



Wiltshire Local History Network

Meeting
25 September 2019, 7-8pm
Devizes Library, Sheep Street, Devizes SN10 1DL

Minutes

Chaired by Julie Davis, County Local Studies Librarian, Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre julie.davis@wiltshire.gov.uk, Naomi Sackett (minutes).

1. Julie summarised minutes from the last meeting.
The list of Local Studies Champions which was emailed out following the last meeting will be added to the website at: <http://wshc.eu/our-services/wiltshire-local-studies/30-wiltshire-local-studies/262-wiltshire-local-history-network.html> Actioned

2. Julie thanked Brian Edwards for the new logo design and it was approved by members

3. News from the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre:

Julie gave apologies for Donna Marshall, the new Principal Archivist at WSHC. Donna is keen to meet and work with local history groups and will be happy to attend the next meeting.

Julie updated on plans for Local History Month May 2020. Alderbury & Whaddon Local History Research Group have agreed to create a display for their local library. Julie asked if other groups would like to take advantage of the high footfall in local libraries to promote their society through a display for Local History Month, May 2020.

Salisbury 2020 High Street bid application is progressing. There are events and a launch planned for April 2020 which local groups and individuals will be able to take part in. Local societies are involved in helping write text for the exhibition panels. Please contact Julie if you would like to get involved.

An RAF oral history event is currently planned for Saturday 30 November to be held at WSHC. The RAF Museum will publicise the event and recruit volunteers to take oral histories from visitors about their memories of Wiltshire airfields and the RAF in Wiltshire, both from current and ex-RAF personnel, their families and Wiltshire residents who lived beside the airfields. The event is still being planned and will go ahead if volunteers can be found; look out for publicity material in due course.

There are plans for day/schools and classes similar to those which took place for the Wiltshire Local History Forum. 2020 events suggested include a History of Parliament conference and events with Wiltshire local authors to promote the current Wiltshire literary scene and past literary figures from the county. Members at the meeting agreed that both topics would be of interest.

Moulton Archive: following the successful National Lottery Heritage bid for cataloguing the Moulton archive, preliminary cleaning of some of the collection is taking place, and volunteers will be required for the project when it begins in earnest. Contact archives@wiltshire.gov.uk if you are interested in volunteering.

Update from Swindon and District Local History Network:

John Stooke has published a book on Swindon's Lost Pubs.

Swindon Local Studies Library are currently working with the SBC Council Housing team to celebrate 100 years of the Addison Act (social housing building over England, including Swindon and Wiltshire). There will be a public event with displays and information on Pinehurst, Penhill, etc.

There is a list of speakers for the Swindon area available, please email julie.davis@wiltshire.gov.uk if you would like a copy. It is currently being updated.

Website & WLHN Contact Lists:

If you would like your details updated on the list of members available on the WLHN page of the WSHC website please email naomi.sackett@wiltshire.gov.uk

The list is available on the Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre Local Studies page at <http://wshc.eu/our-services/wiltshire-local-studies/30-wiltshire-local-studies/262-wiltshire-local-history-network.html>

If anyone would like to contact another member of the group, please contact naomi.sackett@wiltshire.gov.uk who will be pleased to put you in touch.

4. Networking & Discussion:

Jamie Wright – Salisbury
Interest in the history of Fisherton, and the brick industry. Identified some 400 examples of Salisbury architecture with Fisherton brick.

Brian Johnson – Alderbury
Alderbury Local History Research Group have published 11 books since 2000. They have skills including a calligrapher. A list of publications, how to purchase and the cost is available on the website: www.alderbury.org.uk

Nick Baxter – Calne
Calne Heritage Quarter Group. Calne Heritage Week took place between 16 - 22 September and was a success. Also involved with Coleridge in Calne.
Also involved with Marlborough History Society

Gives talks and guided walks about the history of people and places in Wiltshire more information at www.wiltshirehistoryman.org.uk

Jan Pennington - Malmesbury

Began in family history and branched out into history of local community.

Online Parish Clerk for Malmesbury.

WFHS Society member

John Diamond – Aldbourne

Online Parish Clerk

Treelines.co.uk – website including personal family history research, transcriptions of registers and census returns and other sources.

