**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT 7.30 PM ON THURSDAY 23rd APRIL 2015**

**AT ROWINGTON VILLAGE HALL**

Present: P.Cllr. Gaffey (in the Chair)

 P.Cllr.Mrs N Clarke

 P.Cllr. North

 P.Cllr. Mrs D Weir

 P.Cllr. Graham Bull

 P.Cllr. Mrs M Bull

 C.Cllr. Mrs J Compton

 D.Cllr. L Caborn

 13 members of the public

**Apologies:**

Apologies were received from; P.Cllr. Graham Coombs, Gill Carlyle, Michael Male, Nick Holmes, Ray and Val Morton, Carole Knight, Diana Blyth, David Nicholas.

**Minutes**

The Chairman asked if the minutes of the previous meeting held on 17 April 2014 could be signed as a true record, copies of the minutes being available to everyone at the meeting. It was resolved unanimously that the minutes be accepted as a true record [NC/MN]

Good evening everyone. Welcome to the 2015 Annual Parish Meeting and thank you all for taking the time out to attend.

My name is John Gaffey and I am the current Chair of Rowington Parish Council. Before we proceed with the more informative part of the meeting, we need to dispense with a couple of administrative tasks.

Attending tonight are our local County Councillor Mrs Jose Compton and our local District Councillor Mr Les Caborn, both of whom, have been an integral part of Rowington Parish Council for a number of years, and both provide invaluable support and advice.

The Parish Council would very much like to thank you Jose and Les for ALL your support.

I am accompanied here tonight by my fellow Councillors who I will ask to introduce themselves personally.

I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for their support during the last year.

We have seen a number of changes to the Parish Council since the last meeting and as you can see, a number of new faces. After many years of service, Dee Swain retired and George Cooper resigned. We welcomed Jackie Hobday and John Peepalls, both of whom were co-opted onto the parish council. Unfortunately due to other commitments, they were unable to continue in this role and have subsequently resigned. I would like to thank them all for their contributions during the course of their involvement

May I also say a huge thank you to Allyson Coleman, the Parish Clerk, who continues to keep the parish council and its councillors on the straight and narrow Allyson tactfully deals with queries and problems and provides Councillors with all the help, support, guidance and information they require over the year..

I would also wish to thank Councillor Nicky Clarke who stood as previous Chairman from May 2011 to May 2014. Nicky provided strong and progressive leadership in that time and I have valued her on-going support as Deputy Chair.

County Councillor Jose Compton gave the following report on behalf of Warwickshire County Council:

The County Council has come to the end of the second year of four in making £92 million cuts from the Budget.  To this end unfortunately an increase in council tax of 1.95% was agreed at the budget meeting in February as we have many calls on our finances, including an ageing population and extra responsibilities on Safeguarding, both children and adults.

However all is not gloom and doom and extra funding has been allocated for Apprenticeships, Improvements in traffic around schools, Early Start Education, Broadband and funding for LED lighting across the county, although we missed out on a

government grant to take this forward more quickly.  More work will be done with the Voluntary and Community Sector and the Live and Local Grant has been secured for 2015/16.

Councillors now have a delegated Transport Budget for minor works.  This is £32,258 but this has now been top sliced by £6,000 towards Traffic Schemes at accident hot spots.

Work has started on the new Railway Station at Kenilworth and the Nuckle scheme for trains from Nuneaton through to Leamington has been given the go-ahead.  Other points of interest are that Leamington Fire Station will remain where it is with other sites used for training to improve response times.  The Old Shire Hall will hopefully be found a use in the entertainment/hospitality field.

The Boundary Commission have now reported their final recommendations for County Divisions from 2017 and Rowington will be in the Lapworth and West Kenilworth Division.

A debate took place last month on Combined Authorities and Economic Prosperity Boards.  There was little interest in going in with Greater Birmingham as it was considered that Warwickshire's natural interests lie with other County Councils but work will continue in looking further at this as with the matter of Unitary Authorities. This meeting along with the Budget Debate was shown on the Web Cam and all meetings can now be viewed in this media.

Warwick Rural West has met regularly with the Police always in attendance.  We have allocated most of our funding for 2013/14 but have asked for applications for next year to come forward for consideration.

