

# Fleetville Diaries

## Annual Report October 2011



### Status and Training

In 2010, FD became a member of St Albans Council for Voluntary Services (CVS) which offers organisational support, concessional rates for some services, training opportunities, information and advice. We are now an Unregistered Constituted Community Group. This entitles us to open a bank account free of charge with NatWest and will also allow us to apply for funding in the coming months. As a result, Liz has now undergone a CRB check to enable her to continue interviewing for oral histories. She has also attended a useful course about creating funding opportunities and a conference run by the Big Lottery Fund. In January she attended a film editing course under the umbrella of the Oral History Society.

### Exhibitions

This year, as in 2010, an exhibition of Working in Fleetville was on display at the Fleetville Festival on March 27<sup>th</sup> 2011 and at Larks in the Parks on June 26<sup>th</sup> 2011. Both events attracted much attention and interest. Children's activities are also available. Mike's new gazebo was a fantastic success! Parts of this exhibition are used at smaller occasions too.

### Work in the Community

In December 2010, some members participated in carol singing around Fleetville in the snow! A collection was made on behalf of the St Albans Bereavement Network. Mike, Diana and Liz were interviewed by Year 5 pupils at Fleetville Junior School in March 2011; the theme was 'The 60s'. This is part of their curriculum. In March, Mike, Liz and Vic participated in a collaborative film project called Fleetville Stories in which children from Verulam and Fleetville Juniors worked together, interviewing local people about Fleetville. It was shown to parents and children at Verulam School and is now on YouTube. Jon Meier, a teacher at Verulam, led the project and showed the film to FD members in August 2011.

On July 14<sup>th</sup>, Mike and Liz met with Woodville Ladies group to talk about the work of FD. There was great interest in the exhibition which some were not able to see in June. This event provided a good number people for Liz to interview and some useful contacts for Mike. Another meeting is planned in 2012.

Instead of holding members' meetings in June, July and September, guided walks took place. The first was around the south side of Fleetville and concentrated on industrial history. The second was conducted by guest speaker, Kate Bretherton, about the tree collection in Clarence Park. The third walk took place in the residential areas, largely north of the Hatfield Road. The walks were free of charge and open to anyone. All three were over-subscribed. Lin Keen, a walk guide for St Albans, was able to offer advice on our first walk.

During the year, Mike has been collaborating with local councillor, Sheila Burton, in developing an interpretation board for Fleetville which will be placed next to the Beech Tree café on the recreation ground. Work is in progress.

In July, Liz was interviewed on Radio Verulam about Fleetville Diaries and was able to ask for support from the community.

### Work with Other History Groups

Liz and Mike attended The Community Archives conference at UCL in May 2011. Liz participated in a project for retired people at MoSTA ; the theme was 'Made in St Albans'. This culminated in an exhibition of creative work at the museum. Liz and Mike both participated in a reminiscences project at MoSTA. Mike is currently involved in developing a network of local history groups in the St Albans area, beginning with a conference on October 22<sup>nd</sup> 2011.

### Projects

Oral history interviews are accumulating slowly. Transcripts for 'Working in Fleetville' provided good original material along with written contributions. Work is currently underway towards building up an oral history of different ethnic groups in Fleetville; a meeting with St Albans' African Caribbean Society in October attracted a number of interview volunteers. An approach has also been made to the Islamic community.

Mike has been building up a comprehensive picture of house/shop ownership along the Hatfield Road in addition to all the work for his forthcoming book, *St Albans' Own East End*.

## Website

The Fleetville Diaries website is growing almost daily. One page details what we are working on and asks for contributions from the public. The Gallery pages have had many contributions from Vic Foster and Andrew Freeman. Accounts of working at Ballito, Nicholson's, Marconi, the Ribbon Factory and a Hatfield Road sweet shop have been added in the past year. Oral history accounts of growing up in Fleetville have been given by Doris Butlin, Sheila Fowler and Diana Devereux. A monthly diary of photos and short reports appears in '2011, a year in the life of Fleetville'. Last of all, a page has been created for Fleetville Harmony Singers (another offshoot of the Fleetville Festival) to publish practice arrangements, concert details and MP3 files.

## Members' Contributions

Thanks to Vic Foster for acting as unofficial photographer for FD. His contributions have enhanced the website considerably. He was also responsible for creating the Fleetville Diaries logo which is used on our stationery, both long and short versions. Thanks also to Andrew Freeman for donating his photo collection to our group; Hatfield Road shops from the 70s. He also gave a most interesting talk about his working life in Fleetville since the early 70s. Last of all, we thank Diana Devereux for providing welcome refreshments at every meeting.

Many thanks also to contributors to the 'written history' section of the website: Derek Nash, Reg Law and Ann McBride.

## The Committee

Members from November 2010 to 2011 have been Mike Neighbour, Peter Elliott, Lorraine Hammond and Liz Bloom. Committee meetings were held in October 2010, and in 2011; January, February, June, August and October. Lorraine has been identified as the person responsible for the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults.

Unless the committee members change, Mike, Liz, and Peter will all be bank account signatories. One signature will be required on cheques up to £50; any greater amount will require two signatories.

## Annual Statement of accounts September 2011

Transaction		In	Out	Date
Subscriptions from previous year	Cash	£ 16.74		01/01/2011
Subscriptions	Cash	£ 11.00		27/01/2011
Subscriptions	Cash	£ 14.00		24/02/2011
Room Hire	Transfer		£ 54.00	28/02/2011
Subscriptions	Cash	£ 16.00		31/03/2011
Subscriptions	Cash	£ 7.00		28/04/2011
Subscriptions	Cash	£ 16.00		25/08/2011
<b>Totals</b>		<b>£ 80.74</b>	<b>£ 54.00</b>	
<b>Balance</b>	<b>+ £26.74</b>			<b>26/09/2011</b>

*Annual Report 2011 Verified by Lorraine Hammond and Peter Elliott. Original document with Liz Bloom.*