

Fleetville Diaries Committee Minutes

October 27th 2017

2pm, 53 Cambridge Road

Present: Mike, Romaine, Anne Marie, Terry and Liz. Apols: David

1. Review of 2016 – 2017 FD Action Plan

Project 1: The Camp View Road study, was achieved in its entirety, with less money being spent on printing than anticipated. This was an excellent project driven by Romaine and Anne Marie, and great interest was shown by FD members and local residents. Huge thanks to them both! **Romaine will be fixing a date for a review of the project in the next few weeks.**

Project 2: Liz has drawn up a structural plan for a new website, based on *Herts Memories*, but has not yet begun creating it.

Project 3: The Friends and Family cemetery talk was a great success at its 'premier' this summer. Mike raised the issue of how we can somehow use this hard-earned information in future work that we do. Romaine and Anne Marie have been stalwarts in supporting the delivery of a couple of walks this year and Terry did a great job in leading the Samuel Johnson excursion to London this October. Thanks for this tremendous work, chaps! Liz continued to do the posters and informed other groups about activities from time to time. Mike raised the point that posters might not necessarily be the way to publicise our events effectively. Romaine mentioned that Jo Bates has a contact who can use social media very well and Romaine is going to follow this up on our behalf.

Project 4: Liz is now archiving all material to One Drive which is an on-line service offered by Google.

Project 5: The Frederick Sander grave renovation project has progressed more or less to plan although slightly slower than anticipated. A Sander presentation to FD members to launch the project was followed by 'deep' gardening and tidying up of the plot by Terry and David. We are now waiting for a reply from Co-op Funerals as to whether they would like to get involved in the stone masonry side of things. Liz intends to set up crowd funding and will approach orchid growers worldwide to ask for donations. The anticipated costs of restoration come to £1,596. Thanks to Terry and David for their outstanding work so far.

Project 6: Earlier this year, a family history talk was put on in order to encourage members to pursue their family histories - but we haven't had any feedback. Liz will email members to see if they would like to talk about their family members either after the AGM or at a meeting in 2018.

2. Finances

Liz presented the accounts for the past year up to date. We currently have £1145.91 in the bank. She has not yet reconciled these figures with the bank statement from NatWest. A fully reconciled version up to Oct 30th will be presented at the AGM on Nov 29th.

3. Committee members from November 2017?

Mike, Romaine, Anne Marie and Terry are all happy to continue in their roles for the coming year. Liz, however, has decided that at the AGM in November 2018, she will be retiring completely from all committee activities. After 8 years, as 'chair', it is time to enjoy a more leisurely retirement. We still need to hear from David as to his position. Liz will be contacting Keith and Anastasia if they would like to join the team this November.

4. Our development plan for 2017 -2018. Bring your ideas.

To encourage a larger membership, Mike suggested that we might be able to create a magazine style booklet all about Fleetville Diaries. He also added that there isn't a Wikipedia entry for Fleetville – a unique name in the UK. We also considered starting another 'Right Up Our Street' project and suggestions included Royston, Arthur and Clarence Roads. Terry is happy to run a garden party in 2018 and would like to run at least 2 excursions in the summer months. Liz will be preparing her last exhibition and it will be about Frederick Sander and Henry Moon. It is hoped that this will be available when their graves are officially declared renovated!

5. Ideas for speakers and events in 2018 – Jan, Feb, March, April, Oct, Nov.

Suggestions: Helen Singer about The Jewish Community in St Albans; Sue Mann about *Children in Wartime*; Julie Moore about *Finding the Anonymous Women of World War One*; *Herts at War* (Speaker's name unknown); David Thorold about *The History of Pubs and Brewing in St Albans*. Liz, Romaine and David will pursue these ideas. Mike has also offered his services.

For trips, Terry suggested the Huguenot House and Romaine, Wardown House in Luton. Anyway, Terry will send a list of several potential trips to us all.

6. Date of next meeting when the Annual Report will be previewed – **Nov 20th 2pm at 53 Cambridge Road.**