

Fleetville Diaries Minutes

November 24th 2011

Community Centre, Fleetville at 7.30pm

Present: Diana Devereux, Paul Eland, Peter and Gill Elliott, Lorraine Hammond, Mike Neighbour, Liz Bloom, Vic Foster, Vera Foster, Andrew Freeman, Anne Strojanovic, Helen Tung Yep, Sylvie Reeves, Bob Rumney.

Apologies: Jo Corrigan



1. Minutes of AGM and last meeting. Liz pointed out that in 1e of the AGM minutes, entitled 'Change in membership and entry charges', the standard entry charge for non-members to meetings would be raised to £2. This had been passed at the meeting on Oct 27th but not recorded as such. The amendment will be added to the AGM minutes.
2. Liz was pleased to announce the success of FD's Community Grants Fund bid for £1,460 which will fund the *Home from Home* cross-cultural project. (Thanks to Mike for his support in building the bid.) She informed members of recent oral history recordings by Celia and Derek Kalabza, 'Buff' Moody and Melda Liburd.
3. Mike referred to contacts received in connection with Ernie Cooper, an internationally renowned dahlia grower who lived in Hatfield Road and had his smallholding where the Longacres park is now. One was a boy, Ron Lynch, who had worked there, and another, Martin Cooper, who is Ernie's grandson. He is trying to piece together his grandfather's story. He also referred to the Herts Advertiser re-photographing project, and showed two sample photos, Fleetville-related, which had come from the early output of the project (a Sphere Works football team from 1938, and digging the Clarence Park shelter trenches in the same year).
4. Our guest speaker, Sue Flood, the county archivist, spoke to us about the vast secure storage facilities at County Hall, the decisions made as to what should be kept and what should not, storage conditions, conservation of documents and public access. She showed us some beautiful examples of maps of St Albans from the 17th and 19th centuries. She ended her talk by inviting us to visit the archive as a group next year; many people expressed an interest in going.
5. £126 was taken in membership and entry fees. The following people are now paid up members until the last Thursday in November 2012, entitling them to free entry to meetings and half price at other FD events.

Diana and Barry Devereux, Lorraine Hammond, Mike Neighbour, Liz Bloom, Peter Elliott, Vic Foster, Vera Foster, Andrew Freeman, Anne Strojanovic, Sylvie Reeves and Bob Rumney.

Date for next meeting. January 26th. "The Best Days of Our Lives": a reminiscence session - with light refreshments