**Stratford sub Castle Guild May 2022**

**Her Salisbury Story**

We were delighted to have Penny Joyce and Beatrice King to talk to us about the amazing project that the Soroptimists of Salisbury have undertaken over the last two years. It is called **Her Salisbury Story** and explores the lives of women of Salisbury both historical and contemporary who have contributed hugely to the life of the city both in the past and still today…. yet are very much ‘hidden’.

They gained a lottery grant for £10,000 to undertake the project but by the time they had trained 30 volunteers, set up a website and Facebook page, produced flyers and information cards to point people to the project, it was soon spent!  Salisbury City council funded the production of a Map which pinpoints the residences of many of the historical women that were researched.  They are available at the Tourist Information Centre priced £1.

Much research was undertaken by the Historical stream hampered it was said, by the Covid epidemic when archives and museums were closed, and the Contemporary stream had to use Zoom for interviews initially and then moved onto using hand held microphones lent to them by Salisbury Cathedral.

The website Her Salisbury www.hersalisburystory.com allows you to read about historical women which Beatrice told us about in a very clear and passionate way. Do read the stories of…Elizabeth Harris, Mary Turberville, Dora Robertson and Elihonour Sadler to name but a few.

Penny Joyce pointed us to the part of the site when you can actually hear the voices of the contemporary women interviewed. She suggested that we might listen to Tracy Daazkiewicz who led the Novichok recovery plans, Olivia Chappell whose son Horatio died in a dreadful accident which prompted her to create Horatio’s Garden at the spinal unit at Salisbury Hospital. Then people can hear how Fiona Ollerhead set up the Pantry Partnership combining her love of food and passion for community building, to feed so many in need in the Salisbury area.  Sen Peralta came over from Manila as a nurse and is still here 22 years later. Do go onto the site and listen to the story of these wonderful women.

The Her Salisbury Story project will have a tent at the Chalke Valley History Society week in June and would be happy to tell us more about the women they researched.

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 *Penny was kind enough to write this account but modesty has prevented her from emphasising the outstanding quality of this work. There is a very large amount of well researched local history on this website. It really stands as a valuable source book for historians of the future. All the authors are credited and comments are invited. It is so full of interesting detail that you could spend hours on it. I did.*

Our June meeting will be an evening of musical entertainment with Miranda Pender who will be regaling us with some of the more comic aspects of researching family history -stories and songs of love, loss, jealousy, betrayal, revenge…..often funny, sometimes poignant, occasionally shocking.  Do join us on Wednesday 8th June 7.15 for 7.30 in the Reading Room or via Zoom.  For information contact David Balston at dmbalston@gmail.com

 *Charles Villiers*