

Fleetville Diaries

Annual Report November 2017



Status

Fleetville Diaries is a fully constituted voluntary group. It is a member of CVS and takes out Public Liability Insurance annually.

Projects 1 - The 'Right Up Our Street' project

Following on from the outstanding success of the Cambridge Street project, during 2016, Romayne Hutchison and Anne Marie Kelly began work on Camp View Road as the next subject in the series. Work began in earnest with census data, Kelly's Directory and the Herts Ad being the major sources. On February 4th this year, a very useful 'drop in' afternoon allowed local people to show their photos and share memories; these were followed up with oral history interviews. Meanwhile, Keith Robertson created an online 'depository' of data which included a map of Camp View Road when, by clicking on individual house numbers, reveals the known information relating to each one. This very clever method of storing and recovering data will be something that Fleetville Diaries hopes to develop more broadly. The project concluded in October this year when Anne Marie and Romayne presented their fascinating work to this group. They are all to be congratulated on the thoroughness of their work which leaves us with such a rich vein of information for our archives.

Project 2 - Website

The saga of the website continues! Our current website arrangement is perfectly adequate for providing information about events and meetings although it is certainly not up to the standard of the Herts Memories series, of course. The software is owned by me and is rather dated and complicated to use so the route taken in the next year or two is in question. Should we persevere with an easier-to-use online version such as Wordpress or do we call in greater expertise to run it or support us? Please watch this space.

Project 3 - Our Talks and Walks.

This year, Mike and I have presented new talks to Fleetville Diaries and of course, we can't forget the Camp View Road addition from Anne Marie and Romayne. Mike and I both present talks to local groups on a regular basis. In late July, another cemetery walk was added to the series – Families and Friends – which was well-attended.

Project 4 - Members' Research

Way back in January this year, Ian Gotts and Carol Parker talked to us about family history research and I know that a number of you were inspired by what they had to say. Later this evening, Anne Marie and Mike will be telling us a couple of family history stories themselves. If more of you have family stories about the Fleetville area, please let us know.

Digital Archiving of Fleetville Diaries data

This has always been on my conscience; a more secure way of backing up files! In the past, I have used an external hard drive for this; but what if my laptop and hard drive both go up in smoke? Recently, however, Keith Robertson helped me to back up FD files on Google Drive, not a satnav app but an online service providing up to 10G of storage space; Fleetville Diaries takes up 7G. This means that, whatever kind of disaster strikes my computer, our files are safe. Thanks, Keith.

Frederick Sander Grave Restoration

Most of you will be aware that the Sander grave had fallen into disrepair; so much so that a buddleia was growing through the middle of it and the various gravestones were discoloured and had toppled and shifted out of line. Terry Swain, David Gaylard and myself have made steady but slow progress trying to rectify the situation. Initially we were told that the whole restoration, if left in the hands of the funeral directors would cost £4,540. Anyway, Terry and David, otherwise known as Burke and Hare, have already done an outstanding job by excavating the buddleia (no mean feat, I must say) and now think they can reduce the cost to £1,800. They can do much of the labouring by digging and cleaning but a stone mason is required to move the stones back into position. This project will continue and hopefully conclude in 2018.

Trips

On a glorious evening in June, we were hosted by Bernard Edwards on a walk along the Grand Union Canal in Berkhamsted. We learnt, amongst other things, that the Saxon barons finally surrendered to William the Conqueror at Berkhamsted castle. The conclusion of our tour was at the Rising Sun where we enjoyed a pint while watching the Morris dancing precariously next to the canal; a lovely occasion. In October, Terry, in my absence, led a trip to Samuel Johnson's house, also taking in the Old Bank of England pub for lunch and a walk along the South Bank. I wish I'd have been there; thank you Terry. One excursion to London Colney had to be cancelled, unfortunately, but we hope to get there one day!

Walks

Walks along Camp Road and Cambridge Road were very well attended; my thanks to committee members who supported on these occasions. Mike's September walk along the Alban Way from Smallford had to be cancelled at the last minute because of torrential rain; perhaps next year

The Committee

All committee members have worked tirelessly as walk attendants, meeting preparers, refreshment helpers and on special assignments; **Romayne** and **Anne Marie** on the vast Camp View Road project, **Terry** on the London excursion, and both he and **David** on the Sander grave project. Thanks also to David for managing memberships and attendance. **Mike** continues to donate his time and considerable expertise to Fleetville Diaries and of course, without his input in terms of talks and walks, Fleetville Diaries would not be what it is. My heartfelt thanks to you all.

