

Madeley Living History Project
Minutes of the meeting held on 25th January 2007,
7.30pm at Madeley Library

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Present: Jonathan Lloyd (in the chair), Cllr. David Davies, Cllr
Mike Swift, Jan Doody, Barbara Hardman, Doug
Hardman, Marilyn Higson, Sue Laflin, John Powell,
Derek Williams
In Attendance: Shelagh Lewis, Kath Petty
Apologies: Cllr. Gill Green

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1. Minutes of the meeting held on 8th June 2006

The minutes were accepted and signed as a true record.

1.i: Matters Arising

There were no matters arising

2. Treasurer's Report

The treasurer reported that the balance at bank was £7,128.89, but that this included the grant to cover the cost of publishing several booklets. The treasurer is still working on the tax claim for the repayment of interest.

3. Update on Projects (carried out by MLHP and others)

3.i Beeches Project

The group will be reconvening on 29th January with a view to finalising sorting of the material for publication.

3.ii Graveyard Survey and Graveyard Trail

Drawings had been commissioned from Maggie Humphries and Glenys was compiling ecological information. The project should be completed by late summer / early autumn.

3.iii Town Trail

Very successful and already reprinted.

3.iv War Memorial (Jan Doody)

The booklets were now at proof stage and should be available shortly.

3.v Lee Dingle Bridge

The application had gone through the first stage but HLF required an agreement regarding ownership. We await the outcome of discussions with BTW. JL suggested that it

might be possible for BTW to act as a joint applicant in the role of 'sleeping partner'.

3.vi Woodside Project

A photographic display had been organised for the opening of the Park Lane Centre in October 2006 and had been very successful. The archive will be sent to the Centre but the chief regeneration officer had indicated that a CD or booklet would be a good idea. He has been asked whether the regeneration scheme could pay for this and we await his response.

3.vii Madeley Pubs

The booklet had been launched at Christmas Lights 2006 and has been very well received.

3.viii Medieval Project (Sue Laflin)

The group has not yet reconvened.

3.ix Schools Projects

Some work was being done with local schools in collaboration with Shropshire Archives. Haughton School continued to use the services of the project as did Sir Alexander Fleming.

3.x General Queries

The project manager continues to receive large numbers of queries and is now holding an open morning on the first Thursday of the month with assistance from members of the Friends (especially Jan Doody). MH suggested that these could be advertised in the library newsletter and in Madeley Matters.

3.xi Other projects

The project had joined with the WLSG and Shropshire Archives to organise a day school to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the birth of Thomas Telford.

The project manager has begun work on editing an English Heritage / Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society volume on excavations at Madeley Court.

The project manager has joined with Dr Ivor Brown to organise a service, display and publication to mark the 40th anniversary of the closure of Kemberton Pit.

The project manager is working with various other local organisations in an advisory capacity e.g. Walking for Health and is also involved in delivering courses e.g. for WEA in Madeley and leading walks (e.g. as part of the Gorge Walking Festival).

4. Events

4.i National Archaeology Day

The 2006 day had been fully funded and attracted around 700 people of whom around

half were children. In 2007 it was hoped that a mini version of the Time Team Big Dig could be organised with around 20-30 families and other groups digging in back gardens etc., from Saturday 14th July, with a final event the following Saturday. This would be done in collaboration with Paul Belford and Ironbridge Archaeology but was

still in the early stages of planning.

4.ii World Heritage Site Festival

JL reported that the 2006 event had been very successful and the 2007 festival is now being

planned. The date for the main event will be 22nd September but it is hoped that lead-in

events will take place during the preceding week. Further links with Blaenavon were proposed and it was agreed that these should be considered at a future meeting.

4.iii AGM

The 2006 AGM had attracted larger numbers and the talk, by Ruth Denison, had been very well received. It was proposed that the 2007 AGM take place on Thursday 25th

October and that Dr. Ivor Brown be invited to speak.

5. Future of the Project

KP reported that the Parish Council had voted to continue funding the project for a further three years on a part-time basis. Should the Lee Dingle application be successful funding would be increased cover full-time work by the manager.

6 Friends of the Living History Project

The 2006 trip had been very successful. It was suggested that another attempt be made to book a visit to Sunnycroft for the 2007 trip. The next newsletter should be out in

March. Membership stands at 116.

7. Information from Committee Members

DW reported that the schools intranet now included a number of historic maps as well as some of the census records.

SLa reported that the Local Studies Group were transcribing baptism register MS registered his thanks to the project for persuading the South Telford Heritage Trail officer to bring the route through Madeley.

KP reported that the relationship with IGMT had improved enormously. She also reported that Richard Byfield had visited Madeley to photograph the building frontages which had benefited from the HERS project.

MH reported on progress with the Thomas Telford commemoration activities which will include a TT garden at the Chelsea Flower Show.

The WLSF will, in future be producing an annual publication.

It is hoped that a local history group will be formed in Dawley during the parish regeneration.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45pm. The next meeting will take place on Thursday 15th March 2007, 7.30pm at Madeley Library.

2007 meeting dates
Thursday 15th March
Thursday 26th April
Thursday 7th June
Thursday 26th July
Thursday 13th September
Thursday 1st November (AGM)*
Thursday 6th December

Signed:

Date:

* N.B. AGM date change