I am still on the Cabinet at WCC with Adult Social Care and Learning Disabilities being my Portfolio so you can imagine that this is a huge responsibility but nevertheless I come along to all Parish Council meetings and attend to local issues as required.

**District Councillor Les Caborn gave the following report:**

Finance -. We have set a 0% council tax change for the 5th year running .Alongside this we have also delivered a surplus on the revenue budget. However our medium term financial plan shows we need further savings of around £1 million at the present rate of reduction in Government Grant.
Members voted to delay the move of Headquarters which has reduced savings by £300k for each year’s delay.
Projects - We are assessing the properties around the Pump Rooms to form a regeneration area and uplift the area. Planning permission will shortly sought for the old Quicks Garage site at Leamington Station which we have bought for low cost or social housing. All sports and leisure sites have been surveyed and we are working on a leisure strategy for the district. We have developed a partnership with a private funder to develop sites on a shared outcomes basis.
Economy - WDC continues to be ahead of trend for economic growth and low unemployment. We have developed a starter hub in one of our empty properties for the gaming industry because Leamington is becoming the Silicon Valley of the gaming industry.
TATA / JLR is building its European Technical HQ on Tachbrook Park.
On behalf of the parish I attended the inaugural meeting of the community forum formed with JLR to inform local people of all that is happening on the Fen End airfield site.
Local Plan - Members voted to submit the plan to the inspector for Examination in Public. Initial queries have been answered and we await the date anytime.
Gypsy and Traveller sites continue to be a difficult issue but we finalised on 2 sites at Harbury Lane and Greys Mallory. We still are looking for a 3rd site.
The Gateway regional employment site was refused by the inspector on the basis that use of green belt was not overweighed by the Economic benefit but it will be re-examined at the plan enquiry.
My role, as your District Councillor ends on 11 May after 24 years representing Rowington. It has been an interesting time and I thank your Clerk and councillors over that time for their support

The Chairman reported to those present that Les has been our District Councillor for nearly a quarter of a century! His advice and support have been invaluable to the Parish Council over the years. Les has attended nearly every single Parish Council meeting held and despite occasional trying times, has managed to maintain a good sense of humour throughout and our thanks and very best wishes go with Les in whatever challenge he next pursues.

**Parish Council Chairman’s Report**

The period since the last meeting has been very busy for councillors and as a group we have managed to achieve a number of positive outcomes for the parish. I will endeavour to cover some of those achievements as follows.

**1.       Planning**

Planning is one of the most important issues dealt with by the Parish Council and can often produce lengthy debates on the merits of the various submissions. In the last year the Parish Council has reviewed 32 planning applications, against which we lodged 9 objections. Of these objections, 4 were ultimately refused and of the remaining 5, 1 was refused at appeal to the Secretary of State, 2 were granted and 2 withdrawn.  There is the occasional disappointment with WDC’s planning department where seemingly logical comments, representative of relevant local considerations are submitted by the Parish Council but appear to be disregarded when a planning application is determined.

**2.       Playing Field**

The playing field to the rear of St Laurence Close continues to be inspected on a weekly basis. This task is shared between Councillors and an external inspector. Richard Moreton has been undertaking inspections on behalf of the council for many years and has recently retired. His duties are now being undertaken by David Connolly who has been providing a similar service for Budbrooke and Bishops Tachbrook Parish Councils. Planned maintenance is regularly undertaken and reactive works are carried out when required. During the course of the year a new kissing gate was installed at the point of access from the rear of the St Laurence Close.

Some of the equipment has been in situ since the 70’s and is looking very tired and very dated. The decision was made to undertake a refresh of some of the equipment as a means of encouraging greater use of the playing field. We approached Lapworth Primary School for permission to undertake a survey of the children as it was thought that it was more appropriate to canvas the suggestions of the target market. The results were collated and three new pieces of equipment were chosen and priced accordingly. No additional grass area will be lost as existing equipment will be removed to make way for 2 of the new additions and the slide will sit on the grass.

An application was made to Warwick District Councils Rural Initiatives Grant fund, which has been accepted. Rowington Parish Council will match fund the money obtained though the grant and we are currently in the process of agreeing a start date with the contractor.  Thanks to Les for his advice during this process.

