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TONY JONES

HIS AUTOBIOGRAPHY - INVITED BY THE OFFICERS OF
THE SHRIVENHAM HERITAGE SOCIETY

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“SHRIVENHAM HERITAGE SOCIETY”

It's Foundation - Compiled by Tony Jones

23rd June 2015

N2

TONY JONES

HIS AUTOBIOGRAPHY - INVITED BY THE OFFICERS OF THE SHRIVENHAM HERITAGE SOCIETY

THE FIRST DECADES

I lived in Battersea all my life until I was three and WW2 broke out. My family was evacuated to a tied cottage on a farm in Headley, near Epsom, but my father's garage business was bombed out of existence in 1942. His love of Engineering permeated down to me; it was natural for me to become an Engineer but my acute sensitivity to irritations and cold on my skin caused me to choose Electrical and Electronic Engineering instead of anything greasy such as Automotives. During and shortly after the war there were shortages of everything, including good school teachers and interesting text-books, and nothing inspired me to learn anything about history. I was daily aware of the horrors of war and of the personal tragedies involving the losses of 'Loved Ones'. History books, which recalled mediaeval battles and the affairs of kings, inspired me-not!. My dyslexia also impeded my ability to remember all those obscure names and dates. I left school as a total failure in almost everything except Physics.

THIRST FOR KNOWLEDGE

It still seems amazing but I was enrolled at Kingston on a Thick-Sandwich HND course to study Electrical and Radio Engineering up to university degree level. Manufacturing and Research experience at Solartron was followed in 1957 by a Post-Graduate Management Training Apprenticeship at Metropolitan Vickers in Manchester. This was cut short when I was put in charge of the R&D and eventual installation of a huge Electronic Servo-System for the MoD. This project was quickly followed by my leadership of a team designing a complex high-power servo-system which we eventually installed on a nuclear submarine. Twenty eight sets were subsequently built for the entire nuclear fleet. Concurrent with this project I acted as temporary 'locum' Chief Engineer for the Medical Electronics EEGs made by AEI. So far I have mentioned very high-power military electronic systems and tiny-tiny highly sensitive ethical medical electronic systems but I still had no interest in History *per se*. Changes at AEI-MetroVicks in 1965 and the responsibility of supporting my young family caused me to switch my job to become the Technical Manager of a Machine Tools manufacturer in Oldham but I was eventually attracted to the higher technology and wages of Avionics and Electronics Instrumentation firms in Andover, Guildford and Kent.

HIGHS AND LOWS

In 1982 I seized the opportunity to start my own firm designing and marketing Industrial Electronic Servo-Systems. It was fully financed by a Swiss bank which also controlled similar companies across Europe. This was the high life, the high salaries, the jet-setting, the prestige and the recognition by my peer-group BUT it was short-lived when, in 1985, I almost died during a severe angina attack. For eight months I was waiting-for or recovering-from major open-heart surgery then coming to terms that my dream had been shattered. My wife (Yvonne) and my two sons were highly supportive but the only way forward for me to support us was for me to become a freelance Technical Management Consultant – for which role I was given professional training by the Kent Business School near Maidstone. I had a wide variety of business clients and projects; including briefs from Germany, USA, Turkey and Wales. Additionally I became affiliated to a consortium of like-minded individuals which was brokering Intellectual Property Contracts between the UK and China. This came to an abrupt end when our contacts disappeared during the Tiananmen Square massacres. For me to be a Technical Management Consultant I had to be fully up to date with the latest technologies and trends. As a loner this became increasingly difficult so, in 1988, I accepted the appointment as Managing Director of a Swedish-owned ailing company.

CHOOSING SHRIVENHAM

Amongst the many weaknesses of this Electronic Transducer company was its location in rural Shropshire; it was often a one-hour drive to the nearest sources of professionals such as Accountants, Lawyers and any banks which could handle foreign currencies. Goods in and out also took time. "Relax – Enjoy the Welsh Hills" was not conducive to modern industrial commerce. It was decided that I should relocate the factory somewhere else – anywhere I thought fit. After weeks of frantic running around central and southern England I discovered the Shrivenham Hundred Business Park. Unit One ticked all the boxes for proximity to academia, talented staff, professional services, the motorway to Heathrow and a pleasant setting. My board of directors agreed. I managed the move, lock, stock and barrel and opened the new operation on what happened to be my Silver Wedding Day. Yvonne was too busy that evening as Deputy Registrar at Crawley College for her to be available either so we called it quits as regards unfortunate timing. As compensation for my guilt I invited everyone, yes everyone, who came into the Crown Inn that night to free food and drink - on me, or at least on my expense account. I needed to make new friends. And, for at least four hours – they were!

TURNING POINTS IN HISTORY

Concurrently with all that my mother, back in Epsom, was finding it increasingly difficult and dangerous living on her own. She had become blind and had other ailments typical of her advanced years. (Actually – I've almost caught up with her now!) The house Yvonne and I chose had to include rooms for my mother as a sort of Granny Annexe. In early 1990 Yvonne and I went with the Shrivenham Local History Society on a visit to Kingston Bagpuize House where we met Lord & Lady Tweedsmuir. I was instantly charmed by them and the history of their "pile". It was at this instant that I realised what pleasures were available in learning about Local History and the History of Architecture, etc. I was soon persuaded to join the History Society and to be its Hon-Secretary; I still had that "honour" thirteen years later. It was during those years in office that I became increasingly aware of what I had missed as a child, of what I had not seen in those childhood war-torn years to trigger any lasting interest in histories which were not to do with battles, kings and princesses but all to do with local folk and to do with the countryside crafts around us.

