

# Fleetville Diaries

## Annual Report November 2012



### Status

In November 2011, Fleetville Diaries' bank account was opened; Peter Elliott, Liz Bloom and Mike Neighbour being official signatories. Cheques over the value of £50 must be signed by two signatories. Monthly statements are sent out.

In June 2012, our membership of CVS was renewed. CVS provides advice and support in fund-raising, training, and in constitutional and legal matters.

### Project 1 Fleetville – Home from Home

Nine oral histories have been recorded and transcribed for this project, with another in the pipeline. It proved to be quite a difficult but rewarding task. Eight transcriptions are now available on the website and an exhibition is currently being compiled for the Fleetville Festival. The St Albans District Council grant of £1500 last year has funded the purchase of an LCD display projector, a projector screen, paper and cartridges, mounting board, 2 exhibition stands, 2 carry cases, various small stationery items, acrylic leaflet stands and publicity banners. Many of these items will be used for future events involving FD activities.

It is intended that multiculturalism in Fleetville should be a feature of our future oral history work.

### Project 2 Guided Walks

This year we have developed the guided walks by reflecting on last year's experiences and improving both the literature and the content. Literature has been designed so that it can be used in future years and copies of all material are stored. The popularity of the 'Laid to Rest in Fleetville' guided walk has prompted us to design more 'themed' walks in the cemetery. We have enquired including our walks in the St Albans guided walk programme but, without blue badges or other recognised accreditation, that is not possible at the moment.

### Project 3 Members' Histories

This is a project that didn't get under way in a structured sense although Liz has received a few written accounts from ex-Fleetville residents who now live elsewhere. These stories are in the process of being placed on the website.

### Project 4 The Best Days of Our Lives

In January 2012, members gathered with old photos and other memorabilia to recall their school days, whether in Fleetville or elsewhere. Members' short accounts of incidents at school were recorded and transcribed, and Mike and Liz visited Fleetville Infants' School to copy archived material. From this evidence, the exhibition for the Fleetville Festival and Larks in the Parks was created. This stimulated much interest...and of course, more interested contributors.

### Exhibitions

In March this year, an exhibition of 'The Best Days of Our Lives' was on display at the Fleetville Festival and at a very windy 'Larks in the Parks' in June where children's activities were also available. FD material was also exhibited at 'National Older People's Day' on October 1<sup>st</sup> at the Old Town Hall and at the 'Face to Face' event at Verulam School on November 18<sup>th</sup>. All events attracted much attention and interest. FD banners are now in use.

### Work in the Community

In December 2011, some members participated in carol singing around Fleetville - in the rain. A collection of £160 was made on behalf of the Cardiomyopathy Foundation. In February, Mike and Liz met with Woodville Ladies again to talk about the work of FD, in particular the Fleetville Home from Home project and some of Mike's work..... This event provided two more people for Liz to interview for the Home from Home project.

Liz has spoken to the African Caribbean Association, Pensioners Voice, the Priory Club, a group of seniors at Hatfield Rd Methodist Church, and Sopwell Residents Association about the work she is doing on the Fleetville Home from

Home project. As a result of her involvement in the Home from Home project, Liz is participating in a Faith and Cultural Enterprise project (FACE) which is attempting to facilitate the development of small multi-ethnic groups by linking them with service providers and other groups in the area.

Mike has also spoken to Jeff Lewis at the Small ford Residents Association.

Mike has worked with the 18<sup>th</sup> St Albans Cub Scout leader to create a Local History Information Badge for the pack.

### **Other History Groups and Activities**

Liz and Mike again were inspired by The Community Archives conference at UCL in May. The St Albans Local History Network Conference in October, featuring no less than 16 guest speakers, was very well attended. Out of this event, a volunteer to support in the 'Fleetville - Home from Home' project has come forward. Mike and Liz both gave presentations.

Mike's book, 'St Albans Own East End' was launched at St Paul's last March and has been received with much acclaim. It is prominently displayed at Waterstone's and is selling well. The second volume is due to be published in March 2013.

### **Website**

The Fleetville Diaries website continues in its original format and is a useful tool for advertising, informing and archiving. Indeed, a number of recent new contacts have come to know about our work through 'googling' the word 'Fleetville'. We know that old friends such as Ann and Hugh Stratton in New Zealand use it as a way of keeping up with what's happening here. 'Tending' the website is a very time-consuming aspect of FD's work and it is in need of an overhaul in terms of its massive content.

### **Members**

Last November, for the first time, we accepted 15 membership fees of £10 per member entitling free entry to meetings and a half price concession on guided walks.

