



Merry Christmas



**A Warm Christmas Greeting
to all our loyal members and welcomed guests.**

LHS Newsletter December 2017

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

It is my sad duty to report that Ian Andrews, an enthusiastic member of the Society and stalwart member of our committee succumbed to ill health and died on November the 17th. Our sympathies go out to Daphne along with our commiserations. In his remembrance we will hold a minute's silence tonight at the start of the meeting.

I would like to thank our committee for all their hard work over the year and their dedication to the Society.

2017 has been in some ways a year of firsts. It was the first time a guest speaker failed to turn up on the night and the first time we were unable to hold a monthly committee meeting because of the unavailability of committee members. Neither has stopped us from having a good year but both have caused us to pause for thought and make some decisions to deal with similar events in the future.

Absence of a speaker

We will provide other historical events on the nights when we are unable to give the advertised event. For the coming year a reserve speaker, Rosemary Selman, has agreed to step into the breach should she be required, and give her talk on the *South Foreland Lighthouse & the Knott family*; our thanks to Rosemary for her generously spirited offer.

Changes to the constitution

In respect of managing the Society's business it is important that the committee meet on a regular basis to review current projects and the Society's welfare. To enable us to do this we have suggested a couple of changes to our constitution.

- The first is to catch up with the control of the Society's revenue and assets. To this end we have decided to include the Society's Stock Controller as an elected officer. In the past the Stock Controller was a co-opted member of the committee. The Stock Controller has a major responsibility and our book stocks which represent a fair proportion of the Society's capital as well as advising the committee on the volume of sales and when stocks need to be replenished. Further details of how the sales of books provide support for the Society can be read in Daphne's Stock Controller report elsewhere in this Newsletter.
- The second is to provide a provision for when the number of the committee's members are not sufficiently available to meet the level required to form a quorum. To deal with this we are proposing two types of quorum. The old level of attendance will be retained to deal with the agreement of new expenditure and new projects that will involve new uses of resources along with the rest of the Society's business. The new type of quorum will be able to deal with the Society's ongoing and previously agreed business but excluded decisions which will commit the Society to new expenditure or use of resources that could affect the financial stability of the Society.

I have appended a copy of the revised constitution. Whilst you are requested to familiarise yourself with the whole I have highlighted the two sections which include the two changes. If you are a member of the Society you will be asked to vote on this during this evening's events.

Annual membership fee

It is with regret that we are increasing the annual membership fee from £10 to £11. Since 2006 we have endeavoured to cover the cost of the monthly meetings with the membership fees – see below for a more detailed account of the way your money is spent. However, this year the cost of the meetings etc. has exceeded the income. The primary causes of this are an overall increase in the cost of speakers' fees and their travel expenses. So, for next year the subscription will be £11 per member. Obviously the remuneration from membership fees increases with increased numbers of members, so it is in all of our interests to get as many new members as possible. During 2017 we had 76 paying members and two life members. We have decided that the visitors' fee for 2018 will remain at £4 per person per meeting.

The use of the Society's funds

I have been asked to include details of what comprises the Society's funds, where they come from and how they are spent. We have three main sources of income. Members' and Visitors' fees, the remuneration from our sale of the Society's published books and donations from well-wishers.

Members' and Visitors' fees: these are made up from the annual subscription each member pays and the visitors' entrance fees paid on the night of any event. These monies are ring-fenced for the sole purpose of running the Society and paying for the monthly events to bring you the talks. In detail they cover the hiring of the Tayne Centre hall, committee meetings' rooms usually at AGE UK, the archives' repository in the Village Hall and the web space we use on Red Dragon's server. The fees also cover the monthly talks' speakers' fees and travel expenses, the excess costs of the refreshments (partly paid for by donations on the night), printing costs for events, and advertising.