**3.       Local Infrastructure**

The Parish Council often acts as a focal point for the reporting of local issues which might then be re-directed to those at the District or County Councils. Councillors themselves will report issues they either discover during their travels or are made aware of by parishioners. Problems constantly arise in relation to potholes, damaged verges, blocked gulleys and damaged signage. If you have any issues that should be reported, contact the County Councils Highways Department or contact Allyson or one of your parish councillors.

The Parish Council also takes an overview of footpaths and bridleways throughout the parish. We have been approached by Shrewley Parish Council to work with them in taking a more proactive approach to the management of these facilities. Before responding to their approach, we have taken the decision to undertake our own condition survey of these and this piece of work has been shared out amongst Rowington Parish councillors. Shrewley is carrying out limited small scale maintenance in their own parish and is looking to see if there is an appetite here for a joint effort across both parishes. This can simply be taking a pair of secateurs with you when you go walking and clear away over growth from paths. This potential initiative is in its early stages at the moment but if you would like to become involved please see me after the meeting.

**4.       Local Facilities**

The Parish Council continues to support our two local churches – St Luke’s in Lowsonford and St Laurence in Rowington. We also provide financial support to the two village halls and their broadband facility which is available for use by local groups and by those wishing to hire the halls.

The Parish Council, in co-operation with Rowington Village Hall, has been investigating potential funding options for improvements to the car parking surface and lighting which will not only enhance the appearance of the facility but also improve safety and security for the users. At the April meeting, the Parish Council voted to make a contribution of £1500 to the cost of these works on the basis that the Village Hall contributes and is able to raise the remaining funds from other sources. Thanks to Councillor Graham Bull who is also on the Village Hall committee for his work in putting together the proposal and working very hard to achieve a

value for money outcome for the Village Hall and the residents of the parish. Again thanks to Councillor Compton and Councillor Caborn for their suggestions and guidance on the available sources of grant funding.

**5.       Parish Website**

For those of you who know Rose Barker and the fantastic work she has done with the Rowington.org website, may also know by now that Rose has moved to the Lake District and has taken the decision to discontinue her involvement in this very useful and informative reference tool. The Rowington.Org website is now no longer available.

The Parish Council engaged a web developer to build our own website and I’m pleased to announce that this has been publically accessible since 2 February 2015. The address is [www.Rowingtonpc.org.uk](http://www.Rowingtonpc.org.uk) and we have received 651 hits since that date. The Parish Council has a statutory obligation to make available to the general public, certain pieces of information and all of these documents can now be found on the Parish Council website. The website gives us the ability to raise awareness of new issues, initiatives and events and also update parishioners on issues relevant to their locality as well as the wider District and County areas.

The new website also provides contact details for councillors and contact details for local interest groups, societies and organisations who wish to use this facility. For those groups represented here tonight, please visit the website to ensure that these are correct and the parish council should be advised of any amendments.

The new website is a very useful communications tool, especially for a parish as widespread as Rowington. It will be updated regularly and I encourage you all to visit it regularly and spread the message. It is a tool which is only as useful as how often it is used.

**6.       Miscellaneous**

The Parish Design Statement continues to be an on-going piece of work. I believe we have resolved the outstanding areas of difference between WDC and ourselves. A substantial amount of work has gone into what has been done so far and now that a clear way forward has been established, the group should now be able to progress the document to a point where it can be published.

At the previous meeting we advised that a Housing Needs Survey would be undertaken during the coming year. The parish councillors distributed the survey forms during September of last year and the results of the survey were published in November. A copy of the survey is available on the parish website.

 On a very exciting note, the Lengthsman's Cottage in Lowsonford is one of the five Landmark Trust sites chosen by world renowned sculptor Anthony Gormley for his piece entitled ‘[LAND’](http://www.landmarktrust.org.uk/news-and-events/50th-anniversary/land). This work has been commissioned to celebrate the Landmark's 50th Anniversary. The other four works representing the four main compass points are located across the country at some stunning coastal locations. Lowsonford is quite privileged to have been chosen as the site to represent the LAND element of this commission and the sculpture will be in place for one year, officially commencing from the weekend of the 16th and 17th May.