Mervyn Penny's lecture about Alfred Williams also changed my attitudes but had we, in the Local History Society, got through to the modern-day children in Shrivenham Primary School?

COERCED INTO POSITIVE ACTION

The sequences of events, as recalled in my story about the Foundation of the Shrivenham Heritage Society, show that I had picked up a hot potato which I could not put down. What the story does not properly mention is that I found myself deeply involved in many other activities, responsibilities and personal limitations that competed for my time and energies. For example: in 1994, by a fluke of extreme coincidence, I discovered a cousin, of whom I had no prior knowledge whatsoever, who was also researching our family. We became trapped in the highly demanding drug of genealogy. We still are; we spend hours and £pounds on the insatiable hobby. The same thing happened again this year with another newly discovered cousin. My original motivation was to learn something about my parents' histories and ancestors. Following my mother's death I inherited hundreds of documents and ancient photographs (far more than the SADAG/SHS collection) and I wanted to sort these out, catalogue them and, eventually, write a biography of my ancestors during the past 250 years. This is still WIP and I'm into the third volume. All this and other factors caused another serious cardiac incident which necessitated in more open heart surgery during 1997 followed by other hospitalisations and operations in 1999, 2003 and 2004.

WANTED BY THE POLICE

Despite my physiological instabilities I found myself involved in other unexpected ways. Following a meeting in 2002 with Bishop Michael Doe at his palace in Swindon I was persuaded to join the Steering Committee of the Independent Advisory Group (IAG) in Wiltshire Police HQ, Devizes. This culminated in me being appointed by the Chief Constable to chair an internal committee which monitored the Stop-&-Search performance of officers in Wiltshire. The Force needed a civilian (me) to act as a neutral Controller who could act as a buffer between them and the Police Authority, the

Media and the Public. Within two years of overseeing these activities I had to rely on my secretary during meetings to overcome my cataracts and partial deafness. Nevertheless; I and lately the Deputy Chief Constable achieved all our objectives and I resigned my post in 2012. One of the highlights of my tenure was to accompany an officer one evening in an Emergency Response Vehicle with blue flashing lights and sirens blaring. I was scared stiff whilst rushing through Flemming Way and Gorse Hill at high speed and seeing other motorists scattering out of our way. Sometimes I had to attend top-level emergency meetings at Devizes HQ when there was a major national crisis.

THE LURE OF ACADEMIA

In 2005 Professor Emeritus Peter Hill invited me to join the Defence Electronics History Society (DEHS). The attraction of the DEHS is that it celebrates the genius of the early pioneers of radio, radar and electronics in the historical theatres of war. I was especially privileged to meet some of the old gentlemen who had done that work and would already be part of our proud history if it were not for them being silenced by military secrecy. Subsequent to my taking a party of 49 members of the DEHS, the U3A and the SHS to Bletchley Park I was appointed as Committee Secretary of the DEHS but after 18 months in post I had to resign because of my deafness. Otherwise – I am still heavily involved and attend academic conferences at University of Oxford. I am also a regular attendee at IET lectures and functions, sometimes with Peter Hill.

IRRESISTIBLE ART AND MUSIC

Although I was not hitherto attracted to History I was always attracted to the Visual Arts and to Music (Classic and Jazz). One of my best friends from 1944 is a Professional Painter and I shared a flat in Manchester with another. Works of Art and Music generate intense emotions in me (positive or negative or complacent) such that I have to examine the psychological motivations within their creator. This is wearing but unavoidable. Partially responding to this lure I joined the Wantage branch of NADFAS (National Association of Decorative And Fine Arts Societies) and was soon put in charge of all the technical aspects such as the projectors, sound, lighting, Front of House, etc. I had a brilliant team of scientists from Harwell and Oxford Instruments to help me.

LEGACIES

Mervyn Penny had numerous fine qualities and talents. I felt a special empathy towards him for his traditional skills in Engineering and Carpentry (acquired whilst at GWR and RMCS) and for the artistic, writing and music skills for which he was widely recognised. He left an amazing legacy; I wanted his achievements to live on into the longer future by my conceptualising and founding of the Shrivenham Heritage Society. Having achieved my objectives and successfully passed my “baby” into more capable hands I am satisfied and happy. I thank my friends at SHS for taking it forward.

Tony Jones – Shrivenham 23rd June 2015.

SHRIVENHAM HERITAGE SOCIETY

It's Foundation - Compiled by Tony Jones - June 2015

SHRIVENHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

In 1978 a group of individuals, based in Shrivenham, began asking themselves what should be done to investigate the history of the village and its odd name. It had been mentioned in the Domesday Book and we had been lucky enough to have a Lord of The Manor who took an active and generous role in the community.ⁱ

Its stated initial aims were:

To extend the knowledge of local history, in particular the village of Shrivenham; to conduct research into the various activities which have combined in the development of the village as a community; to visit places of interest and to provide instructive lectures on relevant subjects.

The late Mervyn Penny was amongst the tireless enthusiasts who conducted thorough research around the village, in the Berkshire Records Office and elsewhere. They built up an extensive collection of original archives and of workable copies for further studies and for posterity.

