

**TWYFORD AND RUSCOMBE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY  
42nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
TO BE HELD AT THE PIGGOTT SCHOOL ON  
MONDAY MARCH 9<sup>th</sup> 2020**

**MINUTES**

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence have been received from Society Secretary Jean Poulter who is self-isolating after returning from holiday, in the Far East.

2. Minutes of AGM on March 12<sup>th</sup> 2019

The minutes of last year's AGM had been made available to members on the Society's website prior to this meeting. There were no questions about their accuracy and they were accepted nem con.

3. Matters arising

There were no Matters arising

4. Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that we had had a very enjoyable past year with interesting speakers and three successful trips to places of interest: Osterley Park, Hinton Ampner and Hampstead Norreys.

5. Honorary Treasurer Lesley presented the Financial Report and Statement of Accounts for 2019 highlighting some main features.

Donations included £1065 from the Polehampton Trust which was used to purchase the information board now located outside of the Old Polehampton Boys' School.

There was a small profit of £225.90 recorded against outings. The aim is to break-even so that the outings are attractive to members.

The Summer Lunch held at the Polehampton Close Day Centre made available free to members cost £267.

It was noted that there had been a steady income from the sale of books. Our subscription to the Berkshire Local History Society (BLHS) cost £20.

The charge against the archive store of £784 is for the cost of electricity needed to keep the room at a constant temperature. The cost of hall hire at The Piggott School for our monthly meetings is £421.20.

The cost of mugs that eliminate our past use of single-use plastic cups was £362.28.

It was noted that there is no significant bank interest on our savings account.

Overall, for the year, there was a slight deficit of £302.44.

Lesley's report was approved nem con after there were no questions asked from the floor.

#### 6. Appointment of Honorary Auditor

Neil Patchin was reappointed honorary auditor.

#### 7. Report by Honorary Secretary

Members have continued to support the society in another busy year, enjoying a wide range of speakers, making visits to Osterley Park, Hinton Ampner and Hampstead Norreys and also taking part in village functions by demonstrating the stripping of the osiers from our heritage osier site. The society has mounted a display in the library and researched another local history board at the old boys' school. The publication of the journals and the sale of *Twyford and Ruscombe Through the Ages* serve to keep the society in the public mind and hopefully will encourage new membership.

Speakers for the year were varied, some old favourites and some new to the society.

Tony King gave an illustrated, nostalgic talk about 'The Thirties', very familiar to some but nevertheless interesting to note the ensuing changes to daily life. Further back in our history we learned about Boudicca, warrior queen or rebel, probably the first-ever feminist. With the reopening of the Abbey ruins in Reading after 10 yrs we were able to take a guided photographic tour with Sue Milton and to discover how important a centre it had been. Also famous for photography Reading had housed the famous Fox Talbot establishment where the first way of making negatives and prints was developed.

Roger Stace reminded us of the history of Greenham Common and because of his work with BBONT he was able to show what a carefully managed nature reserve it has become today.

It was the season of Royal Weddings and Catherine Sampson had unearthed some interesting examples of monarchs and their spouses throughout the centuries.

We marked the 100 year anniversary of Nancy Astor taking her seat in Parliament with an interesting and topical talk about Cliveden by Jennifer Jones.

After the AGM Jenny Knight from MERL came to talk about the newly reorganised galleries. We are very fortunate to have such resources in Reading.

The usual Summer lunch was held at the Day Centre. It has proved to be a popular venue and was much enjoyed.

The Christmas party took the form of a Bring and Share supper and entertainment was supplied by a clarinet ensemble.

The website and the Archive store continue to be valuable assets, imparting information and keeping the society up to date.

It remains for me to thank the Chairman and all the members of the management and the editorial committees for the continued hard work which makes all these things possible.

I look forward, with their, help to another successful year in 2020.

Jean Poulter

## 8. Report of Editorial Committee

Our local history journals have been published almost continuously since the society's inception in 1977. Access to our journals is available at local libraries and provide a wealth of information for school children and adults alike of life in our villages over past centuries. We extend grateful thanks to Graham Starkie for updating the digital archive of past journals – an invaluable tool for researching past journals in minutes rather than hours.

Over the past year, the Editorial Committee has sadly bid farewell to Moyna Kitchin, wishing her well on her new life in Ireland, and with grateful thanks for her hard work in proofreading our journals for several past years. Her professional eagle eye on all aspects of proofreading -- grammar, punctuation, spelling et al – will be sorely missed.

Since Moyna's departure, we have welcomed a new member to the committee, Daphne Turner, who has kindly stepped up to the role of proofreading and advisor, and whose expertise is greatly appreciated. Our committee members are now Peter Burrows, Audrey Curtis, Graham Starkie, Daphne Turner and myself. If anyone has something of local historic interest – local family history and/or photographs – do contact one of the committee members. The committee enjoys meeting together to prepare the journals and new committee members are always welcome so, again, do contact us.

The Society's book, Twyford through the Ages, by Audrey Curtis, continues to sell well through Newberry's and village events such as the Donkey Derby and Twyford Fair. Our Journals and the Village Walks publications continue to be popular. We are indebted to Gerry Wise for overseeing these sales.

The committee is currently preparing our Summer Journal which we hope our members will find interesting and enjoyable.

Pauline Humphreys

## 9 Archive Report

The Archive Store has been kept in reasonable order through the hard work and stalwart efforts of members of the Management Committee. Especial mention must be made of our Secretary, Jean Poulter, who has put much time and effort into reorganising the contents. Over the past year, several books have been kindly donated to our archives.

The current lease of our Archive Store will expire in August 2021.

Currently, Wokingham Borough Council is negotiating with the Polehampton Charity over terms of a lease and have agreed in principle to provide archival space for the Local History Society in the Old Boys' School building.

Several successful exhibitions, held in the local library and organised by members of the Management Committee, have included a history of our local shops, with photographs from the archives, and the life of Lettice Curtis during WWII as a member of the Air Transport Auxiliary.

Members will no doubt have enjoyed the drawings by Ron Durant in past journals, many of which are stored in the archive store, and it is hoped to create an exhibition of Ron's drawings in the near future which will, again, be held in the local library.

Pauline Humphreys

10. i. Election of Chairman

James is willing to continue. nem con.

ii. Election of Vice Chairman

Peter is willing to continue. There were no volunteers so Peter was elected nem com.

11. Election of Management Committee

All present members had indicated they were willing to carry on if elected: Graham Starkie, Gerry Wise, June Tilyer, Pauline Humphreys and Audrey Curtis. There were no volunteers so the committee elected nem con

12. AOB

There was no other business

13. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 8th March 2021

The meeting closed after 22 minutes