



Chiseldon Local History Group

Report for Chiseldon Parish Council May 2022

We thought there would not be much to report from the past 2 years as we have all had our lives put on hold since March 2020. However, a surprising amount has been achieved despite everything.

Some things were thrust upon us, namely the damage to the Stroud's Hill sign in November 2020, rapidly repaired and very generously paid for by one of our members. Then in November the siting of the Chiseldon Camp Commemorative Stone became an issue again and it was decided to move it to an alternative, temporary site. The Parish Council and Matt Frost were instrumental in achieving this together with the cooperation of Neil Crowley who owns the land where it now stands. It was touching to see how much the village values the stone and what it represents. We are still endeavouring to get formal permission to re site the stone near the HGV test centre on Ladysmith Road.

More positively, our first calendar, for 2021, was produced in time for Christmas 2020 and sold so quickly we had to have more printed. We made over £300 which helped compensate for the loss of income from membership fees. The 2022 calendar, featuring views of the Parish "Then and Now" was even more successful and raised a further £600. Thanks to Sam Smith for the design and print and the team at Oakley's who sold them for us.

It's been a long time in the planning and execution but the interpretation board for Church Street has finally been installed. Thanks are due once again to the Parish Council and the Memorial Hall Fund for financial support, Sam Smith for the design and Matt Frost for the installation. Grateful thanks are also due to Clair Wilkinson, the Parish Clerk, who was very helpful with planning issues. The official unveiling was held on October 2nd (in the pouring rain) with the Reverend Roger Powell doing the honours.

A booklet on Chiseldon Golf Course is nearly ready for printing and we have plans to write a history of Burderop Park with information researched by several people, especially Sheila Passmore and Walter Ineson. Walter's family has recently given us large collection of photographs and information about Burderop Park which he collected while he worked for Halcrow's. This is also forms the basis of a new display in the museum for this year. With the new houses at Burderop Park soon to be occupied this is very timely. For the Queen's Jubilee the museum will also have feature on Chiseldon's Royal Connections, some of them somewhat tenuous it must be said.

Due to the Pandemic the museum did not open in 2020 or 2021. During the summer of 2020 two of us photographed, labelled, and catalogued all the artefacts in the museum. (It was just about possible to socially distance.) We aim to make this archive available digitally eventually. Continuing to scan and catalogue our archive of photographs and documents is a priority for the coming year.

Worrying cracks had appeared in the walls and floor of the museum but fortunately the Parish Council's insurance has covered the necessary remedial work. Internal repair and redecoration took place so that the museum was freshly decorated in time for the 2022 re-opening, which happened on 23rd April.

Earlier this year our web site stopped working properly and fixing it was beyond the abilities of the committee. Fortunately, we have recruited a volunteer to help, and a new version will be ready very soon.

The end of 2021 also saw a return to monthly meetings in the Church Hall. Many of our members have returned to these events with great enthusiasm and have been rewarded with some entertaining and educational presentations, most recently on the Battle of Agincourt. We have a full programme through to November 2022 and have had enquiries from several new people about membership.

Elaine Jones Keith Parsons

Chair CLHG Secretary CLHG

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