Sale of books: obviously there is a difference between what we pay for the books we publish and what we sell them at. Sales via the retail outlets of the Post Office and the Premier (Village Store) are sold to the retail outlets at a discount of 50p per book. Books sold directly by the Society are sold at full price per book or at a discount price per bundle. Please see the Stock Controller's report for further detail on the bundle pricing. The surplus accrued from these sales is used to pay for the other projects the Society undertakes. For example the production of the tapestry board in the Library, the display panels in the Jubilee Notice board, the actual board itself, the society's equipment etc., annual licence for the notice board, in fact most of the cost of running the Society not covered by the membership & visitors' fees.

Donations: these are self-explanatory. In the past they have been mostly from discounts on equipment from Red Dragon, support from other societies when they borrow some of our equipment, licence fees paid for in instances by local councillors and we do apply for grants from various bodies to supplement our contributions to our projects. This year we received a grant towards the new computer equipment from the Parish Council.

Elected Committee members, Co-opted members and future projects

You will have seen in the amended constitution and elsewhere we have six elected officers and currently two co-opted members serving on the committee. We have for some time been asking the membership to come forward and assist the committee by offering their services. We are very grateful to some non-committee members who help us out at the meetings by looking after the sales tables, helping in putting out the equipment and preparing and serving the refreshments, but, and there always is a but, we need more help.

Some of us have been on the committee since its onset in 2006 and we are getting stale and to be honest tired. The newer committee members need your assistance and hopefully us older, staler ones can then retire allowing new energy in and fresher minds to take the Society forward, **SO PLEASE VOLUNTEER.**

Photographic Collection Project

Next year we want to move forward in dealing with the archive. Specifically we want to sort through our collection of photographs and decide on the best way of cataloguing them – this is a project we have been trying to get off the ground for a couple of years. I am aware that some members are willing to help we just need more people.

The project has many aspects not all of which require any knowledge of the parish's past or its people. For a start we need people just to look through the photographs looking for duplication and selecting the best picture and in general terms identify what the picture shows – is it a building, landscape, event or person? Later once we know how many unique photographs we have and to which category each falls then we can

concern ourselves with the Where, When, Who and What.

Our Website

Another project is the redevelopment of the Society's website. We have the tools and the software but we need help again in its development; initially the re-design and later the putting it together. The coding can be done later and if you wish to help, learn or test then your help will be invaluable. One sub-project within the re-development is to put our publications online for sale.

John Carr

TREASURER'S REPORT

Please see the appended Annual Accounts & Asset report where I have included explanatory notes.

Richard Chubb

EVENT SECRETARY'S REPORT

Firstly, a big "thank you" to all our speakers for sharing with us a wide and varied range of topics, the quality of their talks has been very high.

This year we have been moved by stories from "Littlestone Lifeboatmen," enthralled by the traditions of the "Mummers Play and the Hooden Horse" and taken back to Napoleonic times with the "Light Bobs". The "Kingdom of Kent" was explained to us, and we've travelled between Sandgate and Hythe by various means, including the toast rack. Peering "Underground in Thanet" was fascinating too. We tasted a variety of beers at Shepherd Neame, Faversham and learned about ale making past and present.

Next year, 2018, holds some special highlights in our programme, with talks from Toni Mount, who visited Lyminge Friends earlier this year, and is speaking on "They dared to be Doctors". Mary Smith is talking about a 2nd World War art teacher's diary which will charm and amuse us all.

Do make a note in your diary of these talks and tell your friends. We love having visitors to our talks.

If there are any topics you are interested in do let me know and I'll see if we can invite a speaker for 2019.

Thank you for your support.

Katharine Barber

STOCK CONTROLLERS REPORT 2017 – DAPHNE ANDREWS

Sales

The sales of the Lyminge a history series books have been steady throughout the year. Copies of parts 1-8, and from October parts 1-9 sold separately from last Christmas to the end of November totalled 289 and the other 3 booklets, Church and Graveyard Book, Lyminge Guide and Etchinghill Guide totalled 28.

The bundles offer for parts 1-8, up to October and subsequently parts 1-9, has proved popular with 33 sold to date at the offer price of £37.00/£44.00.

