

Chalford Parish Local History Group

Chairman's Report for 2019-20

This Club Year has been very strange with Covid-19 cutting short our programme of meetings. However, I believe those we did have before the Lockdown were some of the best we have had. In October Dr Ray Wilson gave us a most interesting presentation of 'Stroud's other industries' and in November, we had a fascinating 'Oral History Evening' with recollections from our Oral History Project accompanied by suitable photographs. We ended with two extremely well attended meetings - in January with Ashley Dickenson's talk about items he has found on his farm and in February with Dr Philip Edmondson giving us the history of The Corderries.

I really would like to sincerely thank all members of the Committee for their time and efforts for the efficient running of the Group - especially to our Secretary Hilary and Treasurer John who between them have taken the main share of the burden. Also to Vesta for ensuring our refreshments are ready at the end of each meeting. [At our first Zoom meeting I really missed those chocolate biscuits!]

Unfortunately, with the extra responsibilities at work due to Covid-19, Tim Ilott has decided to resign from the Committee. I would like to take this opportunity to thank him very much for all his informed input at Committee meetings as well as helping at our monthly meetings. We have co-opted Angela Sallis in his place. There is still one more place on the Committee to be filled.

Most weeks since April 2019, a number of us have continued going to the Gloucestershire Archives cataloguing the Stanley Gardiner Collection of photographs. Those involved have been Camilla, Angela, Jim, Pete, John, Dawn, Jacqui, Ross, Anthea and myself. It has been great fun. Fortunately, we finished just as the Lockdown began. Since then all our work has been entered on to the Gloucestershire Archive online catalogue and we have been thanked by them for all our diligent efforts. We are waiting more normal times to return to continue our volunteering at the Archive.

I would like to thank Juliet, Mary Wormington and Juliet's friend Suki Pye for their work transcribing seven Oral History Group's interviews. This year just one more interview has been added to our collection. We are so very fortunate that the interviews were conducted before Covid-19! Juliet has also worked extremely hard to provide summaries from the transcripts. Some are available on our website – do try to read them, I have just recently added more. They record a time that is very different from today.

In anticipation of having a Heritage Trail Weekend in September 2020, a small booklet *Chalford Heritage Trail* was produced by Peter, Jim, Camilla, Hilary, John, Ian, Trevor, Meg, Jennifer and myself. The event had to be cancelled, of course, and the plan now is to hopefully run the Trail over a weekend in May 2021.

We have planned a programme of Zoom meetings and I would encourage all members to download Zoom for free. Then just ping on the link in the emailed invitation – simple as that, nothing else to do but listen, watch and enjoy!