

## THE ICKLETON SOCIETY

### Minutes of the thirty fourth Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 13 May 2015 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

**Present:** Rachel Radford ( Chairman), John Fowler (Treasurer), Madelaine Smith (Secretary), Clare Driver, Andrew Sheppard, Gerry Birch, Francis Bird, Lucy Davidson, Jocelyn Flitton, Susan Fowler, Glynis Hammond, Judy Marshall, Neil McKillen, Jilly McNaughton, Terry Sadler, Roy Smith, Rita Sullivan, Keith Sutcliffe, Martin Woodhead, June Woodward, Ken Worthing.

1. **Welcome.** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the thirty fourth AGM of the Society.
2. **Apologies.** Apologies for absence were received from Lawrence Wragg, Rosie McDonald, Geraldine Bushell, David & Jean Whittaker, Lewis Duke and Dawn Bradley.
3. **Minutes of the thirty third Annual General Meeting.** Clare Driver proposed that the minutes be adopted as correct. Roy Smith seconded and there were no objections. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.
4. **Chairman's Report.** The Society has had quite a quiet year on some fronts and quite an exciting year on others. On planning and development, we haven't had much to do but this could be very different next year when the next version of Uttlesford's Local Development Plan starts to be put together and if a new settlement at Great Chesterford is put forward by developers. We'll be watching closely and commenting on anything we think could adversely impact our village.

The social side of our activities has been the most active this year and, I'd say, we've had a very successful year. On a fine July evening last year, Peter and Sian Wombwell showed us the work they would be doing with the support of Natural England to the strip lynchets on Coploe Hill which English Heritage has said are of national significance, and to provide wild life habitats in the baulks field. They also took us down to a pond they have created on the Slade and where a tree has been planted in memory of Juff Driver. As you may have seen, a lot of the scrub has now been cleared and we have arranged a return visit on the evening of 11 June. We hope you'll be able to join us for that.

In November, to commemorate the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War, we had a very interesting talk from Helen Harwood on the Great War in the Countryside. She brought home what the war meant for those who went to war and those who stayed behind.

Jack and Margaret Bristow very generously funded and helped Clare Driver expertly organize, another Children's Christmas Party for the village with over 40 children and parents enjoying the fun. New Year's Day was rather dull and murky but nevertheless some 25 people plus dogs turned out for our regular New Year's Day walk kindly led by Gerry Birch, and a very welcome soup and mulled wine lunch afterwards. We try hard to involve families with children in our events and, with that in mind, organized a trip to the Panto at the lovely Theatre Royal at Bury St Edmunds early in January. It was a great show but we only had 3 families and 2 of those were Committee members. Whether it was the cost or the distance that put people off we don't know but we probably won't do anything similar again.

We did, however, stage 2 new and very popular events. Thanks to Madelaine and Roy Smith who volunteer at Saffron Screen, we became the first village to stage one of their Pop-Up Cinema's with a showing of the Grand Budapest Hotel in January. The hall was almost full to capacity with an audience of about 120. Saffron Screen were very pleased and we were too as we made a little money from the sale of refreshments. Unfortunately Geraldine and David Bushell's sterling efforts making large quantities of popcorn only returned £18 and some burnt pans, but you can't win them all!

That event was followed in March by our ceilidh. We're very grateful to the Village Hall for letting us book the Cambridge University Ceilidh Band through them and so get their rate for registered charities. This meant we made a good profit on the night rather than a large loss! We had a good crowd of 60 or so which was just about right for the space we had for dancing. Thanks to Geraldine, Rosie and John and Sue Fowler the hall and the tables looked lovely and Neil McKillen and Terry did a great job manning the bar (not that they were trying to avoid dancing of course!). Keith and Linda Miller did the food for us and everyone had a great time – certainly an event to be repeated at some point in the future.

With the support of the Parish Council and CPRE, Clare Driver once more organized a litter pick to tidy up our lovely village. We have just had our 3rd May Day walk – the most popular yet with 46 people including a good number of children and dogs. We were very lucky with the weather and had warm sunshine, great views along the ridge and a fantastic picnic spot at Ickleton Grange. We're very grateful to Lewis Duke, Peter Wombwell and Charles Frankau for allowing access to their land and helping with the route and, in particular, to Charles for preparing the picnic spot for us.