Aldbourn Heritage Centre is open 25 March to 29 September 2019

Saturdays, Sundays & Bank Holiday Mondays 11.00am – 4:30pm

<http://aldbourneheritage.org.uk/>

May 2020 Medieval Fair planned, seeking funding.

Chris Caswell – Victoria County History

Trustee for VCH attending on behalf of David Moss.

Current focus on Chippenham and surrounding area for current volume.

You can see latest findings and contact details on www.mychippenham.org.uk

Bremhill History Steering Group have received funding for a history of Bremhill. There will be a website as part of this, and a professional historian will be employed. Events and engagement activities are planned to involve local people.

Wiltshire VCH will be setting up a website for the whole county. A discussion will be had at the meeting at the end of October. Local history societies may find the website of use.

Julie mentioned that Terry Bracher, Heritage Services Manager at WSHC is available to provide guidance to local groups on submitting bids for funding. Please contact

heritageadmin@wiltshire.gov.uk

David Dawson – Devizes

Wiltshire Museum and Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society

Recent successful involvement with Heritage Open Days

The museum also holds library and archive exhibitions.

Vanished buildings.

Display on the pineapple, as part of Devizes Food and Drink Festival 28th September – 6th October

Brian Edwards

Visiting research fellow at UWE

Public history and historiography, Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage Site

A303 Stonehenge tunnel campaign.

Publications on Stonehenge including recently 1930s Stonehenge

Blick Mead and impact of media

Pam Kimber – Pewsey

Pewsey Heritage Centre

Interest in local ancestry and Seend area.

U3A group

Facebook group Days Gone By in Devizes – interesting old photographs, contributions and identifications welcome.

Patsy Hare
WFHS, U3A, Trust for Devises

Barbara Fuller
WFHS Resource Centre Manager which has an extensive library and is open to the both members and non-members. Details of publications can be sent to the library. See website for details. Enquiries research@wiltshirefhs.co.uk
Interest in local history:
-New Park Street
-Roundway Hospital
-WE Chivers
-Cinemas
-Workhouses

Julia Hunt – Aldbourne, Ramsbury, Axford
Trustee of Aldbourne Heritage Centre
Available for talks

Cath Berry – Melksham
Melksham and District Historic Association
Digitising and cataloguing slide collection, all have now been scanned.
Monthly meeting held in Assembly Hall, Melksham.
Finding new home for artefacts and archives. Donna Marshall, Principal Archivist at WSHC has visited and archives will be transferred. This topic began a discussion about material which is often discarded and ends up in skips, such as the case Steve Bridge mentioned about Wiltshire Constabulary material that he rescued. David Dawson noted that Wiltshire Museum is always happy to talk to anyone who has material which is at risk or needs a new home. Melksham is also in their collecting area. He noted that another useful contact is Heather Perry, Conservation & Museum Manager at the Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre heather.perry@wiltshire.gov.uk who is happy to offer support and guidance. Julie re-iterated this point; she and Donna are also happy to have a chat with anyone who would like some guidance about archive and published material, whether it be storage and access queries, or removal and rehoming.

Yvonne Neil – Swindon
Secretary of Swindon Branch, WFHS

Jan Flanagan – Swindon
Working with records of Wilts and Berks canal; who built, maintained, commercial enterprises etc
Swindon brickworks; 20 known sites of brickworks, collection of examples of bricks
Bremhill – research into farms, land use, tenants and ownership. Jan was asking for help contacting the Bremhill History steering group; Chris Caswell could offer help in this regard and also Julie, who could provide contact details for the Project Officer, Louise Ryland-Epton.

Steve Bridge
Wilts Constabulary history. Early records are scarce.
Recent exhibition of 180 years of Wiltshire Police at Chippenham Museum
Secretary of Police History Society
Other interest: early railways, freemasonry and how the two interacted.

Julie highlighted National Libraries Week 7 October – 12 October. There will be an exhibition celebrating 100 years of Wiltshire Libraries in local libraries and a historic photo quiz. Please visit your local library to take a look!

Date of next Meeting: 11 March, Devizes Library, 7-8pm.