

## **Local History Group – First meeting 30<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

Number of members: 21

Attendance: 12

Location: Kilve Mill, Kilve

Group leader: Sarah Hayward

### **Outcomes:**

Meetings: Generally third Monday afternoon in the month.

### Draft Programme:

June 20<sup>th</sup> – Researching your home: a case study Kilve Mill – Pat Hayward. Kilve Village Hall (tbc, including likely charge) Sarah & Pat Hayward to organise. Review of progress on rest of programme.

July 18<sup>th</sup> – Luttrell estate/ family historian or archivist – Bicknoller or East Quantoxhead VH (tbc, including likely charge) Jenny Thomas and Sarah Hayward to organise

August 15<sup>th</sup> – Explore trip to Steepholm or more suitable alternative (Stogursey, Doddington or Old Cleeve perhaps) – Sarah Hayward to organise

September 19<sup>th</sup> – Nether Stowey village history – a walk round the village meet at the library, end for tea at Coleridge tea room – all tbc. Norma Frood to organise. Review and plan for forward programme.

October 17<sup>th</sup> – East Quay and its reflection of Watchet past – Jenny Constantine and Jon Turner to organise

November 21<sup>st</sup> – Alfoxden House visit and history – Graeme Finch and Pat Hayward to organise

### Meeting follow-up:

Sarah to produce notes from the meeting and send out via Beacon. To reply, use the email address in blue “hypertext” at the foot of the email.

There was general agreement that we can share email addresses amongst those there – but unfortunately gmail is rejecting a lot of Sarah’s emails, so it is safer for her at least to send them using Beacon.

Ideas for future visits/ exploration/ sources to be sent to Sarah so she can keep a list for future use.

### **Details of meeting discussion etc.**

Attendees: Jenny Constantine, Graeme Finch, Norma Frood, Elizabeth Grigg, Sarah and Pat Hayward, Pat Pardoe, Dave Simbright, Nigel Stock, Jenny Thomas, Jon Turner, Angela Wells.

After introductions from all in attendance, we broke up for refreshments, a bit of chat and filling in three question sheets: “What do you want to get out of this group?”, “What are your specific local history questions you’d like to answer?” and “What can you bring to the group?”. See below for a record of what was written.

We then reviewed what was written to identify key themes and common elements. As quite a large group already, it was also a chance to see if there was a need for sub-groups to be set up.

It became clear that certainly in the initial 6 months what the group was looking for was to explore the local area with visits to interesting places, hear from local people, and find out about local sources of information. With a bit of discussion the first 6 months were sketched out, with people volunteering to take charge of pursuing setting them up. The first meeting is planned in just 3 weeks time, so an “easy” option that had been preprepared of Pat doing a show and tell of how he had researched some of the history of Kilve Mill was agreed for the first meeting, and we can then have a catch up on how the rest of the programme is going. In September or October we’ll have a review and planning session for the next 6 month programme.

A check list to find out the preferred day and time of meetings and frequency was sent round, and that helped us determine that a monthly meeting, Monday afternoons, third week of the month was best.

Photo permission was sought from all those present – and all gave their permission. (Post meeting though – perhaps this can be recorded on Beacon?)

Notes on Sheets:

1. What do you want to get out of the group? (Ethos/ style/ ambition...)
  - a. Friendly place to gain insight/knowledge and share interests
  - b. Visit local places and learn more about their history
  - c. Friendly meetings/ discussion
  - d. Learn more about local area
  - e. Possible visits to places of interest
  - f. Hearing from historians on the history and architecture
  - g. Would enjoy visits to local places of interest.
  - h. Listen to guest speakers with local expertise
  - i. Visits to places of interest
  - j. Knowledge about local area – for family and guests, where to visit, points of interest
  - k. Group discussion
  - l. Knowledge of Nether Stowey, local families, interesting info and a friendly group
  - m. Being able to learn with no exam at the end!
  - n. Visiting places of interest
  - o. Visiting old interesting areas, properties etc.
  - p. Meeting people and visiting places of interest
  - q. Fun/ more learning about local area
  - r. Visits and info
2. What are your specific local history questions you’d like to answer? (Era/ social/ industry/ military/place...)
  - a. Social and industrial history from 18<sup>th</sup> Century onwards
  - b. Interested in all aspects of local history – all ages
  - c. Some of the social history at times of upheaval – e.g. reformation/ civil war
  - d. Interest in some of the heritage of buildings
  - e. Historical buildings/ houses/ local characters – notoriety – all Quantock based
  - f. Buildings, local characters, architecture
  - g. Buildings and construction methods, Red post origin (signposts in area are sometime painted red – various theories, some linked to Judge Jefferies), changing social status
  - h. Historical buildings and their occupants and families, Quantock-based
  - i. Local customs, traditions, keen on Nether Stowey castle information
  - j. The social and farming history of the Quantocks

- k. Local churches and history
  - l. Significant local buildings, associated families and industry
  - m. Prehistory, local industry, coastal history – eg harbours, changing landscape
  - n. Food history
3. What can you bring to this group? (Skills/ knowledge/ Resource...)
- a. Some knowledge of local church history and some 17<sup>th</sup> Century military history
  - b. Knowledge of Nether Stowey – castle etc.
  - c. Thomas Pool library – past speakers; library as a venue for meetings at a small cost
  - d. Not local so no local knowledge, but prepared to research things and then talk to group
  - e. A good listener and encourage discussion
  - f. Maybe able to give some input into local “recent” history
  - g. Generations of family have lived in this lovely area
  - h. Prepared to help with research
  - i. Taunton/ Somerset CC records office and library
  - j. Kilve Mills/ other mills
  - k. Google skills, web-based research sites and enthusiasm
  - l. History society Holford – a source of speakers, knowledge etc.
  - m. Assize records for Somerset – have been digitised
4. Other items of interest mentioned for future pursuit:
- a. “Abode of love – Spaxton” – here’s a link with a bit more info. For those who were unaware of this very: <http://www.utopia-britannica.org.uk/pages/abode%20of%20love.htm> Fascinating!
  - b. Local author – Allam Bunyan “A Troubled Century” - <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Somerset-Troubled-Century-1600-1699/dp/1838594086>
  - c. Watchet – any links to slavery?
  - d. Could county heritage officer or similar come to talk about the social and architectural history of the area – Quantocks/ West Somerset.
  - e. Agricultural history – examples of building NOT changed from historical use.