During the 1990s the SLHS (Shrivenham Local History Society) was still thriving and it had monthly meetings and Christmas Parties; seen by many as significant social events. Key personnel in those days were Mervyn Penny, Pat Ward, Jenny Gourley, Judy Baxter, Ilse Broadhurst, Betty Causer and Doreen Perkins.ⁱⁱ One by one most of these people were no longer able to attend and the Chairmanship was taken up by Tony Belk. He was supported by Tony Bellamy as Programmes Secretary and Tony Jones as General Secretary and by Mervyn as Archivist. This arrangement stood for thirteen years despite dwindling membership and attendances. Most of the research programmes had ceased and their findings had become almost forgotten.

In 2000 burglars broke into the archives storage room but, in their frustration at not discovering anything valuable, they discarded everything onto the cricket green. Pigeons had also invaded the room – covering every surface with guano and dirty feathers. When Tony Jones was notified of the disasters he retrieved all the documents before the rain could destroy all the hard work of his predecessors. For the next couple of years the archives resided in Tony's house and garage. He began listing all the items and he sought extra help from the SLHS and from influential people around the village.

FOUNDATION OF SADAG

In February 2002 Tony called an inaugural meeting of the Shrivenham & District Archives Group (SADAG). His supporting cast was strong: Vivien Moss, Mervyn Penny, Elaine Ware, Pat Ward, Mary Belk, David Boobyer, Wendy Hutchinson, Sue Lovell, Lesley Haviland and Yvonne Jones. Three important outcomes were:

- (a) Rachel Davies (Deputy Librarian in the RMCS) agreed that the SLHS/SADAG archives collection could be stored alongside the RMCS archives in a dedicated room in Becket House.
- (b) That the SADAG collection should be put on a computerised database.
- (c) Close collaboration began with Sue Curry – Head of Shrivenham Primary School.

Following many enquiries a desktop computer was donated by Mervyn Penny's daughter, Therese Penny. This was installed in Becket House so that serious cataloguing and inputting could begin. Many hours were spent on this task by Vivien Moss, Anna Hanslip, Sue Lovell, Yvonne Jones, David Boobyer and Tony Jones. Tony's first classification systemⁱⁱⁱ, suggested by a curator at Swindon Museum, used letters of the alphabet as primary fields but this proved to be inflexible and Sue Lovell's improved system of classification was then taken up. This continued until the new website, designed by Kirsty Buckle of *MeAndMyMac*, was introduced in 2013.

ARCHIVES COLLECTION GOES PUBLIC

June 2002 was the month of the Queen's Golden Jubilee. Helping to mark the occasion Tony Jones set up displays of the SLHS/SADAG collection in both Churches. The public responded with much praise^{iv}. David Boobyer, Elaine Ware and David Pratt plus others were instrumental in raising substantial funds for SADAG because of the public and the Council recognition of its benefit to the village and for the next generations. One such donation was £200 from the Shrivenham Village Institute Charity.^v

CHANGES AT THE DEFENCE ACADEMY

In 2004 massive organisational changes forced the relocation of the RMCS + SADAG archives from Becket House to Building 70 (The Stack Room) within the campus. This was less desirable because the security hurdles were much tougher and the availability of desk-space was negligible. The SADAG team persevered but under increasing pressures and tightening elbowroom. By 2007 the situation was desperate Tony made numerous searches for a new home for the SADAG archives. The barn at the back of Shrivenham Primary School was investigated by Tony Jones and Sue Curry but the anticipated costs and legal pitfalls were deemed too much to swallow. Several other "bright ideas" also failed the tests but then some "blue-skies" thinking by David Pratt and Tony Jones tempted them to consider the "junk-yard" at the back of the balcony in the Memorial Hall.

TRANSFORMATIONS

For years and years this largely-inaccessible terraced space high up in the hall was the dumping ground for everything which should have been dealt with by anyone with enough courage and energy to face the enormous de-cluttering challenge. In the hall's original usage, as a cinema, the space between the front of the balcony and back to the wall between it and the cine-projector room, was tiered quite steeply such that the uppermost line of the floor was about 6 feet above the front. This meant that, after the final usage as a cinema, the space was impractical for anything other than a dumping ground. David and Tony wondered if the junk could be removed and the floor could be levelled such that a useful room could be created. It would take time, money and guts – all of which were in short supply. Tony Jones, David Pratt, Byorn Watson and Stuart Spencer examined the under-floor structure and resolved that the floor could not be levelled but, perhaps, could be built up to the highest level if steps were fitted at the front.

Tony sketched a possible structure^{vi} which would cover the old tiered steps, incorporate a screen between the passageway and a short flight of steps up to the new level. His detailed the estimated material costs were obtained from Webbs Timbers in Faringdon Road and he collated a package which he presented to the Shrivenham Parish Council, chaired by Stuart Spencer. In early October 2007 the SPC agreed unanimously and enthusiastically on condition that Tony changed the name from Shrivenham & District Archives Group to Shrivenham Heritage Centre – SHC. (Subsequently it was changed again to Shrivenham Heritage Society - SHS.)

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

Tony's urgent objectives were coming to fruition but the combination of his other commitments and of his worsening health issues caused him to give way to new blood and energies. David Boobyer ably took up the Chairmanship of the SHC. He recruited Iain Winskill, Terry Connors and Andy Ware to undertake the final design and erection of the new centre – complete with electric light and power and carpeting. David's artistic skills extended to procuring huge prints of old photographs so that the bare walls could be decorated and he bought tasteful furniture and fittings to complete the interior design. That was early in 2008 but this highly talented and energetic team have never been fully recognised for their hard work and generosity.

