

Alveley Historical Society

Minutes of the meeting held on 20th April 2017

Present: Bill Scriven, Stuart Hunt, Barbara Spragg, Carol Wall, Keith & Pam Stanton, Jonathan Fenzell

Apologies: John Wall, Margaret Clayton, Andrea Edwards, Richard Crowe

Minutes of Last Meeting

These were agreed as a true record.

Matters Arising.

Maps: As Richard was not at the meeting we could not show Jonathan any of the maps he wished to see. These will probably be available at the next meeting.

Finance

Stuart said that he had been told that it was the job of the treasurer to apply to the various bodies offering grants. He noticed that the deadline for the Howard Thompson Bequest and the Whittle Meadows Trust was the middle of May. As we have no immediate projects on hand and have been the recipients of their generosity on many occasions should we not apply this time? The meeting agreed that as we have no pressing expenses not to apply this time. We were refused the last grant application as the Trust Funds were lower and they had had more requests than usual.

Projects

Carol and Pam reported that they have had a good meeting with Betty Painter and have acquired a lot of information of her early life. The next phase should be more about her life in Alveley. Jim Smith was mentioned as another possible person to interview and Bill said he would approach him as he knew him well.

Web-Site

Keith reported that Chris Noble and Richard Crow have discussed this and Richard has agreed to try and take it on. As the renewal date is imminent Keith will check if Chris is willing to do this for us and if he will to get Stuart to take him the necessary cheque once we know how much it will be this year.

Facebook

Bill has approached Margaret Sheridan with the idea of amalgamating our Facebook with hers and she has agreed. Keith will put a header on our account to say it is no longer active and to refer to Alveley Family History page.

Margaret has asked if anyone can remember the Sargant family from the village. Stuart can remember a Roy Sargant from about 20 years ago when he went to the school in Stourbridge where Stuart was working to give a talk. He thinks the talk was about Health and Safety in the Workplace. As he mentioned working in a mine he assumed that he had worked in the Alveley mine. Bill also remembered Roy and confirmed that he had worked down the pit.

Margaret had e-mailed Pam to ask if a notice could be put near the Lytch gate at the Church telling people of the existence of the Historical Society and that records of those buried in the graveyard may be available. She suggested that contact phone numbers be put on the notice. Pam said she would ask Neil Dunlop or Michael York and arrange this if given the go ahead. Stuart and Bill offered their phone numbers and it was suggested that Margaret's e-mail address be included.

This triggered a discussion on how best to answer queries, including those from the web-site. At the moment Chris is still sending out generic e-mails on requests for information and as several people could answer, with maybe different information, a better way needs to be thought about. Keith suggested a question and answer page on the web-site where common questions can find a previous answer. From this came the idea of a forum and Keith said he would mention this to Richard if he takes on the web – site.

Events

John Bailey's Collection

Pam explained that a group of people calling themselves "Friends of the Parish" had arranged a mail-shot of envelopes for a collection for John who retires at the end of May after over twenty years of running the Post Office. The problem was that as these people were not an official organisation of the village they have no bank account so could not write a cheque for the amount collected. She asked if the Historical Society would bank the cash collected and write a cheque for that amount to be presented to John, It was agreed.

During this discussion the death of Dennis Shaw was mentioned and it was felt that, after all the help he gave us in initially planting the Chapel Memorial Garden, we should send Margaret a card of condolences. Pam said she would do this.

Any other Business

Stuart has had an e-mail from Andrea asking for the money we hold which was granted to the Mining heritage Project. Stuart gave a run-down of her income and expenditure and told us that she has £260.76 left with us after spending £290.64. Keith asked who is the cheque to be made payable to? Stuart replied that he was waiting for her to shorten the name officially with the bank as the name was too long to go on the cheque!

After we have paid this money out to Andrea the Society has £821 left in its account.

Meeting closed at 9.00pm. There will be no meeting in May but Stuart and Bill will liaise when necessary.

Next meeting: Thursday 15th June at 7pm at the Old Chapel