

## **Alveley Historical Society**

Minutes of the meeting held on : 21.1 2016

**Present:** Tim White, Bill Scriven, Stuart Hunt, Barbara Spragg, Margaret Clayton, Andrea Edwards, David Preece, Gerry Scriven, Carol and John Wall, Maurice & Eileen Knott

**Apologies;** Bill Picton, Brian Armstrong, Ralph Dunham

Tim opened the meeting by welcoming the visitors and said that he hoped they would enjoy the meeting.

He then told the meeting that Brian Armstrong had been in hospital since the end of November and was still unable to swallow or breather unaided. The members expressed their concern and asked that their good wishes be sent to Brian.

### **Storage Facilities**

The making of the cupboards will stay on hold until Brian has recovered and can advise us again on sizes of shelving/drawers required for our documents. Tim explained to the visitors that we have some documents which need special storage facilities but that some of our oldest maps/deeds etc are held at Shrewsbury Archives.

### **The Nautical William Display**

Andrea thanked everyone for their help on the day and reported that it had been a very successful day. She especially wanted it to be noted that the Chapel staff had worked really hard and she had thanked them on the day. Keith Beddows, who put on the display had been sent a thankyou letter Pam said. Keith is well known to the society and has given talks to us in the past. He was a founder member of the SVR.

### **Society Logo**

The members felt that it is becoming more important that we get our logos uniform across letter headings, facebook and the web-site.

Pam to ring Debbie Parker to see if she still has a copy of the original Buttercross log the we used for years. Debbie did the original drawing.

## **Artefacts Day – 28<sup>th</sup> Jan 2016**

The Chapel has offered one large table on which artefacts can be displayed for this day next week. Andrea has already been promised enough artefacts to fill this and had asked those who are putting things on display to write a short synopsis explaining their connection to Alveley. She requested that a thankyou letter be sent to Stinkyink for their help with printing fliers.

## **Oral History**

Margaret and Barbara are continuing their project of allocating families to houses as they were in their young days in the village.

## **Weighbridge**

Andrea explained her project to the visitors, that she had been dealing with the Council to discover what we would be allowed to do with the site. The building has been tidied, cleaned and painted and the footplate has cleaned and tidied up. Photographic evidence of this work has been made and measurements recorded.

To get to the old miner's baths it is necessary to cross a car park belonging to one of the industrial units to get to this building. It is derelict and unsafe so she was not able to gain access.

If the society wishes to continue with this project we need to raise funds or get sponsorship. The feeling of the membership was that we have done as much as we are able without funding. As we have never been a Society to raise funds for such projects it was felt that it should be left for any interested party to find sponsorship for this.

## **Facebook and Website pages**

Tim expressed his concerns that photographs are again being put on to Margaret Sheriden's Alveley Family History Page on Facebook and that we are not keeping a record of these. The problem with all Facebook pages is that the photos disappear after a while. Bill said he has been putting photos on Margaret's page – to get feed back from people who can recognise faces that he doesn't know and that this works very well. The response has always been good. Tim accepts that this is useful but only if we also have the photos stored for ourselves either on our website or on cd's or memory sticks. Bill assured the meeting that all the photos he has put on Facebook are backed up on cd's and that until Brian was ill he was giving him copies of these to put on our website.

### **The Miner's Reunion**

It was decided that instead of a 'reunion' as there are not many of the old miners left in the village now that we put on another small display in the Chapel about the Alveley Mine.

Some members expressed concern that we are moving away from the ancient history of the village to focus on family history and that we need to find a balance again. The village has a rich history dating back many centuries and this may be of more interest to people living here now – to see how the village has evolved through the ages.

### **Conservation Area**

Keith expressed his concern about the possible future development of the village. He wondered if the members were aware that places like the Chapel, Townsend and Townsend Cottage are not in the Conservation Area. It was also questioned whether the stables at the Bell were in the Conservation Area, as these have recently been sold for development. Nobody knew the answer to this. Keith agreed to find out the extent of the Conservation Area and the number of listed buildings.

### **Display Cabinet for the Ceramic Poppy**

Bill said that his was in hand but that it had been too cold to work in his workshop during the winter.

### **Chapel Garden**

Bill said he has not given up on the possibility of getting the Mill Stone that we wanted for the Chapel Garden. He assured the meeting that he will try again soon.

### **Old Documents**

Stuart told the meeting that Alan Nicholls had rung him about James Thompson selling documents relating to Alveley. Bill Scriven remembers the Thompsons taking a large trunk of documents from the church many years ago. Perhaps these are the documents he is selling. Bill said he would try to contact James Thompson.

Meeting closed 9.15pm Next meeting Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February  
7pm