Stapleford History Society Annual Report 2021

Stapleford village was recorded in the Domesday Book and was known to exist in the days of the Anglo-Saxons. Unfortunately, many of the older houses have been lost over time but members of the Stapleford History Society have been researching the past helped by Alan Bullwinkle who had found many many documents and photographs of the village in times gone by. These are invaluable as a place for families and researchers to study. During the pandemic I was grateful for the work done by members who have searched the boxes of archive material making detailed lists of the contents. Wendy Elsbury has been very patient in allowing the storage of these boxes in her house but I am very pleased that ACE has agreed to give us space in one of their buildings when the lockdown ends.

The History Society was affected by the Covid-19 pandemic like all the other clubs and societies in the village. There were still three talks booked to complete our programme for the year and we expected that the May meeting would go ahead as usual but as the weeks of Lockdown stretched into months we realised that we had to adopt new technology to keep the society running.

We started with Zoom committee meetings and had our first Zoom talk in December when Dr. Patricia Fara talked about the contribution that Cambridge women made to the war effort between 1914 and 1918 and, in particular, the graduates and students of Newnham and Girton Colleges. The second was in February when Tony Kirby talked about the development of Cambridge during Victorian and Edwardian times. From a small town confined in the west by the Cam and on the east by newly enclosed fields the town spread east and south when the colleges released land for development. By the time of the annual parish meeting we shall have had another Zoom talk which will be on the history of Hobson’s Conduit.

Our AGM in July was just a committee meeting held in the open air when we decided that the annual subscription would be waived for this year.

The History Society has a strong membership of over 60 including some from other villages and I am very grateful for the support of the committee for their commitment to keeping the society going during the pandemic.

The society also has a website, [historysociety.staplefordvillage.org.uk](http://historysociety.staplefordvillage.org.uk/) containing many photographs, records of our talks and much else. Please make use of it.

Keith Dixon

Chairman