Turning to the archives, we have added to our records of men who served in WW1 and the women who helped at the Norman Hall Red Cross Hospital. The latter continues as the Red Cross gradually releases its records online. We hope to bring these together in some sort of publication if we can. After Joe Bibby and Hedley Igglesden both sadly died, we were given various photos and papers and other villagers have donated items too for which we're very grateful. Andrew Shepperd has continued to put the work Sheila Birch did on the 1545 terrier of the Heath Field, into context and that should go on the website fairly soon.

As you can see, we had some display photos and copies of the 1795 map of the open fields and the 1810 enclosure map printed this year and Rosie Macdonald did a magnificent job mounting and framing them. We hope you think they're a worthwhile addition to this room. We will occasionally change the pictures.

We now have nearly a thousand documents in the archive (actually more as many contain multiple items) and over 4000 photographs. The software that supports the Gallery of photos on the village website is no longer supported which is a great worry and Andrew is busy researching a possible replacement to which the Gallery could migrate without all the data having to be retyped. The Village Hall kindly gives us the use of a large cupboard to store the physical archive but, even so, we ran out of space this year. With the support of our Parish Council and our District Councillor, Mick Martin, we successfully bid for funding from the S Cambs Community Chest for 2 large cupboards. We're very grateful to the Village Hall for letting us keep these in the Village Hall as well.

We have lots of projects we would like to do if only we had time or volunteers:

- \* Clare's oral history project, recording the memories of Ickleton by its residents, takes a lot of time;
- \* we know the Cambridge and Essex Records Offices hold information about the various plans for a canal that could have come through Ickleton which Richard Herbert told us about at this meeting last year;
- \* Pam Fearn has kindly lent us a number of videos of village events over the years which we hope to have digitized so they could be edited to create a record of those events and, perhaps, a showing for the village;
- \* there is lots of work that could be done on land ownership and how it changed as we have the terriers of the other 2 open fields around the same time as that of the Heath Field and many documents which show subsequent ownership of land in the parish; and
- \* there are lots more documents about Ickleton in the archives of Clare College, Trinity College, the University Library and the archives of the Dean and Canons of Windsor which we haven't had time to look at. If anyone would like to help, do have a word with us!

The Secretary thanked the Chairman on behalf of the members for all her hard work during the year.

**5. Treasurer's Report.** A copy of the accounts for the year to 31 March 2015 was provided. John Fowler explained the main items in the accounts and reported that they had been audited by Ken Worthing. This year our income exceeded our expenditure and we ended the year with funds of £846.64 so we are in a satisfactory position. Adoption of the accounts was proposed by Neil McKillen, seconded by Gerry Birch and agreed by the meeting.

**6. Members' Questions.** There were no questions but a member said that they had enjoyed the ceilidh and had received comments that people would like us to hold another one at some future time. Another member also thought the Saffron Screen event had been very worthwhile.

**7. Election of Officers and Committee.** There were no more nominations and :  
Chairman – Rachel Radford had been proposed and seconded and was elected unopposed.

John Fowler and Madelaine Smith had been nominated and seconded and were prepared to stand as Treasurer and Secretary respectively. Andrew Shepperd, Clare Driver, Geraldine Bushell, Rosie Macdonald and Glynis Hammond had been nominated and seconded and were prepared to stand as members of the Committee. There were no other nominations and the meeting agreed that they be appointed en bloc.

The Chairman was very pleased to welcome Glynis Hammond to the Committee and to thank Lynn Parsons, who had unfortunately had to retire from the committee due to home pressures, for all the contribution she had made to the Society.

**8. Election of the Hon. Auditor.** Ken Worthing was thanked for auditing the accounts and confirmed that he was happy to continue as auditor. Martin Woodhead proposed and Neil McKillen seconded that Ken Worthing continue as auditor.

**9. Any Other Business.** None. There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.00pm.

### **Guest Speaker**

The business of the evening being concluded, refreshments were served, followed by an excellent talk by Shirley Wittering about how Enclosure was organised in South Cambridgeshire. Madelaine Smith gave a vote of thanks.