tour of the former Hoffmann's buildings before they were sold in February, and allowed us to scan some old documents relating to Hoffmann's.

Our 2022 calendar, containing historic photographs re-coloured by Rich White, sold all 200 copies. Our Journal Issue 10 is in preparation and we hope to publish it in the autumn of 2022.

Our bank balance has dropped slightly due to not collecting fees for Zoom meetings or being able to conduct raffles. Journal sales have also been restricted due to lack of opportunities. We hope to make good these losses as things return to normal.

Thanks to Simon Lewis for auditing the SHG accounts.

Committee, May 2021 - April 2022

Chair - Jim Dickson

Vice-Chair and Facebook manager - Shirley Dicker

Secretary and Website manager - Vicki Walker

Treasurer - Andrew Walker

Committee - David Bowker-Praed, Linda Collazo, Janet Hudson, Richard White

Jane Gulliford to June 2021. Kate Quarry from October 2021

Stonehouse History Group
Events 2021-22 (attendance in brackets)

Zoom meetings

Thursday May 13th (approx 50)

Philip Wilkinson - *High Street histories*

An illustrated story of the development of English High Street shops.

Wednesday June 9th (approx 40)

Marion Hearfield - *The history of Stroud Brewery*

The story of the brewery from when it started in 1760 at Lippiatt to when it was closed in the 1960s.

Wednesday July 14th (approx 35)

Rich White - *From monochrome to colour: historic Stonehouse photos re-coloured.*

Plus Quiz

Park Junior School Hall

Wednesday September 8th (37)

A short AGM to elect officers and committee followed by –

Kim Baker and her father Robert (Bruce) Baker - *Happy Land.*

Wednesday October 13th (44)

Stuart Butler - *The Radical History of Stroud and the Five Valleys*

Stuart talked about the Radical History of Stroud and the Five Valleys with an emphasis on the 18th and 19th centuries.

Wednesday November 10th (50)

Martin Bryan from Stroudwater Navigation Archive Charity

Building the Stroudwater Canal (Stonehouse area) between 1774 and 1779

Including the new Stroudwater History website

November 24th **via Zoom (approx 40)**

Sarah Walmsley

“She really is terrific” – A transatlantic crossing aboard RMS Queen Elizabeth

A talk based on the diary of Sarah’s grandmother Jocelyn Walmsley, written in 1950.

Jocelyn (nee Willcox) was brought up in Stonehouse and later married local historian Philip Walmsley, who was, until recently, a member of our group.

December 8th (21)

Virginia & David Adsett - *Those were the days: The Fighting Forties.*

Virginia and David brought their collection of household objects, toys, accessories and costume from the 1940s and talked about life in those times. Followed by Christmas refreshments.

January 12th **via Zoom (approx 55)**

John Parker – *Trees in Mythology and Culture*

February 9th (36)

Show and Tell

Roy Edwards – *The Nuremberg Chronicle 1493*, Alex Walmsley – *1950s Stonehouse Guide*,

Janet Hudson – *Life with a Pitchfork*, Jim Dickson – *Slide rule: a redundant device*,

Cresby Brown – *Stone stiles of Gloucestershire and mapping them*

March 9th (36)

Philip Taubenheim - *Life of a country auctioneer*

Members brought along some of their antiques and collectables for Philip to talk about and value.

April 13th (45)

Malcolm Watkins – *Boil a mouse in urine*

A humorous look at childcare in the 16th and 17th centuries.