

ELSENHAM VILLAGE HISTORY SOCIETY

MINUTES OF MEETING 10TH MARCH 2010



MEMORIAL HALL ELSENHAM

Those Present:

Gordon Barker(GB)	Chairman	Ray Franklin(RF)	Paul Salvidge(PS)
Chris Bush(CB)		Pat Livermore	Roy Livermore(RL)
Dennis Haslam		Eileen Kay	Mike Rea
Heather Salvidge(HS)		Peter Clear	Kevin Wood(KW)
Avril Braidwood		Charles Mitchell	Jean Platt
Vic Dowsett		Lillian Adams(LA)	Keith Merrifield
Pamela Merrifield		Robert L Clarke	Martin Parish
Margaret Shaw(MS)		David Verlander(DV)	

1. Apologies For Absence

Apologies had been received from: Jean Beeston

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th February 2010

These were signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting.

3. Matters Arising From The Minutes

Item 3. **RF** had advised recorders of Uttlesford (**RUH**) of our Society's formation

PS would follow up affiliation of our society to **RUH**

PS

Item 5. Two vacancies still existed on the committee – nominations invited

Item 6. **RF** had recorded the society's formation in "Ray's Reflections"
Update on National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Society
(**NADFAS**) who would be recording details of St Mary's Church:

"When a Church Record is completed of an Anglican Church in England, five copies are lodged with:

- the church
- the local County Records Office (or the Diocesan authorities)
- Council for the Care of Churches
- Victoria and Albert Museum
- National Monuments Record Centre

Comparable arrangements are made for Records of churches of other denominations and of churches elsewhere in the UK."

Item 7. The Committee would progress the bid for Lottery Heritage funds once the bank account was finalised. **MS** would be asked to assist given her previous experience in such fund raising.

CTTE

Item 9. **PS** would speak to **MS** and **LA** regarding setting up a web site

PS

CB said that an Email address had been set up for the society evhs@hotmail.co.uk

CB reported that a society logo had been chosen by the committee. It represented a Knight Templar and this was chosen in recognition of the fact that a Knight Templar was buried in the village church. The logo had been produced, for the society, by local graphic designer Hannah Taylor, to whom the committee offered its sincere thanks.

4. A presentation was given by David Verlander on the history of Ordnance Survey and local mapping and aerial photography. Some of the older maps available showed the village boundaries and how they had changed over the years. Members were invited to peruse the material laid out around the room after the meeting and **DV** was on hand to answer questions.

One document on show showed a map of the Elsenham Hall Estate, produced in 1758, it showed, amongst other things details of changes to the road layout to take the road around the estate. **GB** observed that the existing Hall was built Circa 1820. Other changes to local roads included the current road to Stansted which was built at the time of the railway's construction. Previously the route to Stansted followed the river to the area around the King's Arms public house.

DV offered to give a more detailed explanation of mapping techniques at a future meeting.

5. A 20 minute film was shown on the subject of aerial photography of the local area carried out by the German Luftwaffe in August 1940. This was produced by the Countryfile team in 1990 and included interviews with a local historian and local farmers including our current Parish Council Chairman and his father. Many thanks to Stewart Pimblett for the loan of the film and the accompanying section of the aerial photography.

6. Members were invited to submit personal reminiscences about village life, however brief these would help to piece together the story of the village. **GB** stressed how important this was. Over the years of collecting photographs of the village he had found fewer and fewer villagers who could remember faces and details and if we didn't record such matters these would be lost for ever. Today's reminiscences would be tomorrow's history.

ALL

7. Similarly, members were invited to think about working sub groups on areas that interested them. Possible examples were discussed:

HS said that the history behind road naming in the village was interesting. **GB** commented that he had not yet found out, for example, the reason why Belmer Road was so named.

PS said that research into local agriculture, Horticulture and the nurseries and orchards was another possibly fruitful area.

DV referred to tithe maps which were available giving field names, owners and tenants, he already had some detail on these facts.

CB said that he had given thought to a timeline project which put village events into a wider UK and World context this had proved to be very interesting work.

8. Members were invited to draw up lists of books, maps and other materials that might be useful for future research. Just the lists were required so members would know what material existed locally. **GB** said he would be publishing a further booklet on 21st May at the Flower Show this would contain another 40 village related photographs.

ALL

9. Interest was sought for a visit to the Essex Records Office (**ERO**) in Chelmsford on 19th May and some 10 members had expressed interest. **DV** would speak to the **ERO** staff and if a booking could be made, the secretary would contact members who had

DV/CB

completed the form. Numbers would be limited and had to be booked in advance. Other dates could be available for separate visits and could be arranged by members directly by application to the **ERO** on 01245 244620.

10. Speakers

Local author Roger Taylor would be coming to the next meeting on 9th June to speak about his life on the railways and would be illustrating his talk with photographs, some local to Elsenham.

GB said that he had received a lot of information about the some 22 names recorded on the village War Memorial and had asked his source to come and speak to the society. This had been declined but he had made the information available to enable further research to be carried out. It was suggested by **KW** that the load of researching the individual names could be shared by splitting up the list. **GB** said he would first add what he could to the material.

Members were invited to put forward suggestions for other speakers they would like to invite.

11. Members were asked to feed back their views upon how the society was proceeding albeit it was still early days, the committee wanted to ensure that the society moved forward in a way that interested members.

Roy Livermore from Takeley History Society gave some details on the work that their society had undertaken:

- Members would naturally get involved in subjects that interested them
- Family histories is a big source of work especially queries from families abroad
- Takeley had produced a series of themed booklets
- In a world of global warming and sea level rise some societies had looked at areas that might be vulnerable to flooding
- Although caution was necessary with regard to data protection with details of living people societies should not be put off gathering information. If necessary registration under the Data Protection Act is possible.
- Takeley had bought 100s of aerial photographs from various sources including some from the previously mentioned Luftwaffe surveys.

12. **HS** referred to various activities arranged by adjacent societies she would provide a list for circulation by the secretary.

13. Dates of The Next Meetings

Wednesday 9th June 2010

Wednesday 15th September 2010

Wednesday 10th November 2010

All at 8.0p.m. in the Memorial Hall