

## **Twyford and Ruscombe Local History Society**

Minutes of the 45<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting. March 13<sup>th</sup> 2023

Drinks and nibbles were offered to members on arrival as they took their places.

The Chairman was pleased to welcome 43 members to the meeting.

There were no apologies.

Minutes of the 44<sup>th</sup> AGM were displayed on the screen and there were some paper copies.

There were no matters arising.

The Chairman's report outlined the society's activities post the pandemic.

The Secretary's report was on screen and had been on the website. There were no questions.

The Treasurer explained the finances. There was a small deficit last year of £244.00 but Gerry Wise pointed out that this was likely to escalate to £1000.00 in the coming year because of rising costs.

A recommended increase in subscriptions was suggested to the members for their approval

Pamela Graddon said that it was counter productive to maintain subscriptions at the same level for too long if the society was to thrive.

The following subscriptions were unanimously agreed.

Single £25.00    Double £35.00    Visitors £5.00

### **Election of officers**

Audrey Curtis was elected as President

The President was able to take the chair for the election of the Chairman. James Fort agreed to continue as chairman and this was unanimously approved.

Vice Chairman. Gerry Wise was elected.

The Management Committee was elected en bloc... Graham Starkie, Lesley Jarvis, June Tillyer, Jean Poulter.

The Chairman concluded the business meeting by thanking the committee for all their hard work during the year.

The next AGM meeting    11<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Mr. Brian Hunt of the Rotary Club gave a very well researched talk about two men from Sonning who were both awarded the Victoria Cross for gallantry and valour during the South African Boer wars. His interest in the subject had been aroused by coming across the two gravestones in St. Andrews churchyard in Sonning. He traced their family histories and professional military careers and was able to show, in spite of a great unevenness of numbers, how the battles in the Orange Free state were conducted. Many horse drawn wagons were employed and lost in moving supplies across water in a 5 hour battle at Sanna's point. Q Battery chose one officer E.J. Phipps for the Victoria Cross. Brigadier General Edmund John Phipps Thornby received many other medals during his career and these may be seen at the Woolich Museum. He died in 1947.

Similarly, Llewellyn Price Davies was awarded the Victoria Cross at the battle of Blood River Poort in 1901. He had been educated at Marlborough and Sandhurst. After retirement he was part of Her Majesty's Bodyguard. He died in 1965 and his medals may be seen in Winchester.

It was rewarding to learn that both men were involved in the community life of Sonning village after their service in the armed forces. Mention is made of them in Parish magazines, the Golf and Cricket clubs, the British Legion, the management of Pearson's Hall and the Home Guard.