

## **Burton Latimer Heritage Society**

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2019.**

**Held at the Burton Latimer Civic Centre**

### **Present:**

**Committee Members:** - John Meads (Secretary), Ian Watson (Treasurer), Janet Meads, John Peck, Ruth Groome (BLTC Representative), Trevor Cooper, Linda Gregory, Christopher Long, Godfrey Bigley (Minutes Secretary)

**Members:-** Glenys & Craig Ainge, Anne Archer, Sue Ashby, Celia Burdett, John Clipstone, John Cutmore, Tony Dacre, Helen Featherstone, Margaret Heels, Joan Holmes, Lesley & Johnnie Johnson, Carolyn & John Ramsbottom, Derrick Smith, Roy Stretton, Gary Tewart, Marion & Robert Turner, Chris Groom,

### **Item 1- Appointment of Chair for the meeting.**

In the absence of a Chair, Ian Watson opened the meeting and asked for proposals for a chair for the meeting, Godfrey Bigley proposed John Meads and this was seconded by Trevor Cooper.

### **John Meads in the chair.**

**Item 2 - Apologies:** - Ivan Cox, Mr & Mrs Blount, Mr & Mrs Hartley, Mr & Mrs Jones, Mr & Mrs N Smith, Mr & Mrs Twigg, Ian Hebden (Committee Member) Mr & Mrs J Cooper, Janet Peck, Stuart Welsh.

**Item 3 Minutes of Previous Annual General Meeting held 156<sup>th</sup> March 2018:** agreed without amendment and signed by the chair

**Item 4 -Maters arising:** none

### **Item 5 – Combined Chair and Secretary’s Report:-**

John Meads presented the following report:-

With a vacant chair until we elect a new one later on it is left to me to summarise the past year’s events and thank those people that have helped during the year.

Little did we know this time last year when Judy Clipstone tendered her resignation as Chair that she would pass away before we met here again She had been a tremendous asset to the Society - as has been her husband John- and we will very much miss her contribution. Anita Marks took on the position of Chair at last year’s meeting but unfortunately stepped down in November for personal reasons. Anita was another very hard worker for the Society whose efforts we shall miss.

That is the negative side of the year’s events and I am pleased to report that almost everything else about the past year has been very positive.

The “Collections” exhibition in the spring was popular and the summer exhibition “Burton Latimer’s Heroes” attracted a record number of visitors to the Heritage Museum and as a consequence our donations bottle in the museum was filled with over £300 in small change. It has to be said that a lot of this was in gratitude for Tony Dacre’s free advice to visitors about WW1 soldiers and their records. He helped dozens of visitors and was often able to tell them more about their families than they were aware of themselves. We were very grateful to Ken Moate of Kensigns who produced the

soldier's plaques that were displayed around the Millennium Garden (now in storage) and who has also provided us with a new museum window sign and coffee morning publicity board – all free of charge.

Here I must pause to thank the supervisors who looked after the museum visitors: Carol & John Bowers, Godfrey Bigley, Jenny & Bruce Blount, Trevor Cooper, Ruth Groome, Linda Gregory, Chris Long, Anita Marks, my wife Janet, Carol Morton, Eileen Murphy, Norman Panter, Janet & John Peck, Marion & Robert Turner and Mandi Twigg. I am sure you will agree that having these knowledgeable and helpful supervisors makes a visit to the museum a much more enjoyable and fruitful experience.

Linda Gregory's Events & Projects Group has breathed new life into the Society and has raised about £800 through Coffee Mornings, Tombolas, Town Walks, Talks, Family History and House History research sessions. In addition to this the sale of Linda's Town Quiz and Mandi Twigg's new place mats have raised further significant amounts. The Group comprises Linda, Jenny & Bruce Blount, Tony Dacre, Tony Granger, Johnnie Johnson, Margaret & Peter Jones, Chris Long, myself, Derrick Smith, Pam & Nick Smith, Mandi Twigg and Marion & Robert Turner. The Society is lucky to have their support and they deserve a huge thank-you from members for their work that also helps to promote the Society. Several new events are already planned for this year so please keep an eye open for details

I am sure that these events were a factor in membership of the Society being at its highest ever, which was 274 on December 31<sup>st</sup>. Linda's Facebook page "Burton Latimer Heritage" had 1062 members the last time I looked, which has been another factor in the boost to our membership. Facebook members have also supplied us with previously unknown photographs to add to our archive. Our website, recently described as "one of the best sites of its kind in the country" by a grateful researcher, is still being produced by Margaret Jones and myself using our old website design program but Ian Hebden is gradually getting to grips with the new program and we should be using it sometime this year.

