

Madeley Living History Project
Minutes of Management Committee 22nd May 2013, 5.45pm
Jubilee House

Present: Jonathan Lloyd (JL) (in the Chair), Cllr. Sue Taylor (ST), Janet Doody (JD), Paul Belford (PB), Veronica Jubb (CJ)

In Attendance: Andy Rose (AR), Kath Petty (KP),

Apologies: Cllr. Gill Green (GG), John Powell (JP), Grant Foden (GF), Sandy Pledger (SP).

1. Minutes of the AGM held on 18th February 2013:

The minutes were accepted and signed as a true record.

1i: Matters Arising

KP confirmed that the Town Council had agreed to provide the meeting room for the Madeley History Group at nil cost and cover the costs of any future leaflet reprints. This will be reviewed annually.

Members of the Group were very pleased with the outcome.

VJ indicated that she was happy for her telephone number to be made available if any local person wanted advice on researching family history. It was mentioned that Madeley Library was also running taster sessions on ancestry.com for local people interested in researching family history. The next two sessions are on the 17th June and 17th July (10.30 until 12.00)(ring 382950 for details).

AR mentioned that the removal of the old railway track & points from a pit mound next to Blists Hill had been reported to the Borough Council. There has been no response. PB suggested asking IGMT if they know anything.

3. Treasurer's Report:

JD reported that the LHP account balance at bank as of 30th April 2013 was £3,356.99. The books are with the auditor. A further £40 is due to be paid into the account from the proceeds of the photographic exhibition. The DVD of old photographs had been selling well.

Ivor Brown had written to confirm that the miner's memorial project in the Town Park had been abandoned and a contribution is no longer required.

It was re-confirmed that any legitimate costs being incurred by Group Members will be met from the LHP account. This will include any materials used for printing documents or preparing exhibitions/displays. Any requests would need to be cleared by the chair and treasurer.

4. Update on LHP Projects:

3i: Lumley Hall:

AR is pulling together a bid to use some of the £150k that has been earmarked by Telford & Wrekin Council for regeneration projects in Madeley Centre. The project involves internal refurbishment works at Lumley Hall. The Council's Architects (David Tomlinson) is drawing up plans for a phased scheme that could use £50k of the Council monies this year. This would probably just cover the installation of new toilets and a new heating system. AR has also approached Veolia to bid for an extra £30k of landfill tax grant which would increase the size of the budget for phase 1. The intention is to use David to supervise the works which would be funded out of the monies.

The phase 1 scheme will be submitted to the Regeneration Partnership for their approval. If they decide that the scheme is to be supported it can then be submitted to Telford & Wrekin Council for their consideration.

A meeting was recently held between the club and Town Councillors to explore possible funding options for The Anstice Memorial Institute. Telford & Wrekin Council is due to report back with any ideas to increase community involvement in the club.

No response yet from the Methodist church and Safe-space about the feasibility study commissioned to investigate the options for building a residential Christian community to serve Madeley in the Fletcher chapel buildings.

3ii: Edith Pargeter event:

AR confirmed that preparations for the event on the 28th September to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the birth of Edith Pargeter are progressing well. It will be held in Dawley House, Burton Street and involve a day of talks and walks.

The intention is that it will be focussed on local people given the limited capacity of Dawley House. Places will have to be booked on a first come first served basis.

The Madeley History Group has volunteered to put on a display over the lunch break.

3iii: Launch of new Town trail (Heritage day) (14th Sept)

AR reported back on an event to promote the new Town trail, linked to the buildings where plaques were erected. It was decided that it would be more interesting if people could also see inside some of the buildings, as well as having a guided tour. AR has approached the property owners and received a good response. Saturday 14th September had been suggested as that nicely ties in with the Ironbridge festival in the following week. Only the Fletcher Memorial church might be a problem on that day as John Lenton is on holiday.

Some people may not wish to do a tour but would like to see inside some of the buildings, so we need to explore if buildings could be open at specific times where people could just call in and have a look around at their own pace. This would obviously need more supervision from the owners, so not everyone may want to offer this possibility. It might suit the properties which are further out from the centre that might be difficult to cover on the formal tour, such as the All Nations PH or Madeley Court Hotel.

The initial idea is to badge this as “Madeley” Heritage day, but any other ideas would be welcomed. PB mentioned that nationally there might be a specific week set aside for “Heritage open days”. You could then benefit from national publicity on national web sites. (AR checked the national dates and they do actually tie in with the 14th September. The dates promoted on the web site are Thursday 12th to Sunday 15 September). See www.heritageopendays.org.uk. For more information.

3iv: SHFS Fair

AR mentioned that the Shropshire F.S.H. Open Day & Fair was due to take place on the 1st June at The Shirehall, Shrewsbury.

4. Future Projects

4i: 150th Anniversary of Nine men of Madeley

KP reported that she had been approached by Alison Vermees (who has a background in community art activities) who is interested in writing a play to

commemorate the nine men of Madeley. Interested in involving local schools and holding the production in St Michael's church.

Madeley History Group may be able to provide some background material. She already has the leaflet.

It was mentioned that a local musician is also interested in writing a piece to commemorate the event. It might be possible for them to work together and put on a joint event.

4ii: 100th Anniversary of start of WW1

PB had circulated details of a new grant to commemorate the start of WW1. Madeley History Group is producing a calendar for 2014 that will include a tribute to mark Armistice Day in November. The calendar will be launched around November 2013.

KP suggested that Town Council might look at refurbishing the area around the war memorial. Should be done in conjunction with the British Legion (contact Mike George).

PB suggested that any event should concentrate on the social history of the area during WW1, for instance the role played by local men employed in the reserve occupations like mining or what role was played by local women during the war.

5. AOB

JD mentioned a talk being given by Alan Heighway on the 3rd June at St Michael's church.

It was mentioned that there was not any brown tourist sign that directs visitors to St Michael's church. AR/KP will investigate and report back.

KP mentioned that the vicar of St Michael's is very keen to encourage visitors to the churchyard. Check if they have copies of the leaflet.

6. Date of next meetings

PB suggested it would help to get advanced meeting dates into the diary. The dates for the next two meetings were therefore agreed

Monday 9th September at Jubilee House 7.00 p.m. (to include the AGM)

Monday 4th November at Jubilee House – 7.00 p.m.

Dates for the following year will be presented at the AGM.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.00 pm.