

Stockcross & Surroundings History Association
Chairman's Report 2018

Our small group has had a busy year.

We enjoyed six talks:

The History of Newbury Pubs

The History of Greenham Common

The Kennet Valley at War (WW2)

Rocking the Box (Pop Music on TV 1950s-2000)

The Vicars of Stockcross

Forgotten Newbury

In June some members enjoyed a tour of Avington Church, a good example of Norman influence and a follow up to David Peacock's talk in 2017.

Also in June S&SHA hosted the AGM of the West Berkshire Heritage Forum, an umbrella group supporting local history. This gave us a chance to demonstrate our oral history project to the other local history societies present and to hear what they had been up to.

In November we staged an open day at St John's Church to commemorate 100 years since the end of WW1. We could have done with a few more visitors but those who came were very enthusiastic. Thanks to all who helped before and on the day.

Away from the meetings special thanks to:

- Jane Batt and Carole Throup who are continuing with the oral history project. The next step is to make some of the recordings available to a wider public.

- Irene Hanbury who completed research of the Sutton Estate rent book from 1919 and also the various club records discovered in the church vestry. She has made her work available on the members' area of our website. Irene as secretary also keeps the minutes of meetings and regularly writes a review of our events for the website.

- All those members who spent time listing and filing the ephemera now safely stored away in archive boxes and held with our other items in the village hall. What we do next with it all is up for discussion 2019.

- I completed the recording and listing of the photographs held by SASHA. A list of what we hold is available on the member's area of the website. I also added to the website my research of the vicarage and the vicars.

In an attempt to attract more members from a wider area I have set up an online shop where anyone can buy our book and an annual subscription to the S&SHA. Already we have a new member from New Zealand.

I had planned to leave the group during the year to go home to Cornwall but as things panned out I was not able to move and so I am happy to be able to continue to participate in S&SHA for the foreseeable future. Thank you to all those who agreed to take on some of the jobs involved in running the group for 2019.

Viv Wilson
28 Jan 2019