

THE ICKLETON SOCIETY

Minutes of the thirty third Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 14 May 2014 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present: Madelaine Smith (Vice Chairman), John Fowler (Treasurer), Rachel Radford (Secretary), Clare Driver, Rosie Macdonald, Lynn Parsons, Gerry Birch, Francis Bird, Dawn Bradley, Geraldine Bushell, Lewis Duke, Susan Fowler, Richard Herbert, Wendy Johnson, Anne-Marie Lavender, Judy Marshall, Russell Morgan, Terry Sadler, Roy Smith, Elaine Statham, David & Jean Whitaker, Martin Woodhead, June Woodward, Ken Worthing, Lawrence Wragg.

1. **Welcome.** The Vice Chairman welcomed everyone to the thirty third AGM of the Society and on behalf of the Society thanked the retiring Chairman, Neil McKillen, for his work during his term of office . A small token of appreciation was to be given to him.
2. **Apologies.** Apologies for absence were received from Andrew & Norma Shepperd, Jos Flitton, James & Anne Macdonald, Pam Fern, Peter Bates, Ruth Driver, Neil McKillen and John Statham.
3. **Minutes of the thirty second Annual General Meeting.** Lynn Parsons proposed that the minutes be adopted as correct. Rosie Macdonald seconded and there were no objections. The minutes were signed by the Vice Chairman.
4. **Chairman's Report.** The Society has continued to play an active part in the life of our village and had another successful year. Each year our membership grows a little but we also work for the benefit of the village as a whole. We've continued to be watchful on the planning and development front, responding as necessary to the consultations on both South Cambridgeshire's and Uttlesford's Local Development Plan. We also commented on a small number of local planning applications. But our main activities this year have been around the archive and on the social side.

One of the highlights of the past year was getting the copy of the 1795 map held by Clare College which shows the open fields and all the tracks that enabled villagers to get to their strips of land. This had been a great find the previous year and it was worth waiting for the map to be conserved. The map is fascinating as we'd thought there was no map of the parish prior to the Enclosure of the fields in 1814. But, together with other information we have in the archive and work that Sheila Birch did and Rita Sullivan has continued (thanks Rita), it would help a researcher trace the ownership of some of the fields from 1545 to the present day. Andrew Shepperd is beginning to pull some of this together but if anyone has the time and would be interested in helping with this project, do let us know.

Andrew also obtained digital copies of a couple of aerial reconnaissance photos of Ickleton and Duxford which were taken by the Luftwaffe in 1940. You can see these on the village website and read about them and how the reconnaissance plane came down at Oakington airfield a couple of weeks later. We have also bought a digital copy of the 1814 Enclosure map which is somewhat better than the rather scrappy photocopy of sections of it that we currently have. We will be getting prints of all of these soon.

Another highlight was our Ickleton Past and Present day in September when we put out all of the archive for the first time. Needless to say the 1795 map took pride of place. The hall was busy with visitors all day including some who were descendants of past Ickleton people and who came from further afield. We had lots of compliments and people said they had had no idea just how extensive the archive is –now nearly 4000 photographs and over 800 documents. We were really pleased with the day and will certainly look to repeat it, perhaps every 2 or 3 years or when we have major additions to the archive.

We are also pleased that people have continued to donate photos and memorabilia to us, at the Past and Present day and throughout the year. These items really help to make the archive special. Clare continues to record people's memories of Ickleton as time allows and Andrew has begun an index of past Ickleton residents going back to about 1500. This database is on the history section of the village website and is easy to search.

Last June we had a guided tour of the Botanic Gardens in Cambridge on a very nice Sunday afternoon. As usual we put out a display of photos and other records at last year's Church fête and helped with the teas. In September we had another trip to the lovely Theatre Royal in Bury St Edmunds, this time to see an adaptation of Jane Austin's Mansfield Park.

In spite of torrential rain 17 hardy villagers braved the New Year's Day walk. We have just had our second May Bank Holiday walk and picnic when the weather was much kinder to us. We're very grateful to Peter and Sian Wombwell and Lewis Duke for helping us plan the May walk and letting us walk their land. We had a theme this year based on discovering some of the tracks that are on the 1795 map. Of course many of them disappeared 200 years ago and nothing remains but we could see where some might have been

and we were able to walk part of the Dell or Hard Way which still goes through Rectory farm and on through Abbey Farm land.

Sebastian Payne led another of our very enjoyable wine tasting evenings in March and we're very grateful to Sebastian. Thanks also to Clare Driver for continuing to organise the annual litter pick with the support of the Parish Council. It's sad that we collect so much every year but all the volunteers get a feeling of satisfaction from making our village tidier. We're also very grateful to the Parish Council for arranging the design and erection of the Information Board at Coploe Pit in memory of Sheila Birch and to which we were very pleased to contribute. It was really good to see so many people turn out for the small ceremony at the Pit, in particular the red kite that flew over just as Gerry finished speaking.

Coming up, Peter and Sian Wombwell have offered to show us the work they are doing with the support of Natural England over the next couple of years 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. We'll let you have more information when we have a date and we hope you'll join us there.

5. **Treasurer's Report.** A copy of the accounts for the year to 31 March 2014 was provided. John Fowler explained the main items in the accounts and reported that they had been audited by Ken Worthing. This year we spent more than our income but we had funds in hand at the start of the year from fundraising and we still ended the year with funds of £658.26 so we are in a satisfactory position. Adoption of the accounts was proposed by Roy Smith, seconded by Rosie Macdonald and agreed by the meeting.
6. **Members' Questions.** A member mentioned a map showing a proposed extension of the Lee Valley canal in the early 1800s which we might like to investigate. Another member raised the issue of motorway noise, which had been measured by the committee in the past but didn't quite reach the level required to get any action taken. It was felt this might be worth investigating again in the context of Human Rights legislation. The issue of light pollution from various local sources was also raised.
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. Lynn Parsons had been nominated and seconded and was prepared to stand as Vice Chair of the Society. Andrew Shepperd, Clare Driver, Geraldine Bushell 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 Geraldine Bushell 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. Lawrence Wragg proposed and Martin Woodhead 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 Andrew Westwood-Bate about the war games which took place in South Cambridgeshire in 1912 and the local Red Cross Hospitals. Lynn Parsons gave a vote of thanks.