Interesting and important additions to our museum archive during the year included a 1917 scrapbook, a tin, hidden in 1863 in a house on the High Causeway containing a note written by an 11-year-old girl; war medals, insignia and identity disc belonging to 2/Lt Ralph Buckby R.A.F., who died when he was shot down in 1918; a WW2 mother and child gas respirator and a large collection of assorted items saved from Denton's Farm. And much more too.

Thanks are due to Jeanette Hancock whose beautiful photographs were used for our 2019 calendar. We produced a hundred calendars – twenty more than last year – and we have just sold the last ones.

One cloud on the horizon is our Farmers Market stall. Anita Marks, with the help of her husband Terry, was always the force behind it and, with her departure, we are seriously having to consider whether we can carry on with it. The gazebo, table and merchandise have to be moved from the museum to the Millennium Garden for 9 o'clock, then erected and the table set out, and then supervised until about 12 o'clock. The merchandise put away, gazebo dismantled and everything taken back to the museum. At the moment we only have three regulars who will put up the gazebo and take it down and one stall supervisor. Holidays and family commitments can play havoc with these arrangements so we need regular help that we can count on otherwise we may stop attending.

It seems hard to believe but the next Society Newsletter will be the Diamond edition – the 75<sup>th</sup>. With the increase in postage costs, the help I get with its local delivery is now even more appreciated and I would like to thank the delivery team - Glenys & Craig Ainge, Jennifer & Bruce Blount, Celia Burdett,

John Clipstone, Tony Dacre, Helen Featherstone, Margaret Heels, Ian Hebden, Chris Long, Caroline & John Mitchell, Anita Marks and Nick Smith who have all helped over the last twelve months.

Godfrey Bigley has been attending the Northamptonshire Heritage Forum meetings in distant corners of the county on our behalf throughout the year. He is also our Minutes Secretary and handles newspaper publicity. He has recently agreed to be our first responder if the museum alarm goes off so he deserves our thanks for all of this.

I would like to thank Ian Watson, our Treasurer, for keeping a watchful eye on our finances – we shall be hearing from him next.

The new committee members appointed at the last AGM have more than pulled their weight and have brought new ideas with them. Three of the original committee members are nearer 90 years old than 80 so it is reassuring to know that there are willing helpers ready to take over when we can't carry on.

As you well know by now I am looking for someone to take over my job as secretary, but until that happens I am so grateful to my wife Janet who helps me in so many ways to continue doing this job which, although I enjoy, is rather a responsibility, but is made less so with her help.

John also paid tribute to John Clipstone attending the meeting.

#### **Item 5 - Treasurer's Report:**

A copy of the accounts is printed below this report.

Ian Watson gave the following report:-

I am pleased to present the I&E and Financial position of the Society for the year to 31.12.2018. You should have a copy of the accounts in front of you and I will expand on the figures where necessary.

Starting with the income side on the left in bold figures: -

- Subscriptions and Advance subs are up reflecting a welcome increase and retention of members over the year. Numbers stand at 276 as opposed to 240 at the end of last year. Around a third of subs are now paid by annual standing order which makes collection a lot easier.
- Sales of photos have remained almost the same whilst sales of DVD, House Histories & tea towels have seen a pleasing increase over 2017.
- Sold the same amount of China mugs but calendars have continued to be an excellent income for the Society.
- Donations show a small increase from last year.
- Events were held which showed a really splendid increase over the 2017 figure. This speaks volumes about the wonderful work done by the Events & Project Group. These monies were from events such as coffee morning, one-to-one Family history sessions, talks, heritage walks and tombolas
- The grant of £450 was from Kettering Old Grammar School Fund
- Sundry Income includes other items that are sold in the Heritage room and Farmers Market including bookmarks, coasters, notebooks and Christmas cards all of which showed a healthy increase.
- We received a whole 4.50 in bank interest!
- Our income this year was almost £4800

Now looking at the expenditure on the right-hand side: -

- The first 2 lines show that stationery costs increasing and postage costs falling respectively but are controlled well by the Secretary.
- Insurance showed a decrease as I reviewed our cover and found areas that were not now required.
- Rental for the Civic Centre is a major expense for us and showed an increase in line with our agreement with the Town Council to £1257.32.
- The Computer expense is much less than last year and mainly represents the annual fee we need to pay for our website.
- Sundry expenses include rates payable to KBC and essential repairs we had to make to the Heritage room cabinets and have increased over the previous year.
- We purchased stock of calendars, cards and mugs during the year at a cost of almost £660
- The next item is security costs as we are now obliged to invest in our own alarm system but have been contained during 2018.
- I have included a new line for items we have bought for the Society as the figure is quite substantial. This includes a WW1 Information box (purchased with the grant from Kettering Old Grammar School Fund) and medals and badges from a BL man killed in the First World War.
- Total expenses were just over £4000 so our income exceeded the expenses by £741.24. An encouraging year financially.
- To finish off with the Financial Position, we started the year with just over £2650 and finished with just over £3392. I know that we have seen some healthy income this year but no guarantee that that will be maintained. We have held our annual subs figure at the present level since 2011 but feel it prudent to increase them. I would like to propose that for the year 2020 they be increased from £8 to £10 per annum for joint membership and £5 to £7 per annum for individual membership.
- I have noted the stock of major items we held at the end of the year at cost.