As part of the celebrations, at 3pm on Saturday 16 May, Lengthsman's Cottage will participate in a shared Golden Moment with the 24 other Landmark Trust sites across the country. Community music groups will simultaneously perform a specifically composed 'Anthem for Landmark' and the 'Harry Rag Band' will also be performing.  The Parish Council has covered the cost of the hire of Lowsonford Village Hall for both days, with Lowsonford Women’s Club providing teas and coffees from the Hall on the Saturday. The Rowington Historical Society will also be in residence during that period to give visitors a historical perspective on the Parish. Come and be part of this special moment!

Just a final word about the council meetings. They are held every month except January and August and attendance is open to members of the public. The schedule of meetings is published on the website so if you have something to say or are just curious to see what we do, please come along.

We are currently a group of 7 but can have a maximum of 9 sitting councillors. If you would like to make a contribution to your community, have some time to spare and are curious to find out more please come and talk to any of us tonight or give our Parish Clerk, Allyson Coleman a call. You don’t need any special skills, just time and enthusiasm.

Thank you.

The open discussion item on the agenda gave rise to the following items :

* General concern over litter around the parish and it was suggested that residents should be encouraged to collect litter around their properties and that the Parish Council should try and encourage residents to participate in litter picks.

All present agreed that everyone should be encouraged to keep the parish as tidy and litter free as possible. Any problems with recycling lorries dropping litter on their round should be reported to Martin Stacey at Warwick District Council [www.warwickdc.gov.uk](http://www.warwickdc.gov.uk) – “report it” option.

* Similar concerns were raised regarding dog fouling and people making the effort to use dog sacks but then leaving the sacks on verges and in hedges rather than depositing the sacks in bins. This is a particular problem along the canal towpaths and a request was made for the PC Clerk to contact Canals & River Trust and ask if they could put up more signs about dog fouling. For reference – Litter, Graffiti, Flyposting and Dog Fouling are all classed as criminal offences covered by legislation and subject to fines. PC Clerk to make mention of the above problems on the PC website
* A request was made for a projector and screen for Rowington Village Hall for users of the hall. It was suggested that this request should be put to the Rowington Village Hall Management Committee for consideration

**1. Rowington Village Hall**

Stephen Williams provided the following report.

The income from letting the hall over the past 12 months has fallen back to the 2013 level whilst there has been a steady increase in maintenance costs; the year end accounts will therefore show a further loss. We were forced to draw on our limited capital reserves to meet substantial insurance and electricity bills in December.

The flooring in the men's cloakroom has been replaced, as have the old card tables and the Lincat water boiler; the cost was substantial and we are grateful to the Jane Ryland Charity for the grants made to the village hall to assist with these items. A working party of committee members spent a day redecorating parts of the hall and spring cleaning. In addition, Robert Blyth and Graham Bull have dealt with many other items of maintenance and repair required in the course of the year and I am grateful to them for their efforts.

The hall has been well used over the past year by regular hirers such as the computer groups on Mondays and Tuesdays, the Women's Institute, the Bridge Club, dance classes and also private individuals and societies organising parties and other events. Recently Bible talks have been taking place in the hall twice weekly. As usual, Anne Pitt has dealt with enquiries and bookings in a most efficient way. Again my thanks go to her.

The social committee have put on several successful events, including a jazz evening and the Winter Ball, which make a very useful contribution to hall funds. The committee put a lot of time and effort into organising the social events to ensure that everyone has an enjoyable time, but it is noticeable that selling tickets has become more difficult; this may be a reflection of the number of events taking place at other village halls as well as the advancing age of many of our regular supporters. The village hall is an important local amenity and I would like to see more of the younger people in the village and those who have recently moved into the village showing an interest. For a number of years Peter Brown had chaired the social committee and we were all very sad to lose him last November.

As I always mention in my annual report, we would welcome a couple of new members on the management committee and I would be delighted to hear from anyone who might be interested.

In conclusion I would like to thank all of the members of the Management Committee for their support and unfailing enthusiasm over the past year; in particular I would mention Joan Shepherd and Ian Wilson, who have held the posts of secretary and treasurer respectively for many years and performed their duties with great efficiency.

