

Alveley Historical Society
Minutes of the meeting 19th September 2019

Present: Bill Scriven, Barbara Spragg, Stuart Hunt, Margaret Clayton Keith & Pam Stanton

Apologies:, Carol & John Wall, Hilary Fleming

Bill opened the meeting with accepting minutes as read. He then showed the meeting a colour photograph of pupils outside the Old School. He thinks it was taken about 1909.

Severn Valley Country Park Project

Bill reported that Gerry Scriven had been interviewed by Julia Letts and he had been present as he introduced her to Gerry. Julia Letts is a professional freelance interviewer who previously worked for the BBC. Bill has asked that AHS be given copies of everything being recorded for this project.

Bill had his own interview on Tuesday 17th September. Julia arrived at 11.30 and left at 4pm. She is going to come back to finish off!

This prompted a discussion about the changes that have happened from pit to Country park.

Bill also mentioned Bert (Buck) Allport as a possible person to be interviewed as he was such a character. He is now 93. He always rode a horse, wore a cowboy hat and spoke in a broad American accent and did all the village fetes. He moved the mountain of burnt shale using his old Bedford lorry he sold this to people for driveways/gateways etc. He also cut the grass verges for Shropshire County Council. He did a television interview in the 1960's and another one in 1976 by which time he was complaining about the plastic bottles and cans and litter generally thrown onto the verges. He often quoted poetry and from the bible.

Church Steps and Planters

Pam reported that one of the church wardens had been asking for a handrail to be put on the church steps by the Lich gate. It was unclear which steps he meant but the ones facing Church Green would need permission from the Ecumenical Council for this. He seems to think the Parish Council would fund it or the AHS.

Margaret Sheriden had suggested to Margaret Clayton that she should take over the care of the planter on the corner of Church Green. Pam told the meeting that she, herself, was responsible for that planter and

that all the village planters were looked after by a team of volunteers led by Margaret Shaw. The planter on the corner of the Green, a timber one, was in poor repair and not likely to last another season. It had been decided to ask the Council to fund a stone planter in place of it to incorporate the steps behind the current one. These steps look like they may have been part of the original School building.

Coton Hall

Bill told the meeting that the present owners of Coton hall want a modern survey done to prove one way or the other whether there ever was a tunnel from Coton Hall Chapel to the church. The thoughts about the tunnel were that because of the lie of the land such a tunnel was likely to have been impossible.

Meeting closed at 9.00pm

Next Meeting 21st November 2019