Members

- This year we accepted 32 members; their fees of £10 per member entitle free entry to meetings and a half price concession on guided walks. Numbers have remained the same as last year. Thanks to David who acts as a very efficient membership secretary.
- Many thanks to members who helped by carting things around and pitching the gazebo at the Fleetville Festival and at Larks in the Parks.

Next Year

- *Room hire costs and printing have been raised so, regrettably, there will be a change in our membership fee. It will be raised to £12 per annum and will entitle holders to free entry at walks and talks. These concessions do not apply on excursions, however.*
- *Local Engagement – We recognise that the Ballito Hosiery Mills is in need of some extended study. There are still people living in St Albans who have vivid memories of their time there. In 2018 we will be start by finding more sources of information and drafting out a way to proceed.*
- *Information Technology. 2018 may well be the year in which a new website is created! The committee also recognises that IT skills in the use of PowerPoint and possibly Excel would place members in a good position for the future, so we are exploring ways in which training can be given. Non-committee members who would like to take advantage of this can participate if they wish! Last of all, once we are confident about storing FD data on Google Drive, we will be in a position to approach the St Albans Museums about how they would like our data to be handed over for their safekeeping. But that's very much in the future!*
- *Exhibition – the Fleetville Festival will no longer be running so the need to create an exhibition in the spring is not so pressing. The Frederick Sander grave project, however, does present a chance for an exhibition. The grand plan is that when the grave is 'unveiled', so to speak, an exhibition in his honour can be placed on show here at the Community Centre.*
- *Right Up Our Street – we would like to invite FD members to suggest the next street to include in this series. After this AGM ...*
- *Publicity – we hope that in the next few months, we can place Fleetville well and truly on the map by creating a Wikipedia page about the area. There is talk about having a Facebook page too ...*
- *In 2018, we look forward to guest speakers talking about Children in WW1, the Jewish Community in St Albans and particularly in Fleetville, The Anonymous Women of WW1, and a History of the Printing Industry in St Albans. The 2018 programme will be available in the New Year once every event has been confirmed.*
- *Again, meetings and guided walks in 2018 will be held on WEDNESDAYS except the cemetery walks which will be on Saturday afternoons.*

IF YOU WISH TO READ OUR ACTION PLAN, PLEASE FIND IT ON OUR WEBSITE.

The Committee

- 2017 committee meetings were held in January, October and November. During these meetings, invoiced expenses submitted by committee members were paid according to the rules of the FD bank account. Current members are Anne Marie Kelly, Romaine Hutchison, Mike Neighbour, David Gaylard, Terry Swain and Liz Bloom. Mike and Liz are bank account signatories.
- All members are happy to serve in 2018 although we are very keen to recruit more, particularly someone with excellent IT skills.
- Today, I am giving notice that from November 2018, I will be handing over the baton to a new Chair with brighter and better ideas; someone who has the foresight and energy to take FD in a new direction. Although I will not be a serving committee member, I will continue to take an interest in the group and perhaps, from time to time, make a small contribution. I enjoy talking to local interest groups and any donations from them will continue to fund FD. I have my own research to pursue and a retirement to enjoy more fully.

