

## THE ICKLETON SOCIETY

### Minutes of the thirty fifth Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 11 May 2016 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

**Present:** Rachel Radford ( Chairman), John Fowler (Treasurer), Madelaine Smith (Secretary), Clare Driver, Andrew Sheppard, Rosie Macdonald, Fiona Rose, Gerry Birch, Francis Bird, Jocelyn Flitton, Judy Marshall, Terry Sadler, Roy Smith, Keith Sutcliffe, Dawn Bradley, Elizabeth Carter, Piers Carter, Pam Fearn, Lewis Duke, John Holt .For talk : David & Monica Lilley, Carol Turton, Christine Jenkins, Pat Gibson.

1. **Welcome.** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the thirty fifth AGM of the Society.
2. **Apologies.** Apologies for absence were received from Lawrence Wragg, Neil McKillen, Glynis Hammond and Sue Fowler
3. **Minutes of the thirty fourth Annual General Meeting.** Clare Driver proposed that the minutes be adopted as correct. Gerry Birch seconded and there were no objections. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.
4. **Chairman's Report.** The Society has had another successful year and we seem to go from strength to strength. As usual we've organized a number of social activities. On a lovely June evening last year Peter and Sian Wombwell treated us to a return visit to the strip lynchets on Coploe Hill to see how the work had progressed clearing the central parts of the lynchets of scrub to reveal the archaeology of the medieval site formed by ploughing with teams of oxen. We also went back down to the pond created on the Slade and could see how well the wild flowers have established and habitats have been created.

We had 2 talks during the last year – at our AGM Shirley Wittering gave a very informative talk about the enclosure in South Cambridgeshire and in October Veronica Bennett gave us an illustrated talk on how the National Trust has acquired its gardens, changing fashion in garden design and the National Trust's conservation and restoration projects.

Four now regular events were the Children's Christmas Party, Litter Pick (jointly with the Parish Council), and the New Year's Day and May Day walks. Over 40 children and parents enjoyed the Christmas Party and we're very grateful to Margaret Bristow for sponsoring the party and giving so generously of her time and energy. Thanks also to Clare Driver for organising it and to all the volunteers who helped. Thanks to Clare again for organising the village litter pick in March and to everyone who helped tidy up our lovely village and to those who provided and helped with refreshments.

The weather was kind enough for our 2 walks to go ahead – on New Year's Day followed by mulled wine, homemade soup, scones and bread generously provided by a number of volunteers; and on May Day when it was a little cooler than in previous years but we still had a good walk up Coploe Hill and across to Valance Farm where we had picnics in warm sunshine before returning to the village via the field below the baulks. We're very grateful to Robert Drage and Peter Wombwell for letting us walk their land and to Robert for cutting the grass and providing some refreshments.

In February we had another of our very popular wine tastings and a great evening thanks to Sebastian Payne who, once again, gave us a wonderful selection of wines to taste with descriptions that were interesting and informative, though not too serious. Everyone went home having had a good time as well as good wine and cheese.

On planning and development, after being quiet for some years, we now have a number of potential major threats to our village – the expansion of the Genome Campus which could include a lot of housing, the Agri-Tech Hub which we recently learnt could also include housing and expansion of Great Chesterford with a possible new settlement there. The Committee feels we should take a robust stance on some of these but I'd like to get members' views when we come to Members' Questions.

Turning to the archives, we're continuing to research villagers who served in the Great War, either in the forces or at our own Red Cross hospital. We were staggered by the many generous offers to contribute towards the cost of the 2 photo albums of the hospital that came up for auction. Thank you all of you and, of course, Julian and Caroline Owen who insisted on paying the first tranche. Thanks too to Julian for scanning all the photos. We haven't got round to putting them on the website yet but the photos are here tonight for you to look at together with some other pieces of our research. Glynis Hammond and Fiona Rose will be pulling together the fruits of all our research in due course.

Andrew Shepperd, Madelaine Smith and I have paid return visits to the County Records Office and the Cambridgeshire Collection to find and copy photographs and documents about Ickleton. A number of them inspired me to do some further research and pull together a summary of the ownership of Harlequin House since the 17<sup>th</sup> century. We also completed collecting documents about the possible canals that might have come through Ickleton that Richard Herbert put us on to a couple of years ago.

We have digitised a number of videos of village events lent to us by Pam Fearn and Martin and Penny Woodhead have also let us have copies of some of their videos. At some stage we hope to edit them and make a compilation DVD.

We recently made links with Archaeological Rheeseearch – a local group which undertakes geophysical surveys. They were very keen to look at areas in Ickleton where there could be archaeological remains and, with the kind permission of Jenny and Lewis Duke, they've so far spent 3 days surveying some of the land around the farmhouse at Abbey Farm to see if they can find anything to indicate the site of Ickleton Priory. There seem to be some hints of possible ditches and/or walls and the group will be continuing their search this Sunday. There are also documents in the UL and Records Office that might tell us something about the Priory but it's a question of finding the time to look.

We're grateful to everyone who has contributed items to the archive this year and, in particular, the families of the late Barbara Lilley and Muriel Coulson for giving us a number of photos, documents and other items from their effects.

I should also mention that Andrew has spent a lot of time this year devising a replacement for the Gallery on the website when the old one ceased being supported.

As you can tell, we continue to come across more and more records about the history of the village which give us ideas for projects that we could do if only we had time. If anyone would like to help with any historical research please do let us know – you'd be welcomed with open arms.

Finally I'd like to thank the Committee for all their contributions during the year. Geraldine Bushell resigned during the year due to pressures on her time but thank her for her contribution to the Society. We were very pleased that Fiona Rose agreed to be co-opted on to Committee. In addition to some of the mentions I've already made, John Fowler has continued to look after our finances and Madelaine, as our Secretary has the unenviable task of writing up minutes and correspondence but also always helps with filing archive items and organising our events.

Coming up we'll have displays at the fete and Open Gardens, another Ickleton Past and Present in September and, in November, Fiona will give a talk on William Morris and his connections with Cambridge. We hope you'll come along and enjoy these events.

**5. Treasurer's Report.** A copy of the accounts for the year to 31 March 2016 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 £936.48 so we are in a satisfactory position. Adoption of the accounts was proposed by Francis Bird, seconded by Judy Marshall and agreed by the meeting.

**6. Members' Questions.** In response to a question from a member, our position on the various planning proposals including the Wellcome Trust Genome Campus was outlined – we will vigorously oppose developments which would have a detrimental impact on our village environment .

**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, Fiona Rose, 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 Fiona Rose to the Committee and to thank Geraldine Bushell, 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. Jocelyn Flitton proposed and John Fowler seconded that Ken Worthing continue as auditor.

**9. Any Other Business.** A member raised the issue of traffic noise from the M11/A11. The chairman of the Parish Council explained that it is very difficult to get anything done about this, for various reasons.

### **Guest Speaker**

The business of the evening being concluded, refreshments were served, followed by an excellent talk by Derek (Mick) Bristow entitled Tales of Tin Alley about his early life in Ickleton . Clare Driver gave a vote of thanks.