UNDER A NEW ROOF

We were now, at long last, ready to bring back the village archives from the Defence Academy to their rightful home within the Memorial Hall. Vic Day leant his pick-up truck for the purpose and the weather was kind-enough for us to transfer everything from Academy Building 70 to the new SHC upstairs in the Memorial Hall. That was just the beginning of a new task^{vii} to bring the catalogue up to

date to show the new storage locations. These included the set of three Book Shelves which Tony bought at HomeBase in Greenbridge. During the latter half of 2008 Tony's parallel commitments were still very demanding but David Boobyer's professional workload (as a Freelance Graphic Designer) had grown to the extent that he could no-longer afford his time as Chairman of the SHC. On a temporary basis Tony took back the reigns until the SHC AGM^{viii} in March 2009 during which Bjorn Watson was elected Chairman with Tony standing in the wings whilst Bjorn settled in.

OFFICIAL OPENING BY PROFESSOR RICHARD HOLMES

All the SHC Committee and many groupies worked together in preparation of this joyful event on 21st July 2009. During that morning BBC TV came to the centre and interviewed Mervyn Penny, Bjorn Watson and others; Tony Jones was interviewed by BBC Oxford Radio in their studio. Lewis Lawton subsequently interviewed Tony on Swindon 1055 FM Radio.

Just prior to Professor Holme's lecture he was greeted upstairs to view our accomplishments and resources. Also attending, and sharing the excitement, were Councillor Alison Rooke (Chairman of the Vale of White Horse), Bjorn Watson, Elaine Ware, Mervyn Penny and Tony Jones.

In front of a full capacity audience within the Memorial Hall Professor Holmes marked the occasion by ringing the HMS SHRIVENHAM Ship's Bell and declaring the SHC open. He then gave a brilliant lecture on 'The Iron Duke' and he thereby set the tone for subsequent lectures hosted by the SHC. Bjorn thanked the Professor and presented him with a signed copy of David Boobyer's illustrated book on Shrivenham.

GETTING FUNDS FOR GETTING TECHNICAL

Therese Penny's old computer was no longer up to the job of handling the enlarged database and of allowing the printing of hard copies for usage within the SHC and elsewhere. Iain Winskill donated a Dell computer; this became the main workhorse until 2014. It was soon recognised that one PC, with no connection to the Internet, was insufficient to satisfy the needs for off-site data-management and for public access to the database. Tony Jones tried in vain to find an affordable solution but, in the end, David Pratt rescued the situation by achieving the impossible and getting a large grant from the National Lottery. Kirsty Buckle was recruited to design the SHS website and to restructure the classification and cataloguing processes. The current status is applauded world-wide and is quoted as a wonderful asset to the village and the Vale.

The rest is History.

Notes compiled by Tony Jones – 21st June 2015.

ⁱ Extract from 'A History of History' – a draft document (attached) written by Tony Jones circa 2006.

ⁱⁱ Winter Programme 1991-92 (attached).

ⁱⁱⁱ Letter on 14th November 2002 from Tony to Rachel regarding the Catalogue. (Copy attached)

^{iv} Letter from Vic Day, Chairman of Shrivenham Parish Council, 13th June (attached).

^v Letter and cheque dated 1st December 2002. (Copy attached)

^{vi} Sketch of Tony Jones' outline design as presented to SPC in September 2007.

^{vii} Status Report 18/8/08 (copy attached)

^{viii} Minutes of the 2009 AGM.

A History of History

In the beginning there was enthusiasm. In 1978 a group of individuals, based in Shrivenham, began asking themselves what should be done to investigate the history of the village and its odd name. It had been mentioned in the Domesday Book and we had been lucky enough to have had a Lord of the Manor who took an active and generous role in the community.

Many factors fell into place to spur on this early, but long-term latent, enthusiasm:

- I. Viscountess Barrington had set up a Trust which gave us the splendid Memorial Hall (in 1925) and a source of funds for the Almshouses and other good causes.
- II. The very popular Cannon Hill had published his enchanting book entitled "A Record of the Parish of Shrivenham Berkshire" (1928)
- III. Plans were being debated for the forthcoming A420 bypass which was to radically change the village.
- IV. There was a desire to revive the ancient tradition of walking the Parish Boundary and so the complex boundary had to be researched, defined and mapped.
- V. There was (and still is) an enormous amount of diversified talent which could be harnessed to do the detailed work on the history.
- VI. We were blessed (and to some extent still are) blessed with descendants of families which had been established here for centuries.
- VII. We have one of the country's very few Ponds (for retaining loose animals).
- VIII. Detailed descriptions of the Pump, the Stocks, the Canal, the GWR, the Beckett Park Estate and many other physical features were surfacing which stimulated enquiry.
- IX. RMCS personnel from other counties and countries and new "In-Comers" were asking questions about our delightful environment and were keen to contribute to the research efforts and costs.

And so the SHRIVENHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY was founded and got off to a flying start. Its stated initial aims were:

"To extend the knowledge of local history, in particular the village of Shrivenham; to conduct research into the various activities which have combined in the development of the village as a community; to visit places of interest and to provide instructive lectures on relevant subjects."

