

Future Direction of the Two Villages Archive Trust

March 2019

Why are we thinking about this?

- ▶ We are not getting enough volunteers to be on the Committee and help to organise events
- ▶ We have moved away from what we should be doing
- ▶ Much of the work is in sorting meetings
- ▶ We have almost become an organisation to provide an entertainment on a Monday evening
- ▶ Meetings of the sort we have been having with outside speakers are now costing £70.00 per time

Our mission

- ▶ To encourage the people of a large new urban development to put down roots in their local community and to contribute to it, promoting pride and a sense of belonging

Our constitution (items 1 and 2)

- ▶ The object of the Trust is to create an interest in an archive of matters that pertain to the villages of Broughton and Milton Keynes
- ▶ Any archive so created is to be the property of the Trust, but is available to anyone having a serious interest in the history of the villages

What we should be doing

- ▶ Collecting information and recording changes
- ▶ Sharing research
- ▶ Making information available
- ▶ Listening to specialist speakers
- ▶ Having a social side too!

Our meetings

- ▶ The most popular meetings are those with a local focus, especially when delivered by members or other local people
- ▶ Our regular meetings should be aimed towards producing these meetings, which go furthest towards helping people understand their local community
- ▶ This reflects the original purpose of the group

What we are proposing

- ▶ We will have more meetings where we look at the archives getting them into a usable and accessible format
- ▶ We will reprise some of the work that has been done before
- ▶ We will restrict our speakers to those that will have a direct impact on helping members' research
- ▶ Summer meetings will reflect where members want to go and be social events, possibly returning to places we have been before

What we are proposing

- ▶ We want to have a contribution from everyone

Two Villages History: what would this look like?

- ▶ A website providing research tools into specific people and places - this needs to be maintained
- ▶ Sections on different subjects which can be linked together
- ▶ Bring together the whole archive, thus making it more accessible

What the committee should do

- ▶ Day to day activities (transactional: insurance, memberships, accounts, custodian of the archive material)
- ▶ Making sure the website is maintained and that the information is available to the wider public
- ▶ Identifying any need for specialist speakers and arranging as required
- ▶ Providing a framework for the social side

What the members should do (not everyone should do everything!)

- ▶ Assist the committee in the maintenance and improving the accessibility of the archive
- ▶ Undertaking research in areas of individual interest - individually or in small groups
- ▶ Sharing research with the wider group (and making this available to others if appropriate)
- ▶ Helping with requests from outside the group
- ▶ Supporting and taking part in social activities

2019 meetings: what should we be seeking to do?

- ▶ Ensure that our work is aimed towards achieving our objectives
- ▶ Restricting meetings to those which “add value” to the group’s work
- ▶ Possibly reprising work we have previously looked at

Implications

- ▶ Financially we could afford to take this approach: focussing on our core activities
- ▶ If we wanted to do or buy something in particular, we could raise funds or ask for contributions
- ▶ We won't need as much input from the committee as all members will be more involved

What we need to do: contribution from everyone (1)

- ▶ Help in organising and indexing the archive
 - ▶ Sort into (for example)
 - ▶ Collections
 - ▶ Interest subject matter
 - ▶ Period
 - ▶ Transcriptions of interviews

What we need to do: contribution from everyone (2)

- ▶ Help in disseminating information
 - ▶ Developing the website
 - ▶ Continuing work on births, marriages and deaths
 - ▶ Updating work on memorials and churchyards
 - ▶ Maintaining the website

What we need to do: contribution from everyone (3)

- ▶ Undertaking projects
 - ▶ (some ideas we have had - others welcome)
 - ▶ Houses (or streets) through the ages (who lived there etc)
 - ▶ Photographing gravestones (and adding to the website)
 - ▶ We have a volunteer for research into women and Milton Keynes village but someone might want to help

What we need to do: contribution from everyone (4)

- ▶ Help with refreshments at meetings

Summer Meetings 2019

- ▶ We have considered:
 - ▶ Milton Keynes Village
 - ▶ Broughton Village
 - ▶ Newport Pagnell

Questions

- ▶ Let's have the discussion at the AGM, but are there any immediate questions / clarifications needed?
- ▶ Please reflect on the points raised and bring your thoughts to the AGM
- ▶ If there's something you would like to do / contribute to, please mention that too