Chair of Committee – Liz Bloom
November 29th 2017

Fleetville Diaries - Financial Year to 2 November 2017

Date	Transaction	Income	Outgoing	Balance
3.10.16	Carried forward			£1,719.31
9.10.16	Fees from RAF Hendon visit	£30.00		£1,749.31
19.10.16	LB talk to Marshalswick Baptists	£25.00		£1,774.31
19.10.16	Donations from MN talks	£320.00		£2,094.31
26.10.16	Casual attendance fees	£9.00		£2,103.31
17.11.16	Minibus hire from Frogmore		£32.80	£2,070.51
17.11.16	LB talk to Parkwood Women's Club	£45.00		£2,115.51
30.11.16	Donation to Museum Fund		£800.00	£1,315.51
31.1.17	Membership fees	£220.00		£1,535.51
6.2.17	Membership fee	£10.00		£1,545.51
23.2.17	Membership fees	£40.00		£1,585.51
23.2.17	Casual attendance fees	£4.00		£1,589.51
29.3.17	Membership fee	£10.00		£1,599.51
13.4.17	Printing for Nicholsons Exhibition (Fonteyne Signs)		£344.00	£1,255.51
13.4.17	Speckled Hen food (LB Expenses)		£50.00	
13.4.17	Printing of FD leaflets (LB Expenses)		£95.00	
13.4.17	Printing of FD posters (LB Expenses)		£40.00	
13.4.17	Printing of CVR leaflets (LB Expenses)		£30.00	£1,020.51
26.4.17	Membership fees	£40.00		£1,060.51
26.4.17	Casual attendance fees	£20.00		£1,080.51
26.4.17	Guest fee - St Albans City Guides (guest speaker)		£40.00	£1,040.51
31.5.17	Fees from Camp Road walk	£20.00		£1,060.51
14.6.17	Guest fee Bernard Edwards (Berkhampstead guide)		£45.00	£1,015.51
14.6.17	Fees from Berkhampstead walk	£56.00		£1,071.51
28.6.17	Fees from Cambridge Road walk	£4.00		£1,075.51
24.7.17	LB talk to Age Concern	£30.00		£1,105.51
29.7.17	Fees from Friends and Families walk	£40.00		£1,145.51
22.9.17	LB talk to Age Concern	£30.00		£1,175.51
16.10.17	LB talk to Vesta Club	£35.00		£1,210.51
26.10.17	LB talk to Marshalswick Baptists	£25.00		£1,235.51
27.10.17	Public Liability Insurance (Paid by LB in June)		£89.60	£1,145.91
2.11.17	Liz talk to Leaside Women's Club	£30.00		£1,175.91
	TOTALS	£1,043.00	£1,566.40	

Fleetville Diaries financial comparison 2016/2017

Financial statement 2 October 2016

Membership subscriptions	£320.00	
Casual attendance fees at meetings	£54.00	
Stationery /publicity materials		£677.49
Refreshment expenses		£45.20
Community Centre hire		£105.00
Fees from walks (6)	£181.06	
Fees from MN/LB walks (4)	£152.00	
Fees from talks (13)	£415.70	
Donations	£36.00	£169.00
Fees from members' trips	£129.00	
Minibus hire for members' trips		£42.40
Public liability insurance		£87.60
Match funding (University of Herts)	£435.00	
Garden Party donations	£121.10	
Garden Party expenditure		£151.40
Total	£1843.86	£1278.09

Financial statement 2 October 2017

Membership subscriptions	£320.00	
Casual attendance fees at meetings	£33.00	
Stationery /publicity materials		£509.00
Refreshment expenses		£0.00
Community Centre hire		£0.00
Casual attendance fees from MN/LB walks (4)	£64.00	
Fees from MN/LB talks to other groups (13)	£540.00	
Guest speaker fees		£85.00
Donations		£800.00
Fees from members' trips	£86.00	
Minibus hire for members' trip		£32.80
Public liability insurance		£89.60
Speckled Hen food		£50.00
Total	£1,043.00	£1,566.40

Fleetville Diaries end of financial year bank statement.

NB The balance to November 2nd 2017 do not show the cash float sum of £29.45 which reconciles the total amount to £1,175.91 .

NatWest Current Account

Summary 5 Oct 2017 to 3 Nov 2017
Sheet 66

Previous balance	1,146.06
Withdrawn	89.60
Paid in	90.00
New balance	1,146.46

Your deposit is eligible for protection under the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS). An FSCS Information Sheet and list of exclusions will be provided to you on an annual basis. For further information about the compensation provided by the FSCS, refer to the FSCS website at www.FSCS.org.uk

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

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

N55900/02470817/I 601811/02868

MRS ELIZABETH BLOOM
FLEETVILLE DIARIES
53 CAMBRIDGE ROAD
ST. ALBANS
HERTFORDSHIRE
AL1 5LE

For Bank use

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

FLEETVILLE DIARIES
COMMUNITY ORGANISATION A/C

BIC NNBK GB 2L
IBAN GB73 NNBK 6018 1117 3666 82

Declaration: This is a complete and accurate record of the activities of Fleetville Diaries from November 30th 2016 to November 29th 2017

<i>Committee member</i>	<i>Signature</i>	<i>Date</i>
Liz Bloom		
David Gaylard		
Romayne Hutchison		
Anne Marie Kelly		
Mike Neighbour		
Terry Swain		