**2. Lowsonford Village Hall**

No report

**3. Allotments Association**

Mr John Greenaway provided the following report:

Our allotment association continues to thrive with the enthusiastic support of our membership. All our plots are occupied and cultivated. We have a small waiting list but currently no one from our immediate area. Working groups were organized for the beginning and end of 2014 in this way we continue to ensure that the land, hedges and ditches that we are responsible for are well maintained. We have over the years vastly improved the ditch running the full length of the rear of the allotment land, at the end of our last working party it was back to its full depth and clear of overhanging vegetation. The roadside ditch was also cleared and the grass bank strimmed. We continue to improve the communal grass and are now able to cut the areas to the sides and rear as well as the front of the grounds. We have a rota in place to ensure that we all take a turn and so weather permitting the grass should be mowed every week.

Our Keder Greenhouse has proved to be such a success with our members that we have now added two conventional greenhouses for communal use. Our grateful thanks go to Lionel and Harold for finding, transporting and erecting both of these

great additions to our allotment offer. This corner of the allotment ground has now been transformed from an overgrown place of no productive use to a wonderful area to work or to sit and have a cuppa taking a well-earned rest looking over the allotment grounds.

Harold and Lionel continue with their quest to cultivate a wild flower area in front of the polytunnel, the aim is to further develop this area to encourage bees, butterflies and other wild life. Our apple and plum trees continue to thrive and it should not be long before they produce fruit.

We continue to hold regular meetings throughout the year to ensure that we maintain a vibrant association where all members are encouraged to air their views and to take any relevant decisions. After paying our rent to the Parish Council our subscriptions leave us with only £59.65. Since this is not enough to run the allotments for a year we have in the past taken up collections from our membership. This was not an ideal way of ensuring we were always solvent and so our members agreed to a second payment invoiced in June for £20 per member. This means our funds will be topped up half way through the year by £220 ensuring we have money available for any eventuality.

We are very keen to ensure that the allotments, that we have all worked so hard to improve over the last 7 years, continue to be well maintained and that they remain an important asset for Rowington and the surrounding area.

Should you be interested to learn more about the formation and development of the Rowington Allotments there is now a history of its development, researched from original correspondence, on the Rowington website

**4. Rowington W.I.**

No report.

**5. Rowington Cricket Club**

Brian Taylor provided the following report:

The Cricket Club is in good health. Last year our 1st team finished 7th in Division 1 of the Cotswolds Hills League and the 2nd team ended up mid table in the 5th division. The only blot on our landscape was finding sufficient players to field a side in the early season on a Sunday. New players are always welcome.

Our season was celebrated at our awards dinner in Rowington Village Hall in November.

We had a strong junior section last year considering the size of club and children from age 8 to 13 could be seen playing on Mondays until the end of July. Many of our Juniors from previous years are now appearing regularly in our senior side which is great to see. This year we are hoping to enrol over 60 youngsters for coaching and we will be using some professional coaches this year to complement our own coaches.

As always we are grateful for financial help from the community and our sponsors and we will hold a Vice Presidents day on Sunday 21st June when all villagers are welcome. Our supper and trophy awards will be held on 25th September 2015 in Rowington Village Hall.

Last year we bought and installed a new electronic score board which is a great asset. We are very lucky to have volunteers to help on the ground but more help is always welcome. The ground is now set up and all we need now is for a good summer for cricket.

**6. Rowington Tennis Club**

Michael Male provided the following report

The Club had another successful season with continued involvement from junior members who play under the supervision of our coaching partners Coolsportz.

The highlight of the year was the successful relaying of the courts and the renewal of the surrounding fencing. This was made possible with the support of the Jane Ryland trust to whom we are indebted. In addition we benefitted from a sports grant from Warwick D C to enable us to complete the project which we hope will serve us well for many years. We thank Councillor Caborn for his support in our application. In spite of the disruption last year when the courts were out of action, membership remains at our normal level of about fifty adults plus juniors. Fees are kept modest to encourage participation and we welcome new members of all standards. The Club is also grateful for the continuing support of The Village Hall, whose facilities we use.

**7. Lowsonford and Rowington Horticultural Association**

Peter Dolan provided the following report.

An enjoyable social evening in the form of the Spring Flower Show was held in March at Lowsonford Village Hall.

