

## THE ICKLETON SOCIETY

### Minutes of the thirty second Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 8 May 2013 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

**Present:** Neil McKillen (Chairman), John Fowler (Treasurer), Rachel Radford (Secretary), Clare Driver, Rosie Macdonald, Lynn Parsons, Madelaine Smith, Gerry Birch, Francis Bird, Dawn Bradley, Lewis Duke, Jos Flitton, Susan Fowler, Wendy Johnson, Russell Morgan, Terry Sadler, Roy Smith, John and Elaine Statham, Rita Sullivan, David Whitaker, Ken Worthing.

1. **Welcome.** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the thirty second AGM of the Society.
2. **Apologies.** Apologies for absence were received from Tina Gordon, Judy Marshall, Sebastian and Frances Payne, Andrew Shepperd, Jean Whitaker and Lawrence Wragg.
3. **Minutes of the thirty first Annual General Meeting.** Ken Worthing 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 Chairman noted the very sad death of Sheila Birch who had been a member of our Committee virtually all the time she lived in the village and Chair of the Society from 1999 to 2007. As a tribute to Sheila, the Society is joining with the Parish Council to fund an information board at Coploe Pit which is being designed and erected with help from the Wildlife Trusts. Sheila took a great interest in the pit and led the regular maintenance work there on behalf of the Parish Council so this will be a fitting tribute to her.

The Society had continued to play an active part in the life of our village. It had been watchful on the **planning and development** front, responding to the consultations on South Cambridgeshire's Local Development Plan. Fortunately Hanley Grange had not reared its ugly head again. The Society is monitoring the controversy around Uttlesford's Local Plan and the apparent desire by some Uttlesford residents to put their new housing in a large development at Great Chesterford (Hanley Grange across the border!). It had also commented on a small number of local planning applications.

On the **social** side the highlight of 2012 for Ickleton had been the wonderful Diamond Jubilee celebrations and the Society had been pleased to play a part in organising these along with many other people. In particular, with the help of Lewis Duke and Peter Wombwell, the Society had staged the bonfire on Coploe Hill which had made a fantastic end to the weekend.

In July, a group of members and friends had enjoyed a visit to the Old Sun Inn in Saffron Walden to see the renovations being undertaken by Douglas Kent and also to the old YHA to see how that had been repaired and transformed into a home. In October, Sue Oosthuizen, a landscape archaeologist, had led an inspiring workshop on the development and evolution of Ickleton and Sebastian Payne led another very enjoyable wine tasting evening. Clare Driver had organised another Christmas party for the village children. Father Christmas came along and much fun was had doing Christmas activities and playing games. We were very grateful to Jack and Margaret Bristowe for funding the party.

Unfortunately, the Boxing Day walk had had to be cancelled due to constant rain in the days before Christmas which resulted in the river overflowing its banks. However, our alternative walk and picnic on Monday 6 May had been much enjoyed. Thanks were given to Robert Drage, Amy Harrison and Peter Wombwell for giving us the opportunity to walk paths not open to the public and have a picnic at Valance Farm.

The annual Litter pick in March had also had to be cancelled due to snow. Clare Driver was continuing to do informal litter picks and would welcome any volunteers.

Andrew Shepperd, Rachel Radford, Clare and Madelaine Smith had again done a lot of work on the village **archives**. Some 500 photos had been added to the collection this year including lots of photos of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations, photos of some village houses and restoration

work and some more historic photos bought from English Heritage. The Society now has about 3500 photos on the web site.

Thanks were given to Rita Sullivan for her continued help in transcribing and summarising the deeds for Valance Farm land which go back to the 1700s – an ongoing project. As usual the Society put out a display of photos and other records at the Church fête.

Recently Andrew, Rachel and Madelaine had visited the archives at Clare College and started to copy some of their papers relating to Ickleton which have been made available on the website. In particular they had discovered a fascinating map from 1795 showing Clare College's strips of land in the open fields. This was believed to be the oldest map of Ickleton and the only one showing the fields before the Enclosure. The archivist has sent the map for conservation after which the Society will buy a digital image.

Fundraising activities in the run up to Christmas included selling copies of the Ickleton Chronicle, Ickleton tea towels and cards and the CD of radio programmes about the village. They had made a big difference to our finances and will enable the Society to purchase various items for the archive in 2013.

In the coming year the Society is planning a tour of the Cambridge Botanic Gardens; an archive and "show and tell" day when all of the archives will be displayed in the main hall and people can bring photos and documents to add to the archive which can be copied there and then; and possibly a theatre trip.

5. **Treasurer's Report.** A copy of the accounts for the year to 31 March 2013 was provided. John Fowler explained the main items in the accounts and reported that they had been audited by Ken Worthing. A bill for about £200 for archive materials was outstanding. The Society's contribution to the information board in memory of Sheila Birch will be about £200. Adoption of the accounts was proposed by John Statham, seconded by Rosie Macdonald and agreed by the meeting.
6. **Members' Questions.** A member asked if there were any plans to take another village photograph. It was felt this might be worth considering if there was a suitable opportunity.
7. **Election of Officers and Committee.**  
Chairman – Neil McKillen had been proposed and seconded and was re-elected unopposed.

John Fowler and Rachel Radford had been nominated and seconded and were prepared to stand as Treasurer and Secretary respectively. Madelaine Smith had been nominated and seconded and was prepared to stand as Vice Chair of the Society. Andrew Shepperd, Clare Driver, Lynn Parsons and Rosie Macdonald 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 Lynn Parsons and Rosie Macdonald to the Committee.

8. **Election of the Hon. Auditor.** Ken Worthing was thanked for auditing the accounts and confirmed that he was happy to continue as auditor. Jos Flitton proposed and Clare Driver 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. Alice Lyons gave a talk on the finds from archaeological excavations at the Genome Campus illustrated by slides. She also brought some of the finds for people to examine. Rosie Macdonald thanked her for a fascinating talk.