

**Minutes of Hadstock Society AGM held at 7.30pm
in the Village Hall on 23rd November 2018**

Present: Hamish McIlwrick (Chairman), Pat Croxton-Smith (Treasurer), Richard Dolby (Secretary), Derek Bushell, Paula Griffiths, Rick & Sue Albrow, Barbara and John Bye, Jeremy Pearson, Lorna Mufty, Mel Abbiss, Jackie Hall.

Apologies: Helen Hewlett, Tony and Jenny Handley

1. Minutes of 24th November 2017 AGM

These were approved.

2. Treasurer's Report for the year to 1 October 2018

The audited accounts showed a cash surplus of £1280. Expenditure in 2018 had exceeded income by £1768 due to costs on two projects (i) the Red Field dig and (ii) the C dating analyses for the mortar samples taken from the North and South walls of St Botolph's.

RA queried the term of the insurance policy for the Dig. PC-S said this was a one-off sum and the minimum payable.

The accounts were approved.

3. Chairman's Report

This was read by HM and is shown in Section 7 of these minutes. He also noted the new Privacy Notice issued by the Society and sent to all Members, which explains how the Society is meeting the new General Data Protection Regulations.

4. 2019 Projects

(i) On-line recording of Place Names in the Parish

RD and RA explained that a spreadsheet template had been successfully developed and tested for recording places and fields from the pre and post enclosure maps of Hadstock Parish dated around 1805. Guidelines for recording the information had also been produced. There was now an invitation to anyone outside the working Group who wished to help with the project. The Parish map would be split into smaller areas for individuals to process.

(ii) Carbon 14 dating of mortar samples from St Botolph's

Two samples had been sent to the USA for mortar analysis, one from the South wall taken from within the first 11 regular courses of flint herring-bone from the floor, and the second from the North wall on the West side of the uncovered blocked up door, about 1 metre from the floor level.

The South wall sample had shown an indicated date of 730±30AD with 70% probability, strongly indicating that the early Saxon church had walls partly made in stone.

The age of the North wall mortar sample was more difficult to interpret with a 49% probability of a date of 1120±30 AD, and a 46% probability of a 1030±30 AD date. These latter results need careful interpretation and further advice will be sought in the coming year.

(iii) On-Line collection of Crocky articles

Lorna Mufty has been carrying out further editing and indexing of the article series, based on RA's early draft. This task should be complete in 2019.

(iv) Village photographs

A large number of photographs held by Crocky has been examined by a small working group and catalogued by Mel Abbiss in terms of people, church, village scenes, archaeology and aerial views. It is hoped to digitise and caption these and make them available online. MA suggested an article in the parish magazine might bring forward further valuable pictures. This was agreed.

(v) Historical document discovery

The search has been continuing to support the 1016AD Assandun battle site being in Red Field and also to support St Botolph's being the Minster consecrated by Cnut in 1020, to help the commemoration planned for the church in 2020.

A visit by RD and RA to the Essex Record Office had confirmed that Sydenham Malthus had owned Red Field in 1862 and had sold land to Great Eastern Railways for the Haverhill to Shelford line. The railway excavations started in March 1863. The Kelly's Directory of 1888 for Linton reported numerous skeletons had been uncovered in these excavations, but there was no mention of these in Great Eastern Railway documents found at the ERO. No documentary evidence for the skeleton discovery earlier than 1888 has been found so far.

JP asked if both skeletons and weapons had been found in Red Field. RD said he would include the exact text from the Kelly's Directory article in the minutes (see Section 8 below for extract).

Crocky has produced a summary of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle document evidence for the 1020 AD church consecration by Cnut. It was very unlikely further evidence would be uncovered.

RD is researching the land holdings of Ely Abbey in the early eleventh century, since Ely bought some land from the King in both Hadstock and Linton in 1008 AD.

(vi) Cataloguing of books held in the village hall

RD and LM will set out to complete a catalogue of nearly 100 books belonging to the Society, a project started by RA. The Society will publicise the completed list to members wishing to borrow. A list of physical and digital maps held by the Society has already been compiled.

5. Election of Officers

RA proposed the existing officers should be re-elected for a further year. This was agreed.

The proposal for Lorna Mufty to become a Committee member was also agreed.

6. AOB

There were no issues raised and the meeting was closed.

7. Chairman's Annual Report

Your Society aims to promote the heritage of Hadstock.

We drew a blank looking for the site of the Battle of Assandun.

We have been searching for documental evidence of this in academic libraries and the ERO.

We researched the age of mortar in the walls of St Botolph's church.

We continue to compile and catalogue local history records: magazine articles, and books.

We collected together various photographs and maps, for further surveying and cataloguing.

8. Extract from Kelly's Directory 1888 under 'Linton'

'The remains of a Roman villa were discovered in 1825 in a field separated by the river Granta from the site of Barham Priory, and in 1862, when excavating for the railway from Cambridge to Sudbury, the workmen met with the remains of numerous skeletons in this field at a depth of 3 feet from the surface.'

9. Summary of talk by Dr Jackie Hall, 'Working as a Cathedral archaeologist'

Jackie explained that Cathedral Fabric Committees must have an archaeologist whose role is curative and to understand the structures above and below ground.

She sits on both Peterborough and Southwark Cathedral fabric committees but focused in her talk on projects associated with Southwark, which was a 12th century Augustinian priory foundation, rebuilt in the 19th century, and became a cathedral in 1905 (formerly St Saviour's church in the diocese of Winchester following the Reformation).

The choir was restored in 1822 and was one of the first to have cast iron trusses. There was no local source of stone, and buttresses were made from Kentish rag stone as well as sandstone from Normandy. There had been some resurfacing using bricks.

George Gwilt created some remarkable sculptural details. His drawings are held in the British Library and were inspired by 13th century detailing. Contemporary minutes showed endless arguments between the builder and Gwilt. The stone was Ashlar together with both brown and white flint. It came mainly from a quarry in Yorkshire.

Modern day repairs need to match the colour and texture of Gwilt's original stone and this has meant careful matching to specific sandstone quarries in Yorkshire. Too much mica in the sandstone can lead to flaking. Students helped with replicating the carving details. Some limestone is used for parapets.

She noted that Peterborough is constructed mainly from Barnack and Ancaster stone.

Jackie answered a number of questions concerning cleaning of stone buildings, the current position of the Barnack quarry near Stamford, and national reference collections of stone samples for matching stonework needing conservation and repair. The John Watson collection in the Department of Earth Sciences in Cambridge University is one important reference source.