

## Meetings and research (MH)

After the excitement and sense of achievement of the Parish Map, Charley Heritage Group continued its meetings to share the wealth of stories, history, skills and knowledge that had been revealed during the work on the project. We met in the dining room at St Joseph's and liquid refreshment continued to help the flow of conversation. It quickly provided a reason for residents of a small hamlet to socialise and have an entertaining evening out.



Founder Members; back row: Mike Froggatt; Alison Danvers; Joyce Burton; David Burton; John Havers

Front: Roger Cook; Sheila Bruce; Maureen Havers; Sandra Cook



At St. Joseph's: seated; Jill Burrows; Kim Fitchett; Joyce Burton; David Burton; Mike Froggatt

Standing: David Fitchett; John Havers

Getting together once a month we agreed a subscription of £5 per year and a meeting payment of £1 per head to meet incidental expenses but also in recognition that if the group were to pursue the

ideas they had, equipment would be needed and we had to show on any grant applications that we were raising funds ourselves. John, as Treasurer, always the quiet one at meetings, could be relied on to quell any noise or mirth with his rap on the table and request for 'your pounds please'. It has to be noted that the Accounts Book that John purchased for those first records is still in use today.

On occasion, speakers with a particular expertise were invited, especially after gems of information had been revealed by members of the group. Always of interest were the stories of calamities such as aircraft coming to grief in the Parish: Les Cook of Drybrook Farm had been recorded in the early days telling from first hand knowledge of the plane which crashed into the reservoir in the 1940s, its pilot killed, not by the impact but by drowning as he was caught in the weeds. An unexpected addition to this tale was an approach by Mr Tom Hopkins of Whitwick who had heard about group's work and wanted to recount his childhood memories. We listened to his horrific memories of an American plane coming to grief near High Sharpley during the second world war. Tom's talk was recorded for our oral histories and can be found later in this book.

While we were living at St Joseph's it was possible to accommodate the group's growing numbers and, if films were to be viewed, or to allow for a change of scenery, the Burton's Garden Room at Moul Hill was always available. In 2007, our family grown and (mainly) flown John and I reluctantly decided that it was time to downsize and we moved up the road, into the woods, into Hillside Bungalow but still with room to accommodate the numbers, albeit more tightly packed!