Future Books

We hope to publish part 10 in 2018 on the "Archaeology in Lyminge", in conjunction with Reading University. Gabor Thomas, the director of the Lyminge digs, will be the leader on this. He is still hopeful of getting funding from the Arts and Humanities Research Council* which will allow him to document the analysis of the digs and from this also write part 10 of the histories.

Assuming we get future local articles we are planning part 11. If you have an idea for a topic or would like to discuss how you can help, please let John Carr know.

Funds

The Society's publication sales pay for the production of the next volume(s) and reprints of the current volumes. Any surplus is used for projects which help to promote the history of the area and support the community and provide additional funding for the Society.

Use of some of this surplus this year supported the reproduction of the digs' celebratory tapestry; this reproduction can be seen in the Library, for those unable to see the original in the Tayne Centre. We used some of the surplus towards a new laptop with assistance of a grant from the Parish Council.

We also oversaw the refurbishment of the Jubilee Board to include the archaeological dig display panel "Archaeology on Tayne Field" and the associated information. The panel was designed and created by Rosemary, Katharine and Alex from our committee, John and Rosemary Piddock were very involved in the

planning and gave permission for us to use some of the text from their book about the volunteers and the use of John's photographs. Thanks also go to Mark Thomas for his help in designing the initial digital artwork. The returns from the sales similarly pays for the updated software for the Society, maintaining the archive and providing funds for projects which otherwise would have to come from the membership fees.

* The AHRC is a non-departmental public body sponsored by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), along with the other UK Research Councils. The AHRC is governed by its Council, which is responsible for its overall strategic direction, and we are incorporated by Royal Charter and offer a range of postgraduate and research funding opportunities.

Daphne Andrews

LYMINGE FAMILY HISTORY & RESEARCH GROUP: 2017 REPORT

The Group meets most third Tuesdays of the month at Lyminge Library from 9.30 a.m. (NB: 12th December) and all are members of Lyminge Historical Society. We listen to each other's Family History searches offering suggestions for reference sources on difficulties encountered.

More of our time these days is Research: most for displays and local general interest but also for newcomers and for those who live elsewhere. A few interesting enquiries were:

John Shrubsole and his family in this area. Our Australian enquirer's visiting relative purchased *Lyminge a history* part 4 for the Swing Riots, the Sawkins family, the Bedingfield Charity and Lyminge Park providing useful background on the family's lifestyle. We also e-mailed a link to the Society's archive article on Poor Rates and a member's family tree.

Rev. Ralph Price about his botany and his observations on bees and orchids that were later commented on by Charles Darwin. *Lyminge a history* part 1 and some botanical references on Thomas Tournay at Brockhill House were sent to the States.

Thomas and Elizabeth Squire who died 1848 and 1888 respectively. In 1847 a report states that he was a grocer in Lyminge which his wife continued later and she lived at Lyndon Hall with her three daughters, two who were dressmakers and one a teacher. Any help please on this one?

We have organised the Library display cabinets with the leadership of the hardworking Rosemary Piddock:

- Authors in Kent
- 70th Anniversary of the last passenger train
- 30th Anniversary of the Library in the old railway building
- Winters in Lyminge - to be researched and set up at the next meetings

A big thanks to John & Vanessa Carr and all those who contributed articles, or items, for the displays.

Mike Foxon (Organiser)

EQUIPMENT & SOFTWARE

In March we added to our equipment with a new laptop computer along with an associated remote presentation controller and updated the software we use to run the Society's documentation. In this we were aided by a Parish Council grant which met over 50% of the cost.

We have also invested in new Web Design and Development software to enable us to update the web site, the previous software no longer being supported by the manufacturer. This will form the basis of the re-development of the web site.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INFORMATION BOARD

We applied for a £5000 grant from the Shepway Community Chest which had we been successful would have enabled us to place an information board on Tayne Field explaining the significance of the dig in regard to the discovery of a Royal Settlement and the impact the dig has had in updating and clarifying the early Christian era.

