

Chalford Parish Local History Group AGM
20th October 2021, France Lynch Church Rooms

Chairman's Report for 2020-21: Roger Carnt

This Club Year has been very strange with Covid-19 forcing us to move online. However, we kept going with a full programme of successful Zoom meetings culminating in a most enjoyable visit in July to Seville's Upper Mill, courtesy of Trevor Ford.

At our Committee meeting in March, we decided to return to live meetings starting in September. As a result, 42 came to Christ Church to listen to Stuart Butler. Unfortunately, a number did not hear his presentation very well and I do apologise that a microphone was not used – we will from now on.

I would like to thank everyone on the Committee for their many contributions. I would especially like to thank our Secretary Hilary and Treasurer John who between them share the main burdens so willingly.

Our dear friend Mike Mills died in December last year. Margaret and Andrew have kindly passed to us Mike's seven local history albums, his hundreds of slides and nearly 7,000 black and white negatives. The Committee have recently catalogued the albums and have made a start on the slides. In April next year our monthly meeting will show some of his slides of the area. It does constitute a tremendous asset, of course, but the digitalisation of this material and even the storage is daunting and the Committee have yet to make decisions on this.

In August Mike Fenton, who has written several railway books and lives in Herefordshire, came and presented us with the Lionel Padin Collection of colour slides. He felt it best that they are returned to Chalford. These are all connected with Great Western Railways – local and not so local. Storage and its use have yet to be decided.

Chalford Parish in 42 Stories has continued to sell well, with only a handful left at Chalford Village Shop. The *Chalford Heritage Trail* was postponed from September 2020 to May 2021 but was then cancelled. However, of the 300 booklets printed we have sold about 270.

Two similar booklets are planned. Firstly, Brownshill and Bussage and then one for Chalford Hill and France Lynch. Camilla and Hilary are editing the *Brownshill and Bussage Heritage Trail* booklet – some articles have already been written and others are in the pipeline. Hopefully, it will be published in the Spring of 2022. The Committee are keen to encourage as many members as possible to get involved with these booklets – it is a lot of fun researching and writing just a few hundred words and will help to bring them to publication. Please do contact Camilla, Hilary or myself if you can help – we can easily suggest ideas!

Camilla and I went to Gloucestershire Archives a few months ago to discuss the Group's volunteering there. Naturally, Covid regulations have restricted them, but we are hoping to be asked shortly to commence work cataloguing the Fred Hammond Collection of 42 boxes. Fred was a very keen local historian who lived in Thanet House in Chalford.

Four members – Camilla, Heather, Pete Drover and me - who have been researching and writing the history of WWII in the locality have completed their book *Return to War*. Profits will go to charity, as we did with our Great War book in 2016. More about this at the end of the evening.

Treasurer's Report: John Dawson

Our income for the year 2020-21 was zero, due to the COVID pandemic and the Committee's decision not to levy a membership fee for the year. There were nevertheless outgoings (totalling £482) arising from our Zoom subscription and speakers' fees. This leaves us with a cumulative operating balance of £412 at this point. As advised, we will be charging membership fees and event entry fees for the year 2021-22. Arrangements for these are being sent to everyone on the mailing list, and rates will stay at the pre-Covid levels of £5 membership, with £1 for each evening meeting for members and £2 for non-members. In addition, we have monies from the sale of publications which is earmarked for future expenditure.

Election of Chairman and Committee

A motion was put proposing the re-election of Roger Carnt as Chairman. There were no other nominations and Roger was unanimously elected as Chairman.

A motion was put proposing the re-election of all current members of the Committee. There were no other nominations, so Camilla Boon, Hilary Burgess, Jim Bockock, John Dawson, Pete Drover and Angela Saliss were unanimously re-elected. Roger stressed that there is still a vacancy on the Committee, so if anyone else is interested they should contact himself or the secretary, Hilary Burgess.

A vote of thanks for all the hard work put in by Roger was passed.

The meeting closed.