

MINUTES OF THE STONELEIGH HISTORY SOCIETY AGM HELD ON 27 MARCH 2018

Welcome: Sheila Woolf welcomed everyone to the 7th AGM of the SHS. 26 members of the Stoneleigh History Society attended.

Apologies: Margaret and Ken Wallis, Anthony Bianco, Mel Dearing, David Brooks, Roger Court, Clive and Gill Watson, Susie Thompson, Nora Blagburn, Clare Harvey-Smith, Avril Newey and Shirley Ball

Minutes of the AGM held on 28 March 2017: These were accepted as a correct record

Matters arising from the Minutes: None.

Chairman's Report: This had been circulated previously by Margaret Wallis for which she was thanked by Sheila; Lisa Reay was also thanked for agreeing to take this year's minutes in Margaret's absence.

As the Report had been available for members to read, Sheila did not go through it; acceptance of the Report was proposed by Nat Alcock and seconded by Pete James. No one was against and there were no abstentions.

Treasurer's Report and Accounts:

A detailed Report and Accounts had been circulated to all members before the meeting. The end of year balance was £1121.43 which included a profit of £239.14. The finances showed a healthy income, and £60 was raised from the raffle held at the Christmas social, which was sheer profit due to the prizes being donated by the Committee. The Treasurer, Sue Crofts, highlighted that next year the membership fee may increase slightly due to increased costs of hiring the village hall and now paying annually for public liability insurance.

Acceptance of the Treasurer's report was proposed by David Vaughan and seconded by Sarah Ballinger. No one was against and there were no abstentions.

Any Other Business

- i) Sheila recommended Pete James' talk "The Development of Earlsdon Avenues". This will take place at 7.30pm on Friday 27 April at St Barbara's Church Hall, Earlsdon, and is in aid of the Earlsdon Research Group, who want to set up a website. Sheila will also be giving a series of talks at Stoneleigh Abbey on the last Monday of each month until October. These take place in the Gilt Hall at 2pm.
 - ii) Data protection forms should be filled in and returned to Lisa Reay by the May meeting at the very latest. Under the new legislation that comes into force on 25 May 2018, we will be unable to contact members about forthcoming meetings or events unless a form has been received.
 - iii) Trip to Merevale. Sheila had information handouts for those at the meeting, and anybody not present would have sent them via email. (subsequently done)
 - iv) For the benefit of new and newish members, a selection of SHS publications was on display
 - v) Sheila closed the meeting, thanking everyone for attending.
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Sheila then welcomed the speaker for the evening, Professor Beat Kumin of the University of Warwick, to speak on ‘Parish Life in Pre-Modern England’.

In a clear and fully illustrated talk, accompanied by music in places, Professor Kumin delineated the development and function of the parish in England. Some of his examples related directly to Stoneleigh. Beginning with the “universal bargain” of the church caring for your soul in return for your giving tithes, he examined the hierarchy of village life, and people’s motivation to get to Heaven, spending as little time in Purgatory as possible.

The talk continued to look at the way the role of the church merged into the role of the state, at parish level, with churchwardens managing poor relief, upkeep of highways etc. Some surprising facts emerged, such as the church’s ownership of alehouses, the church ale proceeds going to the churchwardens.

As time went on, the relationship between church and people altered post-Reformation. Examining these changes, Professor Kumin took us through the Civil War and after, up to the early nineteenth century.

Despite its being a whistle-stop tour through complex religious and secular relationships, this was an entertaining and thoroughly absorbing talk, and the number of questions afterwards revealed the degree of interest shared by the audience. Professor Kumin suggested further research for those who would like to know more, particularly his project which can be viewed at <http://warwick.ac.uk/my-parish>

After refreshments the meeting closed at 9.20pm.

There will be no meeting in April, because of the trip to Merevale. The next meeting, on 29 May, at 7.30pm, will be given by Dr Sarah Richardson of the University of Warwick. It is entitled *Warwickshire Women and the Fight for the Vote*.

Minutes LJR/SLW