Advice was received on how to conduct research from several sources, one of which was from a booklet entitled "Surrey Local History Guide". In essence it advised:

- I. Take nothing for granted; compare all documents .
- II. Obtain large-scale Ordnance Survey sheets .
- III. Study the geology .
- IV. Obtain access to early maps .
- V. Identify the buildings and trace local inhabitants .
- VI. Collect references .
- VII. Consult Parish Registers .

From this beginning many activities were started and many archive items were obtained or created – which are re-emerging today.

Press Cuttings scrap book.

Programmes of lectures and summer outings.



Front cover illustration: Coplow House Barn
by Anne Stevenson, courtesy of Col and Mrs Raschen.

Coplow House Barn, the oldest barn extant in Shrivenham, is 400 years old this year. An old lady was reported to have lived up in the tallat in the last century. The first recorded item on the barn was dated 1591.

SHRIVENHAM
Local History Society

Shrivenham Local History Society

	<u>1990-91</u>	<u>1991-92</u>
Chairman:	Pat Ward
V Chairman:	Mervyn Penny
Secretary:	Jenny Gourley
Treasurer:	Judy Baxter
Archivist:	Mervyn Penny
Committee:	Ilse Broadhurst
	Betty Causer
	Doreen Perkins

Annual subscription (due October):

Standard member £4.00; OAP or child £2.00;
visitor (per meeting) 75p.

All meetings are held at Shrivenham Memorial Hall,
7.30pm, except AGM 28 November: 7.00pm prompt.

Winter Programme 1991-92

24 October	Oxfordshire Historic Churches <i>Richard Lethbridge</i>
28 November (AGM)	Land-use and the Changing Flora and Fauna <i>Patrick Dillon</i>
January	Social (date to be arranged)
23 January	The History of the Ridgeway <i>Maurice Mendoza</i>
27 February	The Early History of Shrivenham <i>Vivien Moss</i>
26 March	The Roman Cotswolds <i>Stephen Clews</i>
23 April	Women's Cottage Industries in Victorian Oxfordshire <i>Pamela Horn</i>

CD-SAD AG
24/11/2004

SHRIVENHAM & DISTRICT ARCHIVES GROUP

Telephone: 01793-783277
Email: tony-jones@criterion82.freemove.co.uk

7 Forrest Close, Shrivenham
Swindon. SN6 8AP

Rachel Daniels
Beckett House, RMCS
Shrivenham

14th November 2002

Dear Rachel,

CATALOGUE of ARCHIVES

There is plenty of room for improvement and even for drastic alterations but here is my version of the Catalogue of the village Archives - as far as I have logged them. There are more items to do but I am taking a break whilst we assess the situation.



My concept: Each item of archive is given a unique serial number on a next-one-next-number basis. The perceived primary aspect of interest is then judged and a code letter is attached to the serial number. The most appropriate storage location is then chosen and the code for that is added to the label which is attached to the item and all the data is entered on the Excel data base. The enclosed catalogue is a printout from that database together with the supplementary and explanatory notes. [E&OE]

Special comments for discussion: I have chosen single CAPITAL letters for the classifications (File headings) which I think are of key interest to anyone researching the village. Not all of the 26 letters have been allocated. I have also allowed space for a further 26 classifications by using twin lower-case letters to embrace anything else. If this turns out to be insufficient then either triple letters or alpha-numeric-alpha combinations could be considered. This concept was suggested to me by the Curator at Swindon Museum in Old Town.

With only feeble justification I have identified all storage locations with the pre-fix 'X'. This is a hangover from my personal storage system whereby X stands for boX or X marks the spot where things are kept. Anyway - that's what I have done. All the village archives which will be in the Beckett House Heritage Rooms have X1, X2, X3, X4, etc for their locations and these are listed at the back of the catalogue. They can easily be changed on the database if items are moved - either in bulk or singly. I have extended this concept, using the X prefix, to identify external and remote storage locations of the originals of the copies which we either hold or will possibly hold in the future. That extended listing is also included at the back. Finally, I hope, the 'P' prefix for locations is the special coded identification of private collections which, in some instances, might be secret or having very restricted access but, nevertheless, are of importance to potential researches. I have a register of such places.

And finally finally: I have attempted a few instructions for anyone who can tinkle on a keyboard but who is not yet proficient with Excel. I have used Excel because it is very popular and it is very versatile when selecting or searching data. I am not that enthusiastic about Access although I also have that software.

Warmest regards and thanks,


Tony Jones 

SHRIVENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Memorial Hall
Highworth Road
SHRIVENHAM, Swindon
SN6 8BL

Tel: 01793 782925

All correspondence should be addressed to the Clerk

S80

13 June 2002

Mr T Jones
7 Forrest Close
SHRIVENHAM
Swindon
SN6 8AP

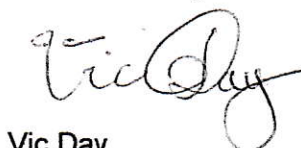
Dear Tony

At our Council Meeting on 10 June it was the unanimous decision of the Councillors that I write to record a big thank you to you and your helpers for the effort you all made to make the Golden Jubilee Weekend Celebrations such a success. The amount of work involved in organising and managing the various strands that eventually came together is, I know, no mean feat. Everyone I spoke to on the Monday was full of praise for the event and weren't we lucky with the weather.

