

ELSENHAM VILLAGE HISTORY SOCIETY

MINUTES OF MEETING 6th June 2012

MEMORIAL HALL ELSENHAM

Those Present:

**Gordon Barker
Chairman**

Mike Rea
Valerie Austin
Jan Westcott
Kevin Wood
Avril Braidwood
Brian Tulley
Janet Tulley

Ray Franklin

Paul Salvidge
David Verlander
Tim Snow
Vic Dowsett
Tony Eatson
Jill Hunt
Dorothy Dorman

Chris Bush

Heather Salvidge
Gordon Fulton
Ruth Fulton
Margaret Rea
Roger Clark
Phyllis Clark
Colin Clarke

Apologies:

Jean Platt
Colin Smith
Wendy Morgan

John Segar
Eileen Kay
Jean Beeston

Margaret Shaw
John Morgan
Dennis Haslam

1. The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed those present. He introduced and welcomed our guest speaker for the evening, Mr Stanley Sutherland.

2. Signature of Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

3. Project Overviews

3.1 Recordings With Village Residents

Some nine recordings have now been completed. They have been edited and put on CD and a verbatim record typed up.

The Society is now looking for any other residents who would like to record their memories of village life in what is a painless and enjoyable process.

3.2 War Memorial Project

Research is ongoing and yielding results. Thanks to Alan Taylor, a generous donation to the ECA has allowed a professional researcher to complete detailed records on 11 of the 25 names recorded on the memorial. Any more help from anyone would be very gratefully received by the Memorial Team.

3.3 Elsenham Census Records

All but two of the available records between 1841 and 1901 have been completed. The 1911 census has just been released and will be dealt with in due course.

3.4 Elsenham Cemetery

The Parish Council are awaiting additional quotes for the building works needed to restore the fabric of the Lychgate and Chapel, the Sexton's Hut sadly being beyond repair. The PC are debating whether to go for a grant towards this work, if they do the History society will support their application. Having restored the buildings, the PC is keen to find a use for them. The Chapel will be open to visitors on 15th July from 2 to 5pm to coincide with the "Open Gardens Flower Show". A small display of photos will be mounted and visitors asked for their suggested use.

4. Guest Speaker Mr Stanley Sutherland

Mr Sutherland gave a very interesting account of how to go about researching one's family tree. He explained the various sources of information available to researchers and how they could be used to pin down an ancestor. All in all a fascinating talk and one that held the interest of seasoned researchers as well as complete novices.

5. Open Forum and Any Other Business

5.1 Visits

Two visits are proposed this year. The first to Dunmow Maltings is set for Saturday 30th June, participants to meet at the Maltings for 4pm for a guided tour of the Maltings and Museum. The cost of this visit is £3.00 per head. Members who haven't already expressed an interest please contact Mike Rea on 01279 813634 to reserve a place.

The second will be to The Chelmsford Police museum. No date has been set as yet but the 22nd or 29th September is proposed as the talk from Fred Feather will still be fresh in our minds after the September meeting.

5.2 St Mary's Photo Exhibition

John Segar has advised that St Mary's Fabric Fund will be holding a photographic exhibition in the Church on 23rd and 24th June from 10.30am to 4.30pm. Anyone wishing to enter a photograph in the exhibition may do so on payment of a one pound fee. Entry Forms are available from David Hill (7 Markwells) or Robin Barker (1 High Street) and photographs should be submitted no later than 18th June.

Gordon Barker advised that he would be doing short guided tours of some of the hidden features of the Church on both afternoons.

5.3 Elsenham Fete

The Society will have a small display at the Fete to publicise our activities and hopefully encourage a few Villagers to join.

5.4 Place Name Research

Heather Salvidge announced that she had updated her Origins of Place Names in Elsenham research and asked for help from any members who could cast further light on the place names therein.

It was noted that the origin of Ridley gardens was proving particularly recalcitrant.

6. Dates of Next Meetings

Wednesday 12th September 2012

Mr Fred Feather presents "Arsenic and Olde Essex"

A story of murder investigation before and after the forming of the Essex Police Force

Wednesday 7th November 2012

Members Evening featuring a presentation from our very own War Memorial Project Team

Wednesday 6th March 2012

Mr Bruce Munro will host a "Chat About Saffron Walden with Slides"

ENDS