We returned once again to the delightful setting of Shakespeare Hall for the annual Village Show. There was a fine show of exhibits and, for the first time, musical accompaniment was provided by a jazz band. Unfortunately, rainy weather badly affected attendance which was a great pity bearing in mind the hard work which goes into putting on such an event.

Overall, the Association made loss on the year’s activities.

**8. Rowington Club**

No report
**9. The Jane Ryland Charity**

John Hale provided the following report

We continue to make a number of worthwhile donations (both large and small) to organisations in the parish and also to individuals. The Trustees would welcome more requests for assistance – all applications are considered in the strictest confidence.

We are here to help residents of the parish and local organisations. Our brief is quite wide and the aims of the Charity can be summarised as providing:

Financial assistance, where appropriate, to individuals, clubs or groups for educational, recreational and leisure time occupations e.g. improvement of facilities or grants for the purchase of course books.

Support for those of advanced years to help provide a better quality of life e.g. fees for necessary chiropody

Assistance for those with financial or health problems beyond the scope of local or state agencies e.g. electricity vouchers or grants to cover necessary parking or transport costs

This is a very worthy charity and more use needs to be made of the funds available.

**10. Rowington Almshouse Charity**

No report

**11. Rowington Action Group (RAG)**

No report.

**12.Rowington Parish Old Folk’s Party Fund**

Report provided by Mrs Val Morton.

The committee of the Old Folks met yesterday and sadly decided for the first time in my experience that they would not be sending a representative to the meeting.  We have quite a number of new members on the committee now and the feeling was that as reports are no longer read  out at the meeting it hardly seems worth doing them and therefore  not necessary for anyone to attend, except in a private capacity if they wish to do so.   However, they do understand the reasons for the change and send their apologies.   For the record, our activities for 2015 are an Annual Luncheon at Henley Golf Club on Wednesday 8th July;    All Sorts Sale on Saturday 3rd October;   Annual Christmas Luncheon on Wednesday, 9th December.

**13. British Legion - Men**

Mr John Hale provided the following report.

Like so many other organisations we are very concerned about our falling membership, with few people willing to come forward and help. None the less we continue to support the aims of the Legion and the Ex-Service community and are proud of what we achieve

Our main aim is to keep alive the spirit of November Remembrance and helping with the very important annual Poppy Appeal. Last November we did extremely well with our Poppy Appeal thanks to the excellent support of the local community. Our Poppy Appeal Organiser, Mrs Carol Regan worked very hard to coordinate all elements of the collection and she was greatly helped by our House to House collectors. The total collection reached nearly £6000

On Remembrance Sunday we paraded and attended the service at St. Laurence, Rowington. There was a very good turnout, with the Women’s Section and the 1st Lapworth Guides and Brownies joining the parade and a large congregation. Wreaths were laid at the Memorial. Wreaths were also laid at the Lapworth War Memorial and the Remembrance Service held at St.Mary’s was also very well attended.

We continue with our small social programme and in the last year have held a Bangers & Mash Lunch, attended by members and a good number of guests and also enjoyed a number of other informal lunches. In May we shall be hosting a “Street Party” at Lowsonford Village Hall to celebrate VE Day 70 (full details can be found in the Ferncumbe News) and in October we shall be holding another Quiz Night at Lapworth Village hall

If you would like to know more about us please contact me, or our Secretary, Phil Dickinson (01564 782339). Remember, to become a member you do not need to have served in the Forces, just to be in sympathy with our ideals.

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**14. British Legion - Women**

No report

**15. Neighbourhood Watch**

No report

**16 Lowsonford Badminton Club**

No report

**17. Rowington Ex Service Supper Fund**

John Hale provided the following report.

Our annual supper, held on 8th November, was attended by nearly 50 members and guests, who enjoyed a very good meal, reminisced about times past and laughed at the evening’s entertainment; all in all, a lovely occasion.

Rowington Village Hall was dressed in traditional form. The toast to the The Fallen was proposed by the Vicar and that to the Ex Service Men & Women of Rowington by Mr, D Bridgewater, a local historian from Henley in Arden.

Membership of the Supper Fund is open to men and women who have served in HM Forces and who reside in the Parish. The committee would welcome new members. If you qualify please have a word with me.