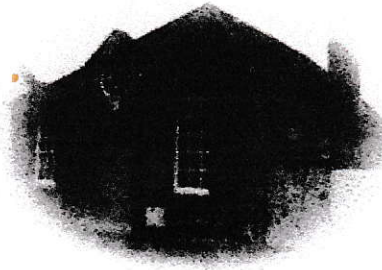
From my personal view I felt there was a great spirit abroad in the village and I hope that we can harness this energy for future events. Once again, my personal thanks for organising and participating in the Flowers and History events in the churches.

Please note that there will be a "wash-up" meeting at the Bowls Club on Friday 21 June at 7.30 pm. I look forward to seeing you there.

Yours sincerely



Vic Day
Chairman



Shrivvenham Village Institute Charity.

Chair Person: The Revd Richard Hancock. TSSF

St Andrew's Vicarage, High Street, Shrivvenham

Swindon SN6 8AN. Tel: 01793 780183.

Email: revdhancock@standrews-shrivvenham.fsnet.co.uk

Secretary: Mrs Sarah Green.

Oakdene House, Oak Road, Watchfield. Swindon SN6 8TD. Tel: 01793 782059

1st December 2002

MR A Jones
Shrivvenham and District Archives Group
7 Forrest Close
Shrivvenham
Swindon
SN6 8AP.

Dear Mr Jones,

At their recent meeting the Trustees of the Institute Charity considered the application for a grant that you made in August, and decided to give the sum of £200 to help with your work in compiling and cataloguing a Shrivvenham archive. A cheque for this amount is enclosed.

The Trustees are very pleased to be able to support your new enterprise in this small way and wish you well in your work in the coming year.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Green

Sarah Green (Mrs)

Hon. Sec.

Enc.



Lloyds TSB

30-13-3

Shrivvenham Branch
56 High Street Shrivvenham Swindon Wiltshire SN6 8AB

Date 27/11/02

Bemrose 9506	Pay	SHRIVENHAM & DISTRICT ARCHIVES GROUP	
		Two Hundred Pounds Only	£200

VILLAGE INSTITUTE - SHRIVENHAM

Richard Hancock

Sarah Green

18MAR00 Lloyds TSB Bank plc

Cheque No.

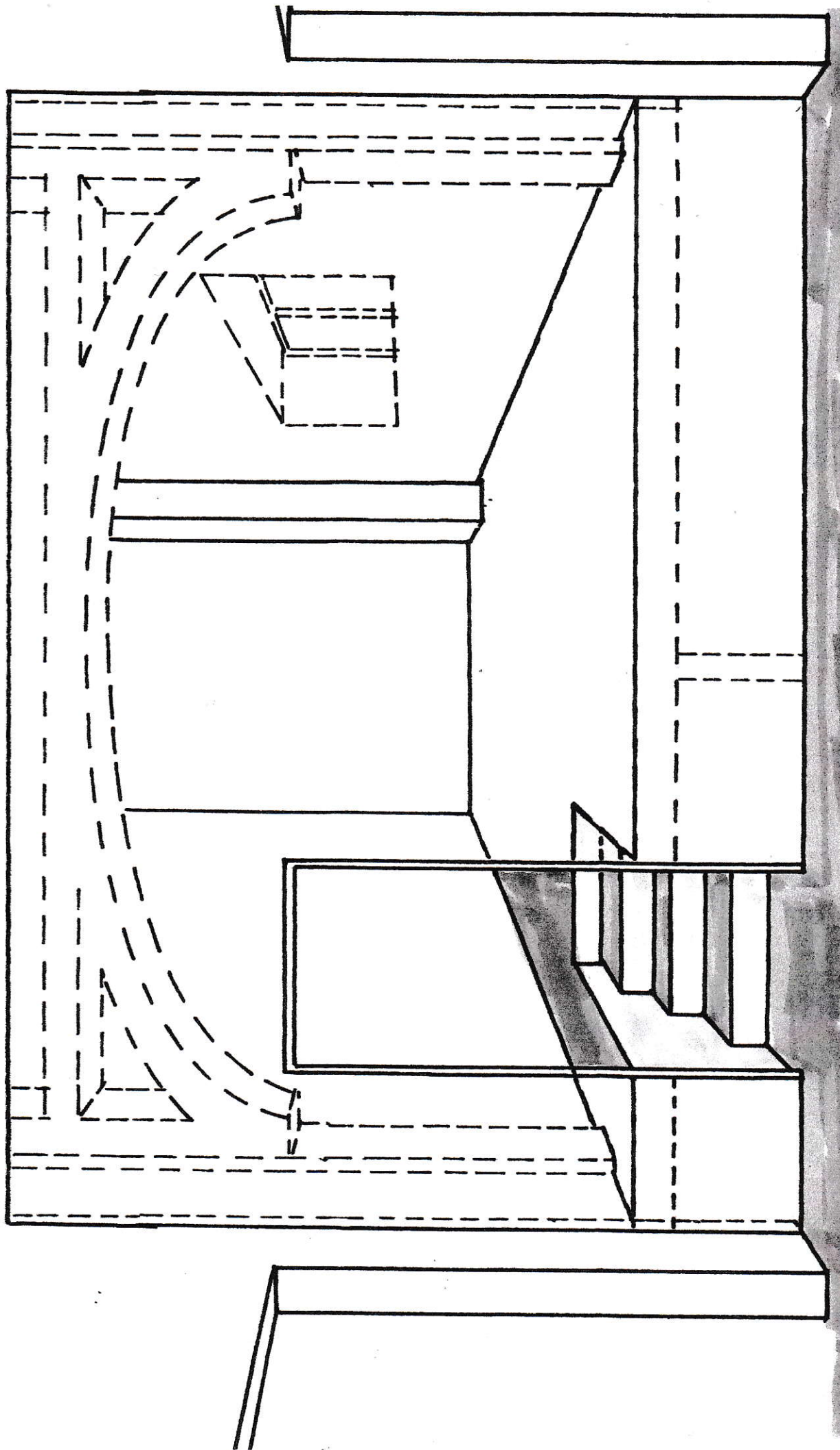
Branch No.

