

Stockcross & Surroundings History Association

Chairman's Report 2019

We are a small but friendly group and our regular meetings are always enjoyable.

Thank you to Margaret who organised the speakers throughout the year. Topics covered were:

Victorian Newbury: Newbury and Thatcham – a Duel: The Boxford Mosaic: The AA in the Lambourn Valley. We did have a few guests at each talk which was encouraging.

In April we enjoyed an evening visit to The Kennet Valley at War Museum at Littlecote House.

We also invested in some historic maps of our area for reference.

Projects

Oral History: Throughout the year Jane and Carole recorded more memories of the area from willing volunteers. In August we took the opportunity to let a wider audience listen to extracts relating to schooldays via a slide show and exhibition at the church. It was well received.

To make future extracts more accessible SASHA now has a YouTube channel where we can upload our efforts so that anyone with access to YouTube can view them. I am also working on uploading to our website.

House History: Margaret made a great start with this and had a good percentage of responses from her initial questionnaire. How we proceed with this in 2020 is up for discussion. Meanwhile I have been researching the history of Bayford House and Jackie has been trying to find out more about a large house called The Firs that used to stand in Furze Hill.

Society records: All the photographs and ephemera have now been scanned to a digital record held on the SASHA laptop. This means we can send copies of what we hold by email on request. At the moment this service is only available to members. Lists of what we hold can be accessed via the member's area of the website.

Website & Facebook: This is how we can reach more people and let them know more about what we do. Irene and I have been liaising with Steve who hosts our website to make improvements. Help with this is welcome if any members would like to learn more and lend a hand.

Thankyou:

To Irene for her continued work as Secretary keeping minutes and writing blogs for the website. Also her work with transcribing records and support in maintaining the website

To Jackie our Treasurer for looking after the money and helping with research.

To Jane for posters and adverts. Also for co coordinating the oral history project. This involves encouraging participants and agreeing dates to suit everyone, entertaining them at her home, preparing for the interviews, leading the interviews, transcribing the recordings and any follow up as required.

To Carole for her expertise in recording the oral histories.

To Margaret for organising speakers and researching the houses.

To all members for coming along and supporting SASHA in 2019. The purpose of this group is to keep an interest in our local history. Any research undertaken is voluntary and not a condition of membership. We welcome new members so spread the word and let's look forward to another successful year in 2020.

Viv Wilson

Chair