

Madeley Living History Project

Minutes of the meeting held 2nd September 2004, at Madeley Library, Russell Square, Madeley and commencing at 7.30pm

Present: Marilyn Higson, Janice Jones, Sue Laflin, Jonathan Lloyd, Mike Swift,
Derek Williams.
Shelagh Lewis, Kath Petty

Apologies: Della Bailey, Jan Doody, Gill Green, John Powell, Ben Whittle

Having received apologies from the Chair, Jonathan Lloyd was invited to Chair the meeting.

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the committee wished to record their sadness on hearing the news of the death of a fellow member, Gillian Weaver. Gillian had been a stalwart supporter of the project and was committed to local history issues and community education. Her contribution to the furtherance of the work undertaken by the project will be much missed, particularly by the Beeches group whom she first encouraged to take up the research. The finished work will be dedicated to her memory.

1. Minutes of the last meeting (10th June 2004)

With the following amendment: -

To record Sue Laflin as having sent her apologies, the minutes of the last meeting were agreed and signed as a true record.

1.1 Matters Arising

A number of those present had not been able to attend the last meeting when the request from the Charity Commission to change the Objects of the Constitution was discussed. Shelagh explained the background and circumstances and after consideration it was agreed to continue with the application for Charitable Status and to amend the constitution at the AGM.

2. Treasurers Report

Having sent her apologies, Jan Doody had provided a written report for the meeting. Little change is recorded in the accounts, which will be audited/examined prior to the AGM.

3. Annual General Meeting

The AGM will take place on the 4th November. A room at Madeley Court Hotel has been offered but there is doubt as to its capacity. If the Madeley Court room is unsuitable, the AGM will take place in the library as in previous years.

Suitable speakers were discussed and it was: -

Agreed – to invite Toby Neal (Shropshire Star) to give a presentation or if he is not available to invite Ron Miles. Either guest speaker will be asked to choose a subject that is pertinent to Madeley.

4. Feedback/Evaluation – National Archaeology Day

Over 300 people had attended the event and those who had been involved reported that it had been a very successful and enjoyable occasion. The attractions had been popular, particularly the food tasting, the exhibition on health and disease, metal detecting, wattle and daub ancient crafts and the games.

It was disappointing that the Shropshire Star did not feature the event and the Council for British Archaeology did not publicise it/

Lessons learned were: -

- Setting up the event needs to start earlier
- More help is needed with the set up
- Signage is needed

It is hoped and intended that National Archaeology Day will become an annual event in the Parish calendar.

5. Update on Projects

5.1 Nine Men

1,000 copies of the Nine Men leaflet have been printed and half of those have already been distributed. The schools booklet is at the printers and consists of a folder of 13 separate cards, each with an activity. 100 will be printed and will be distributed to the schools and the library will hold copies. This final task completes the project.

The grave itself is still in good condition and has not suffered any vandalism.

5.2 Graveyard Survey and Trail

The survey continues to progress slowly and information is being gathered for the trail.

Nick Randall (Shropshire Wildlife Trust) has contributed the ecological information for the trail.

5.3 War Memorial

Jan Doody has recently received further information regarding the names listed on the memorial, which she is incorporating into the body of work.

The Parish Council has received a request that a further name be added to the memorial, they are investigating the practicalities of the matter.

5.4 Beeches Project

As previously mentioned, this project was initiated by Gillian Weaver. Shelagh reported that the group meets every month, is very enthusiastic and has already amassed a great deal of material. They are hoping to produce a booklet and to store the images on CD. The project should be completed early summer 2005.

On the matter of the possible threat to the building, the Gorge Parish Council have been contacted. Mike Swift, who is a member of the Gorge, will keep them informed of any action proposed by the Living History Project and the Beeches group. He reported that they would probably support an application to English Heritage for listing

5.5 Brooke Memorials

Work has commenced on the restoration of the Brooke Memorials; members of the committee are invited to see the memorials at close quarters while the scaffolding is up. Shelagh is writing the education booklet.

5.6 Mosaic Tombstone

Shelagh has re-submitted the application to Heritage lottery Fund on behalf of the Local Studies Group. The application has been accepted and the outcome is awaited. There is some concern over the financial systems of the group and whether they are robust enough to cope with the demands of the Lottery.

5.7 Town Trail & Heritage Open Days

The information for inclusion in a Town trail has been collected through the organisation of the Heritage Open Days. Additionally, contact has been made with a local artist who may be able to supply illustrations for the trail. It was also suggested that a future project might be plaques for buildings of note.

Arrangements have been made for the Heritage Open Days and include a guided walk through Madeley, visiting the most important buildings and a guided walk at Madeley Court with the Tree Warden and including a tour of Madeley Court Hotel. On Saturday night there will be an illustrated talk on the history of Madeley.

6. Future Projects

6.1 Woodside Dance Troupes

Both dance troupes at Woodside have been contacted and the Ambassadors have responded positively. Discussions are in the early stages but it is hoped to produce a show or event in March 2005.

6.2 Sutton Hill Ladies Choir

The choir and Sir Alexander Fleming School have also been contacted with a view to a joint project or concert. Both groups are very enthusiastic about the idea.

7. Friends of the Living History Project

The next newsletter will be published by the end of September.

Shelagh is attempting to organise another trip and is finding Sunnyside (National Trust, Wellington) very difficult. Alternative suggestions from members were Attingham Park, Dudmaston, Moorville, Benthall Hall, Buildwas or Much Wenlock Priors or Lichfield or Hereford Cathedrals.

Jonathan Lloyd has made contact with a group at Blaenavon (also a World Heritage Site). They are a very active Local History Group who are very keen to make links and to organise links between schools. It was suggested that it might be more appropriate, in the first instance, for the committee to visit Blaenavon to establish a relationship and investigate areas of mutual interest.

8. Information from Committee Members

Derek Williams - the 1881 Census is now on the schools Intranet.

Sue Lafflin - the Local Studies Group will be producing another calendar and is organising another talk.

Marilyn Higson – The Local Studies Group have not registered this year with the Local Studies Forum. The Local Studies Forum will have a stand at next year's Dawley Day, which will feature work done by Gillian Weaver's group. Dawley and Donnington Libraries have hosted special days to record people's war memories; Marilyn will be talking to Shelagh about a funding bid that has been prepared. St Mary's School have made a number of visits to Madeley library as part of their local history project.

Jonathan Lloyd - Chris Morris has produced a book about Thomas Telford that will be launched at St Michael's Church on Friday 15th October. World Heritage Day will be in September 2005, for which it is hoped to organise a community celebration. The third

issue of the WHS newsletter has been printed and will be delivered to each household in the WHS area. The conference booklet of last years William Reynolds bi-centenary has now been published.

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Madeley Living History Project is the AGM and will take place on Thursday 4th November.

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.50pm

Signed..... Dated.....