Unfortunately the Community Chest was unable to support our bid and as this was the last year of the fund this project will now be included in Gabor Thomas's bid mentioned in the Stock Control Report above in the section on Future books.



JUBILEE NOTICE BOARD DISPLAY

Earlier this year the content of the Society's Jubilee Display Board was changed to include a copy of "Archaeology on Tayne Field" showing some of the results from the dig. The reproduction below does not do justice to the actual display and we urge you to spend some time examining it in on the display board.



ARCHAEOLOGY ON TAYNE FIELD



Dr. Gabor Thomas and his team from Reading University led a series of community projects with volunteers involved in on-site archaeology, finds washing and sorting, research and photography. The Archaeology investigated the Anglo-Saxon Royal Will and revealed evidence of aligned Peasting Halls, which extend back to 5th Century AD.



Conjectural reconstruction of the 7th Century royal complex excavated on Tayne Field. Illustration by Mark Gidley.



This site photo from 2013 shows the long hall, 20x8.5 metres, excavated the previous year. Also auxiliary buildings and pits and two sunken featured buildings are revealed. To the left, a dark rectangle shows the footprint of a World War II mun hut.



The Lyminge Tapestry
The Tapestry, worked on by local ladies using wool on cotton, depicts life on Tayne Field in Anglo-Saxon Lyminge in the 7th Century including the hall and sunken featured buildings, the arrival of the Anglo-Saxon King, ploughing, fishing, eating, looking after livestock and cooking. Everything depicted on the tapestry is based on artefacts and evidence found during the excavations.



A small selection of the 30 or more Anglo-Saxon beads recovered in 2014 from the Lyminge excavations. Made from translucent and opaque glass in vibrant colours. The beads are associated with female attire.

High-Status Small Finds



Examples of the variety and different colours of glass found in 2014. A base from a Cone-Beaker is shown in the centre. The rest of the sherds are probably from Claw Beakers. The glass sherds date from around the 6th Century.



Excavated in 2015, a gilded copper alloy button brooch (after conservation) dating to the 6th Century. Characterised by human face-mask design, this small and delicate style of brooch is common in Kent and neighbouring regions of southern England.



This bird brooch, discovered in 2015, is approximately 2.5 cm wide. It is copper alloy plate depicting a stylised bird, possibly a dove, and is decorated on both sides.



Found in 2013 this rare Anglo-Saxon gaming piece is made from hollow bone, closed with delicate wooden caps, held in place with a bronze pin.

Conservation Process



Raptor Bird (before and after conservation) discovered in Tayne Field in 2015. It is a copper alloy brooch depicting an eagle or other raptor-type bird.



Excavated in 2015 a heavily corroded iron spear of a type frequently recovered from Anglo-Saxon male graves of the 6th Century. On the right is the iron spear after conservation. Spears represented an important marker of warrior status and martial identity in Anglo-Saxon England.

All photographs courtesy and copyright of John Paddock.

www.lymingehistoricalsociety.co.uk

Introduction

This poster shows some of the hidden history from Tayne Field in Lyminge where people have lived for centuries. When the Archaeology team from Reading University returned to Lyminge in 2015 they were interested in a large midden known locally as 'the Blob'. Current thinking is that a pre-historic sinkhole or 'doline' under the infill may have attracted Bronze Age people to the site believing it was a doorway to another world. The name Tayne is thought to come from 'tenter', a drying frame for fabric and may be associated with the 16th Century wool trade.

The footpath which crosses the field is part of the Elham Valley Way and is the route of an ancient trackway.

By purchasing the field in 1971 the Parish council have prevented it from being built on and have conserved the history which the Archaeologists discovered.

Conclusion

The significance of the Anglo Saxon finds from Tayne Field have been discussed in Archaeology magazines, in TV programmes and in 'Lyminge A History' books. Dr. Gabor Thomas has recently published his findings based on a Conference convened at the University of Kent. Work based on the findings of the dig continues.

