

# Sawbridgeworth U3A Local History Group

## Meeting on Thursday

27 April 2016 100-1130

at The Council Chambers, Bell Street

Present: Eric Buckmaster; Theo Van der Bilt; John Dickenson; Chris Catling; Hazel and David Mead; Elizabeth Gowers; Rosemary Penkett; Lorraine Carlaw; Chris Fish; Terry and David Royle

### MINUTES

1	<b>Apologies for Absence</b> John Rider	Action
2	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b> Eric Buckmaster (EB) welcomed the Group and explained that the Council had been supporting a WW1 Group for the past two years which had been a great success (exhibition and trench etc.), and it was felt that this activity might be widened to include more local history with the help of the U3A Group. The Council was happy to facilitate this by making the Council Chamber available for meetings and limited financial support if required, for example scanning equipment. Members then introduced themselves and indicated their particular interests. In summary this included learning more about and preserving local history and people's memories, having research facilities and space for exhibiting artefacts etc.	
3	<b>Report from Theo Van der Bilt (TVB) on preparatory work</b> TVB reported that he had contacted Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies (HALS) in Hertford about a group visit to access documents relevant to Sawbridgeworth. Cost would be £45 for a group of 12-15, cost to be shared among members. He had also been in touch with the new curator of the Rhodes Museum (Chris Lydamore): we could arrange a visit or invite him to talk to us. It was agreed that we would aim to visit HALS on 26 May and invite Chris Lydamore to talk to us on 2 June. TVB to confirm. DR to confirm availability of Council Chamber.	TVB DR
4	<b>Discussion of priorities</b> It was agreed that: (i) the best format for future meetings would be a speaker and/or reports from members on their own research activities. Rhodes also required volunteers to transcribe tapes, including 30 from Wally Wright. (ii) although a museum may not be feasible and we should support professionally curated local museums it was agreed that a research room with equipment would be an asset, possibly with Council or EHDC support through grant applications. (iii) we could link up with other interested local and district groups, for example the Family History Group, to share information and avoid duplication of effort. (iv) the Group might publish materials in future if appropriate and not a repetition of previous work. (v) we should also think of developing a website where we could store documents and archive materials; (vi) we could work with local schools and find out what if any work they do on local history and/or promote such work if their curriculum permits.	All EB/TVR
5	<b>Election of Group Coordinator:</b> TVR agreed to act as Coordinator pro tem	
6	<b>Dates and times of future meetings (all at 1000-1130 in Council Chamber, if available)</b> Thursdays 26 May; 2 June; 28 July; 25 August; 29 September; 27 October; 24 November; 30 December (we may not want meetings in August and December?)	
7	<b>Any other business</b> There was no other business.	