**18. Lowsonford Women’s Club**

Report provided by Mrs Gill Carlyle.

On the 11th June we held a Coffee Morning and raised £244.05. In June we made cakes for Castel Froma’s Garden Meeting and on July 24th we entertained Castel Froma to tea and a very enjoyable time was had by all. In July we also asked for cakes for the Flower Show. We held a Coffee Morning on 15th of October and raised £306.00 which went towards our Christmas Charities. In December we made wreaths for the Christmas Fayre which was a very successful event although attendance was down. We raised £956.00 at the Christmas Fayre and with the money from the Coffee Morning, we were able to send £1,000 to The Children’s Hospital and £200 to The Old Folks Fund, so overall we had a very successful year

**19. Rowington Parish Archives and Records**

Report provided by Nick Holmes

The group continues to work to collect and archive old photographs and documents from the Parish that are at risk of being lost forever.

Our WW1 exhibition and programme of talks in November last year was a great success, attended by 250 visitors, half of whom had never been to one of our exhibitions before.

We acknowledge the tremendous support of local families who donated stories, pictures and artefacts and also Leamington Museum who loaned display cases.

The exhibition's not inconsiderable costs were covered by grants from the Warwick Rural West Community Forum and Rowington Parish Council, for which we are extremely grateful.

During the year we were pleased to form an alliance with the Lapworth History Group and our website now hosts many old photographs from the Lapworth are as well as Rowington.

We would be delighted to hear from anyone who has old photographs of people or places in the local area that could be added to our archive to ensure that they are preserved for future generations. Any material loaned can be promptly copied and returned.

The online archive continues to grow and now contains nearly 5,000 photographs many of which have not been displayed in past exhibitions. The website www.rowingtonrecords.com was launched two years ago to make the entire archive accessible to the growing number of people with an interest in the history of the Parish or who are researching local families. This has generated interest from far and wide.

For 2015 we are planning a "Rowington History Weekend" in November with another series of talks on local history.

**20 Computer Class and Family History Group**

Fay Ogden provided the following reports.

The COMPUTER CLASS is still continuing on a Monday morning and although only a small group we are very keen, we had one new member join us since last year.

Pupils work individually either on their own laptops or using the class ones and at their own pace. Mike, our tutor, gives each person, help and assistance with whatever subject they are working on.

As with the Family History Class we take a long Summer break but this could be changed if enough pupils want it.

Do you know nothing about computers?

Do you want to write letters, manage accounts etc?

Do you want to shop on line?

Send e-mails?

Talk to family and friends on Skype?

Store and manage your photos?

Upload and Download?

Design and print your own publicity and newsletters?

This is the class for you AND if you only need a quick refresher lesson on one subject call in and we can arrange a one off lesson at a daily charge.

**Family History Group**

This class continues to run well and we have 8 members on the Register. It is very much a self-help class and any new member is guided though the online program by other members of the group. Our Tutor comes in every third week and occasionally more frequently if needed but is always available by phone or email.

We welcome anyone who wishes to come in for help even if it is only to look something up and you are not committed to a time as we charge by the class. The fee is £6.00 with an additional £1.00 if you need help from Katie, our Tutor

We have found that we prefer to only have the odd week off throughout the main part of the year and take a long summer break from the end of May until September when most people are busy with holidays, gardening and other summer events.

Anyone who is interested in either of the above classes is very welcome to call in to see what we do and enjoy a cup of coffee with us. We do get through a large quantity of coffee and biscuits at both classes but also a great deal of work!

Computer class: Monday 10.00am – 12.00pm

Family History: Tuesday 10.00am – 1.00pm **( Note new time)**

We do have a couple of spare laptops but if you have your own please bring it with you as you will find it easier and in the case of the Family History class you can continue your searches at home.

Both classes are held in the Committee room and as we usually use the side door you may not see any cars parked at the front of the hall so please do come in and look for us!

 Contact Fay Ogden 01564 782516

**21. LAMAG and Lowsonford Conservation Society**

No report

The formal meeting closed at 8.40 pm. and was followed by light refreshments.

**Signed………………………………………………………**

 **Chairman**

**Date.................………………………………………………**

[APM Minutes 2015]