I will be happy to answer any questions regarding the finances.

The accounts posted below were adopted by the meeting.

**Income and Expenditure Account**

**Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018**

<b><u>Income</u></b>	<b>31.12.2018</b>	<i>31.12.2017</i>	<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>	<b>31.12.2018</b>	<i>31.12.2017</i>
Subscriptions	<b>1080.00</b>	<i>846.00</i>	Stationery	<b>193.56</b>	<i>87.40</i>
Advance Subs.	<b>75.00</b>	<i>114.00</i>	Postage	<b>70.14</b>	<i>84.48</i>
Photo Sales	<b>15.50</b>	<i>15.80</i>	Insurance	<b>339.52</b>	<i>397.88</i>
DVD & House History Sales	<b>176.49</b>	<i>80.09</i>	Civic Centre Rent	<b>1257.32</b>	<i>1198.92</i>
Tea Towels Sales	<b>54.50</b>	<i>24.50</i>	Computer Expenses	<b>124.20</b>	<i>209.23</i>
China Mugs Sales	<b>37.00</b>	<i>37.00</i>	Sundries	<b>734.78</b>	<i>334.09</i>
Calendars sales	<b>572.00</b>	<i>338.40</i>	Cost of goods for sale	<b>660.56</b>	<i>373.96</i>
Donations	<b>503.37</b>	<i>493.50</i>	Security Costs	<b>105.00</b>	<i>144.34</i>
Profits from Events	<b>1330.58</b>	<i>236.79</i>	Museum Purchases	<b>572.50</b>	
Grant	<b>450.00</b>				
Sundry Income	<b>499.88</b>	<i>189.97</i>			
Interest	<b>4.50</b>	<i>0.30</i>			
Expenditure/Income		<i>453.95</i>	Income/Expenses	<b>741.24</b>	
	<b><u>4798.82</u></b>	<i><u>2830.30</u></i>		<b><u>4798.82</u></b>	<i><u>2830.30</u></i>

**Financial Position at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018**

<b>Balance at Commencement (01.01.2018):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current Account</li> <li>• Savings Account</li> </ul>	 <b>418.33</b> <b>2232.49</b>		
<b>Income/Expenses</b>	<b>741.24</b>	<b>Balance at End (31.12.2018):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current Account</li> <li>• Savings Account</li> </ul>	 <b>755.07</b> <b>2636.99</b>
	<b><u>3392.06</u></b>		<b><u>3392.06</u></b>

**Stock of Items Held (At cost)**

House Histories	<b>£719.72</b>
DVDs	<b>£871.14</b>
China Mugs/Beakers	<b>£75.66</b>
Tea Towels	<b>£95.00</b>

.....I.S.WATSON

**TREASURER**

**Dated: 1<sup>st</sup> March 2019**

**Item 6 - Merchandise: none**

**Item 7-Future Events and Project Group:**

### Item 8- Appointment of Honorary Officers

	<b>Nominated</b>	<b>Proposed</b>	<b>Seconded</b>
<b>Chair</b>	Christopher Long	John Meads	Linda Gregory
<b>Secretary</b>	John Meads	Godfrey Bigley	Trevor Cooper
<b>Treasurer</b>	Ian Watson	Ruth Groome	Trevor Cooper

All were carried unanimously

### Item 9- Appointment of Executive Committee

The remaining members of the present committee having agreed to stand for re-election, namely Godfrey Bigley, Trevor Cooper, Linda Gregory, Ian Hebden, Janet Meads, John Peck and Nick Smith were all elected unanimously as no one else came forward to stand for the commit.

*NB At the end of the meeting two people approached the Chair and offered their assistance. John Meads will speak to them about becoming co-opted members before the next committee meeting*

The Burton Latimer Town Council's two statutory representatives will be appointed at the Council's Annual Meeting in May (presently Cllrs. Ruth Groome and Mick Roche)

**Item 10– A.O.B:** none

**Item 12-Date of next meeting:** Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

**The Formal part of the Meeting closed at 2020.**

This was followed by a Raffle and Refreshments served by the Events and Project Group.

Tony Dacre then gave a talk on his research for the Burton's Heroes exhibition.

The new Chair thanked Tony for his talk and to the members who had attended.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_