

MINUTES OF THE 43rd MEETING OF AYNHO HISTORY SOCIETY HELD AT AYNHO VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 30th NOVEMBER 2011

Present: – Rupert Clark – Chairman and Treasurer

Peter Cole – Secretary.

1. Chairman's Report Rupert Clark

Rupert said that on Remembrance Friday Deddington had held a book launch for a book about the 600 or so known men who had served in wartime from the village. Rupert has a copy if anyone wishes to borrow it.

During the Jubilee tree planting all sort of native trees have gone in. Kay would like a plaque to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee. Can anyone suggest a suitable form of words for this?

So far there has been no response to our request for details of any pumps or wells in or around the village.

Rupert produced a map of Brackley and Aynho, which dated from around 1900.

Regarding the report last month of a house in Dorset, which had been a second home for members of the Cartwright family, Rupert said that Mrs Cartwright-Hignett knew nothing of it, so it may well have been another branch of that family.

2. Finance Report Rupert Clark

Rupert reported that the Society's funds as at the previous day stood at £904.04. Recent expenses had been the cost of the AGM, and tree guards for the Jubilee tree planting as agreed. He reminded members of the rule change at the AGM that anyone who paid their £10 annual membership subscription before the end of February 2012 would not need to pay any fees for attending meetings during 2012.

3. Secretary's Report Peter Cole

Peter said that he had managed to help two people this last month. A person was enquiring about her husband's great grandmother Kate Pettipher, who was born in Aynho about 1860 or 1861. He was unable to find her in any of the censuses, but he did find a Joseph Pettifer, age 13 in 1871, who was registered as a boarder at the Grammar School, He was Kate's brother, and as his place of birth was given as Sibford Ferris, he suggested that they look there for more information.

On the very same day another person, who was researching the Judde family, said that a painting of an ancestor William Judde entitled "The Judde Marriage", dated 1560, had been donated to Dulwich College during the seventeenth century by a William Cartwright, an actor, who died in December 1686. He asked if this was one of our Cartwrights. He had been advised that it wasn't, although we had heard of a playwright, William Cartwright. That makes exactly 24 enquiries in 2 years.

A letter has been received from Banbury Historical Society. They are thinking of repeating an evening of presentations by their own and other history societies about work they had done, last held in 2010, which we had attended. This will be in April 2012, and we are invited to contribute again.

4. The Centenary of King's Sutton School June Smith

June Smith explained that she had been a historian, and had taught history for 20 years at the Warriner School in Bloxham. As a King's Sutton resident she had been asked to research the history of King's Sutton School. In 2008 she became a governor of the School. She realised that all the School records were still held there, rather than having been archived. The School had opened in 1909, so people were asked for ideas of how to celebrate its centenary. She had all the log books and background information, so she suggested that she would record the history of the School, in a form which could be made into a compact book, with lots of photos, and recollections of parents, both past and present students, and interested villagers. This was to be produced ready for the Centenary celebrations on 12th June 2009. She broadened this idea by looking at websites about developments in primary education, to see how this fitted in with King's Sutton. Of course the price of the finished book was another consideration. There had been nine head teachers during the 100 years. She wanted to include what the School is like now, and what current pupils thought the future might look like. That was the format of the book. Once she said

that she was going to do this, all sorts of people came up with ideas and memories of the School. Log books were the primary source of information, together with questionnaires. Secondary sources were appraisal books, the very precious records of older people, now dead, and Ofsted reports. A large number of people contributed photographs. It took quite a long time to get everything together. Indeed there was so much material that she had to be very methodical to know where everything was. First she worked through all the log books, which took the largest time. Attendance was a great worry for the first school master, since agricultural needs had a great bearing on a child's presence, particularly during harvest time.

June made notes on everything interesting under each headmaster, and all these had to be précised down. All photos to be used had to be scanned in, so that they could fit into the appropriate page in the book. Her husband took over this work of scanning to help.

She finished this by January to February 2009. Everything had to be collated, the photos added, and then condensed down to fit into the book. What was originally intended to be 50 pages became 90. By the end of March everything was finally on the computer.

Proof reading was very wearing, as each time it was done, mistakes were found.

Printing costs were anticipated to be £1962 for 400 copies. Since one purpose of the book was to provide funds for the School, sponsorship for printing was sought, and eventually £1865 was obtained. A parent produced five posters advertising the book. At £5 per copy, less than 50 are still unsold, and £1900 has been raised for school funds. Books have been sent all over the world.

Follow-up shows that the photos and memories are the things most enjoyed.

June then showed a number of photographs, all of which appear the book.

These consisted of pictures of the original building in 1909, views of the village around then, and some of the earlier classes.

There were pictures of most of the head teachers: -

Mr Albert H Tilbury - up to 1931. He was also the church organist.

Mr Easey – 1932 -1959. The number of staff went down during wartime, so that one of his classes numbered 50, and Mr Owen's infants class totalled 35. Mr Easey introduced country dancing such as the Sword Dance to the School. He was well liked.

John Rippin – 1959 -1978. He was noted for his exuberance.

Mervyn Wood – 1978 -1988. He was a very jolly man, who enjoyed his stint as head master. He still lives in King's Sutton.

Towards the end of the period from 1988 to 1999 there was a decline in the standard of the School's performance, and it had poor Ofsted reports.

Christine Woodward – 1999 - 2008. She quickly pulled it all together, and soon received glowing reports. One in 2006 described the School as "outstanding".

Nick Peters 2008 – He is the current head teacher. He is a very busy person, with lots of ideas.

There were photos of recent events, including a Centenary party and the 100 years Celebration, and these were followed by pictures drawn by children of what they thought the School might look like in 2109, with robot teachers and the take-off of a school trip to the moon.

June concluded by reading extracts from the School's punishment book, which illustrated how offences had changed pre-war compared with post-war, and how punishments had similarly altered.

In response to questions she said that the School was built to hold 200 pupils. This had grown in war-time to 400, but that only 175 are there at the moment. Unlike Aynho, which was a church school, King's Sutton is a county school.

Rupert thanked June for an interesting presentation.

5. Forthcoming Meetings

December No meeting

January 25th The Grand Tour Tom Duncan

February 29th Family History for Beginners David Hitchcox

March 28th Old Banbury Brian Little