

Minutes of the 29th Annual General Meeting of the Headley Society held on March 5th 2015

The Chairman Jo Smith opened the AGM, thanked everyone for coming and asked Betty White, the Headley Society President to say a few words.

President's remarks

Betty hoped all had enjoyed the past year's programme and summarised some of the key events. This included the Christmas Party at Curtis Farm Barn and she thanked Mr & Mrs Dumas for their longstanding support. She noted that the Society was now 30 years old and that this would be celebrated in during the year.

Betty thanked the Committee for their hard work and in particular Ann Viney, who would be leaving the committee, and her husband Philip, both of whom had served the Society well for many years. [Ann & Philip were presented with life-long membership of the Society.]

Betty looked forward to an interesting programme in the year ahead, but asked members to consider volunteering for the committee and demonstrate the Society's moto of 'Those with Headley at Heart'.

Apologies for Absence

No apologies were received.

AGM Minutes 2014

The minutes having been circulated in advance, were approved as a true account of the meeting.

Chairman's Report

Jo thanked Betty for her work in booking speakers and echoed her call for new committee members. He noted that due to her organisation the Society had been able to donate £500 to the Headley Down Community Association.

Jo continued by reminding members of the Society's constitution and objects:

The Society is established for the public benefit for the following purposes in the area comprising the civil Parish of Headley and the neighbourhood in the District of East Hampshire.

- i. To promote high standards of planning and architecture in or affecting the area*
- ii. To education the public in the geography, history, natural history and architecture of the area*
- iii. To secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features of historic or public interest in the area*

Jo asked members whether in future years they would be happy with the current format of a regular monthly speaker (excepting the July visit and December Christmas party). Members indicated that they would be.

He reported that a working party had been formed to consider what else the Society could do to ensure it met its constitutional objectives and in addition both attract more members and reach further into the community.

He confirmed that it was proposed:

- A regular 'Here's Headley' event – perhaps every 3-5 years, starting this year on Saturday 29 August 2015
- Increased opportunities to learn what others in the Parish were doing. These for instance could include the church, school, parish council, local voluntary organisations etc. A number of organisations had already been approached to 'Tell us in Ten' and Robin Hall would be updating the Society on 2 April re the local Speedwatch campaign
- In the spirit of past activity in documenting barns, gravestones and putting the Laverty papers on line and the ongoing WW1 research – to encourage wider input into up-dating the archives.

These proposals were welcomed.

Jo stressed that the Society were keen to hear from members about their interests and invited them to spread the word about 'Tell us in Ten'. He thanked committee members for their hard work in the last year.

Treasurer's Report

Mick Stenning confirmed that at year end 31st December 2014, total funds stood at £4,689.23 which included £400.77 representing the remainder of the Joyce Steven's Memorial Fund. The society had made a net loss of £83.77 over the year largely due to increased speaker fees and costs and a fall in subscriptions of £54 compared to the previous year. He noted there was no need for concern as the Society's finances were in a healthy state.

He thanked Ann Viney for collecting subscriptions and selling postcards throughout the year.

The Christmas party and raffle had made a combined profit of £123.30 and Mick thanked Joan Thorne, Caroline Lemka, the Committee and other members for making this both a financial and social success.

He noted a display stand had been purchased for £2.50 and thanked Betty White for this bargain acquisition!

Finally he thanked Caroline Lemka for her assistance in setting out the account and Bob Wilson for auditing them. The meeting accepted the Treasurer's report and unanimously agreed on the appointment of Bob as the accounts 'examiner' for the forthcoming year.

Programme for 2014/15

Betty White read out the programme for the coming year which was welcomed by members. In addition Jo Smith confirmed the following:

- On 10th April Jo would be giving the third 'History of Headley' talks – this would include a presentation by Caroline Lemka and Steve Priestley on the WW1 research and information about the Canadians in WW2.
- The July visit would celebrate the 30 Anniversary and would comprise a BBQ at the Village Hall on Thursday 23rd July – in addition it would provide an opportunity to explore and learn more about the archives.
- Here's Headley would take place on 29 August.
- This year the Christmas party would take the form of a Yuletide Feast on Friday December 11th – as guests of the Theatre club – who would provide entertainment.

Election of Officers and Committee members

The Chairman confirmed that he and all members would be willing to stand again. These were: Jo Smith – Chairman; Freda Line – Hon Secretary; Mick Stenning – Hon Treasurer; Caroline Lemka, Brian Nicholson; Steve Priestley and Joan Thorne.

The officers and committee members were appointed unanimously by block vote.

Any Other Business

Hester Whittle confirmed that the very welcome donation to the Headley Down Community Association had gone towards an iPad for use in Woodlands Hall including the pre-school, after-school and youth clubs.

Jim Gravatt noted that the original constitution had expected the Society to consider planning applications and other issues. Jo Smith confirmed that planning matters were covered at each committee meeting. Freda Line confirmed that the Parish Council had been made aware of the 'Tell us in Ten' slot.

Caroline Lemka confirmed that the Society would be looking to use email as a more regular communication tool. She reassured members that they would not be bombarded with unwanted information, but only 'gently reminded' of forthcoming events etc. This would provide an opportunity for members to share information about the Society with other local residents.

There being no further business, Jo Smith closed the meeting and hoped that all would stay on to enjoy the talk and book valuation from Paul Robinson.