Thanks again to Vic Foster for acting as unofficial photographer for FD; his pics of the Jubilee celebrations are much appreciated. Vic and Vera took some of us on a trip in a minibus to HALS last April; it was thoroughly enjoyed by all. We are grateful to the numerous contributors who helped to make 'The Best Days' project such a success. Members who turned up to secure Mike's gazebo at Larks in the Parks were also a very welcome sight! Last of all, we thank Diana Devereux for providing welcome refreshments at meetings. Many thanks to Andrew and Simon Freeman who compiled questions and planned the Big Quiz night; it didn't run, but their work will be used in other forms at future meetings!

### **The Committee**

Members from November 2011 to 2012 have been Mike Neighbour, Peter Elliott, Lorraine Hammond and Liz Bloom. 2012 committee meetings were held in March, July, September and November. During these meetings, invoiced expenses submitted by committee members were paid according to the rules of the FD bank account. Unless the committee members change, Mike, Liz, and Peter will continue to be bank account signatories. One signature will be required on cheques up to £50; any greater amount will require two signatories.

We would like to recruit more committee members who can take an active part in making history or in administration such as publicity and accounts.

### **Next Year**

Fleetville Diaries will continue to operate using the same format with meetings during the winter months and guided walks in the summer. It is unlikely that we will run a fund-raising quiz next year but it is hoped that further work with members' contributions will increase. The oral history work will continue now that we have an additional oral historian. We hope to contact more young people through the YAC (Young Archaeologists Club) scheme and the Scouts. We will have more guided walks which will afford us the luxury of either doing more walks or using them in rotation from one year to the next. The website will be updated.

## Annual Statement of accounts November 2012

Please note that where the word 'Subscriptions' appears, it refers to income from attendees - both annual subscriptions and non-members' attendance fees. In next year's accounts, a distinction will be made between the two.

Fleetville Diaries Accounts to November 13th 2012				
Transaction		In	Out	
Funds carried over		£ 16.74		27/01/2011
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
Subscriptions	Cash	£ 13.00		27/10/2011
Subscriptions	Cash	£ 126.00		24/11/2011
Community Grant		£ 1,460.00		16/12/2011
Subscriptions	Cash	£ 10.00		25/01/2012
Subscriptions	Cash	£ 14.50		28/02/2012
Membership SB	Cash	£ 10.00		05/03/2012
Purchase of projector etc. Invoice LB	Cheque		£ 781.90	13/03/2012
Membership JC	Cash	£ 10.00		27/03/2012
Subscriptions	Cash	£ 10.00		27/03/2012
Subscriptions	Cash	£ 16.40		25/04/2012
Subscriptions	Cash	£ 45.00		30/05/2012
CVS membership	Cheque		£ 20.00	26/06/2012
Subscriptions	Cash	£ 54.00		27/06/2012
Payment KB	Cheque		£ 60.00	03/07/2012
Subs from Vic & Vera for HALS trip	Cash	£ 7.60		06/07/2012
Payment Vic for minibus hire	Cheque		£ 30.40	06/07/2012
Subscriptions	Cash	£ 31.00		25/07/2012
Subscriptions	Cash	£ 37.00		25/08/2012
Purchase of store cupboard and carry cases etc. Invoice LB	Cheque		£ 361.64	18/09/2012
Purchase of banners etc. Invoice MN	Cheque		£ 155.23	18/09/2012
Subscriptions	Cash	£ 39.00		29/09/2012
<b>Total</b>		<b>£ 1,964.24</b>	<b>£ 1,463.17</b>	
<b>Balance</b>		<b>501.07</b>		<b>12/11/2012</b>

00522469  
03814 01  
2



# Current Account

Branch details  
St Albans Branch  
10 St Peter's Street  
St Albans  
Herts  
AL1 3LY

Summary	28 Sep 2012	to	26 Oct 2012
Previous balance			462.07
Withdrawn			0.00
Paid in			39.00
New balance			501.07

H16610/00522469/I 601811/03814



MRS ELIZABETH BLOOM  
FLEETVILLE DIARIES  
40 ARTHUR ROAD  
ST. ALBANS  
HERTFORDSHIRE  
AL1 4SZ

For Bank use

If you have changed your address or telephone number,  
please let us know

Account Number 17366682  
Branch sort code 60-18-11  
National Westminster Bank Plc

FLEETVILLE DIARIES  
COMMUNITY ORGANISATION A/C

BIC NWBK GB 2L  
IBAN GB73 NWBK 6018 1117 3666 1