Account No.

Trans. Code

⑈000076⑈ 30⑈ 1335⑈

1260007⑈02



SHRIVENHAM HERITAGE CENTRE

Status Report Monday 18/8/08

1. All the Archives previously stored in the DCMT/RMCS have now been moved into the new Shrivenham Heritage Centre in the Memorial Hall. The one known exception is the first-edition copy of *A Record of the Parish of Shrivenham Berkshire* by Cannon Hill, 1928; this has been missing for about 18 months.
2. The stocks of catalogued books, photographs, maps, albums, trophy cups and shields are temporally in plastic crates or are open display around the room. All have been checked off against the register (Indexed Catalogue). Individual documents are yet to be Stock-Checked but are assumed OK.
3. There are now many new acquisitions, mostly from the Parish Council and the Barrington Memorial Trust, which have not yet been catalogued but which are crated in a fairly orderly fashion. The library books of the one-time Shrivenham Local History Society will be moved from the Methodist Church to the Heritage Centre prior to Saturday afternoon; they have already been catalogued on the PC.
4. I have measured the total "run" of required shelving for the stock and taken into account the probable extras for future acquisitions. Discussions on this topic needed.
5. The current stock of copies of the Shrivenham, Watchfield & Boughton News, *aka* Shrivenham Parish Magazine, is probably now complete. They are in three boxes awaiting listing.
6. The filing cabinet (X3.2 etc) of documents is apparently intact but the first, third and bottom drawers are in need of sorting. I am pleased to confirm that the Affidavit regarding the Wool Laws is present and in good condition.
7. The 8 foot-square 1865 map and its two boxed sister-maps are resting on the upper step awaiting safe handling when the plans and resources allow. Unfortunately the full width and height of the 1865 map exceeds the clear wall space therefore some careful provision will be required for safe and accessible display of all of the maps.
8. I have installed the desk-top Windows 98 PC in the room. It is loaded with a searchable copy of the Index (Catalogue). The PC was donated two years ago by Mervyn Penny.
9. I have prepared a PowerPoint slide show of about 40 slides which can be used during the Village Fete to give visitors an idea of what we have, what we now need to do and why we need to do it. I am hoping that we can borrow a digital projector so that the PowerPoint presentation can be projected onto a wall.
10. The Heritage Centre will be open for visitors during the Fete but it is not yet ready for a formal Grand Opening. Nevertheless we expect some distinguished guests on Saturday.
11. For these purposes I have prepared badges for our key helpers to wear whilst they are in the room on Saturday. They include: Tony Belk, David Boobyer, Vivien Moss, Mervyn Penny, Tom Webb, Iain Winskill and myself. Anna Hanslip is unable to be present on the day. Other key helpers will be tied up on Fete stalls elsewhere on the day.
12. As regards the Accounts – I do not know the exact numbers but about half of the total funds have been spent so far. Tom Web needs to audit the accounts within the next few weeks therefore Anna and David Boobyer will need to collate the data and supporting documents for Tom.
13. During discussions with David Pratt and Elaine Ware we have expressed our desire that a meeting of an enlarged Committee be held at the earliest mutually convenient date. The obvious location will be the new Heritage Centre. I anticipate that the earliest date will be mid-October.
14. The immediate objective this week is to show our several benefactors and the other villagers what we have achieved so far and to impress them that the investments were justified and well managed. The Village Fete is an ideal opportunity at this interim stage.

Memo prepared by Tony Jones (01793-783277)

CIRCULATION: Reverend Richard Hancock, Tom Webb, Mervyn Penny, Rachel Daniels, Vivien Moss, Anna Hanslip, David Boobyer, Iain Winskill, Tony Belk, Yvonne Jones, Elaine & Andy Ware, David & Nan Pratt, Jenny Gurley, Sue Lovell, Roy Selwood,

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Shrivenham Heritage Centre
8:00 pm Monday 23 March 2009

Present: Tony Jones (Acting Chairman), Yvonne Jones, David Boobyer, Anna Hanslip, Vivien Moss, Mervyn Penny, Nan and David Pratt, Elaine Ware, Bjorn Watson, Tom Webb, ?Visitor from Village – name unknown

Apologies: Jenny Gourley, Andy Ware, Iain Winskill

PART ONE:

Opening Review of Progress to date:

Tony (as Co-Chairman) opened the meeting by thanking everyone for coming. He acknowledged that David Boobyer is technically still the Chairman but that pressure of work had eclipsed his valued contributions to the Heritage Centre. Tony thanked everyone present for their efforts over the last 12-18 months. Andy, Ian and Terry have done a tremendous amount of physical work and Elaine and David Pratt helped us to raise the funds. David Boobyer showed photos of what the room looked like when we first took it over. Initially it was dirty, but since then the floor has been levelled, electrics have been put in, a new wall has been built to make the room secure. Finally we put in shelves and bookcases. David stated that we have raised a lot of money; we have retrieved the archives, which had been temporarily stored at the College, and we are now in the process of being displaying them. David added that we hope our new Centre will attract other people to add items. He added: "The original archives are now home".

Elaine informed us that next Saturday Andy, Ian and Phil are going to measure the maps; David has found a company which could photograph and scan them. She also said that when we are ready a lady from the Sunday Advertiser wishes to write an article about the Heritage Centre. When we open the centre we could invite the Chairman of the Planning Committee of the Vale of WH District Council, plus Professor Richard Holmes is on standby, to come and look at our Centre when we are ready. He will make a special effort to come and see us. Andy and Iain will put up a wooden structure on the wall for the maps.

Tony said that the computer database and catalogue are central to the success of the Centre. A lot of the archives have been indexed, the system is up and running and we can do searches, but whereas we had earlier got through cataloguing 60% of the stock our percentage level of achievement is now much lower because we have received more stock from the Parish Council and from elsewhere. As an example: Mervyn Penny brought along and donated a cannon ball which had been found in the garden of Railway Cottages. (Weight 10 lb, 13" circumference). Everything now has to be updated since the move from the College. David Boobyer commented that we may get help on computers from Intel; they have a charity for supplying computers to worthy bodies. They need confirmation in writing that what we are hoping for 2 computers, possibly lap tops and joined up to a larger hard drive disk and desk tops. Nan asked if there a way of securing the computers? David suggested that office limpets attached could be fixed to the bases.

PART TWO: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

1. Minutes of the Inaugural General Meeting in 2007:

No matters arising

The minutes of 14th November 2007 were unanimously agreed and the minutes accepted. Proposed by Anna Hanslip and seconded by David Boobyer

2. Statement of the accounts

Anna Hanslip, as Hon Treasurer, tabled her Accounts for the year to 30th September 2008. Tom Webb audited the accounts as being in accordance with the books and vouchers presented to him. The accounts showed the Receipts from donors, transfers and Membership Fees of £2244. The Payments on the building and electrical works and on carpeting and fittings were only £588, due mainly to skilful resource management and voluntary labour. Consequently there was a net surplus of £1656 in September. She also handed round a supplementary report from Tom

Webb showing the accounts to 28th February 2009. This showed payments for bookcases and some removal costs. The statement from the bank shows a balance a £1382.

Tom's report states that he was unable to verify the existence of appropriate insurance of assets and activities. David Pratt confirmed that the Heritage Centre is covered within the overall policy for the Memorial Hall. Tom Webb stated that he had to satisfy himself, as Auditor, that there were no liabilities or risks from uninsured claims against the Heritage Centre but that he had seen no such evidence. His understanding was, however, that the building itself and the majority of contents are insured within the remit of the Barrington Trust. The Centre's own items are not specifically insured; any loss would be the information and the historical value. On that basis he signed off the September accounts without seeing anything but warned that he would not sign any more accounts without seeing the evidence of insurance against Third Party liabilities.

Proposed by Mervyn Penny, seconded by Vivien Moss. It was unanimously agreed to accept the accounts as presented and audited.

3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

There were two vacancies because David Boobyer stood down as Chairman and Anna Hanslip resigned as Treasurer. Tony gave formal thanks to them both for their significant contribution during the past year.

It was agreed unanimously that Bjorn Watson and Tony Jones be elected as **Co-joint Chairmen**. Bjorn said that he saw the position of Chairman as one of motivation but we had to bear in mind that he had not had much involvement up to now and it would therefore be good to have a joint role at the initial stages and to take benefit from Tony's knowledge and experience. He hoped to introduce new ideas and approaches to things.

Proposed by Elaine Ware and seconded by David Boobyer.

It was agreed that David Boobyer would take over from Anna as **Treasurer**.

Hence Designated Signatories forthwith: David Boobyer, Tony Jones and Bjorn Watson.
Any two of these three to sign for the Shrivenham Heritage Centre.

Secretary: Elaine suggested rotating Secretary - Everyone to take a turn to take the minutes.

Committee: Everyone present agreed to serve on committee except David Pratt who said there could be a conflict of interest with his role as Parish Clerk. Anna is not able to continue and resigned from the committee. Tom as auditor would not be able to serve on committee.

Auditor: Tom Webb agreed to continue as auditor and said he would train the Treasurer on how he wished the books to be kept. The treasurer would need to have responsibility for financial control. David Boobyer agreed. It was recorded that a fee would be agreed for the auditor.

Proposed by Tony Jones and seconded by Mervyn Penny

7. AOB

Annual Subscriptions

Elaine asked when the subs were due and how much? It had been agreed last year that a nominal £5 be set and it was agreed to continue with this amount. Anna said that 4 or 5 people had paid last year last year and 2 this year. It was felt that there were ongoing costs – and there should be a list of needs, e.g. more expenses, mount displays, plan chests, more shelving. David Pratt said there would be a cost for use of room £5 for council room, cost of photographing maps.

Bjorn wanted to generate sufficient interest to encourage and increase membership by putting on talks and lectures in order to stimulate interest and set up, outings, exhibitions. It was felt that we need to make sure that we do things to make it interesting to the Village.