



**Burton Latimer
Heritage Society**

Burton Latimer Heritage Society

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

17th March 2022

Museum Research Room Copy

Burton Latimer Heritage Society

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 17th March 2022

Held at the Burton Latimer Civic Centre

Present:

Committee Members: - Christopher Long (Chair), John Meads (Secretary), Ian Watson (Treasurer), John Peck, Tony Dacre, Godfrey Bigley (Minutes Secretary)

Members: - Sue Hartley, Joan Holmes, Margaret & Peter Jones, Penny Lucas, Derrick Smith, Derek, Turner, Marion & Robert Turner, Paul Cooper (Speaker)

Item 1 - Apologies: - Janet Meads, Janet Peck, Linda Gregory (committee Member), Ruth Groome (BLTC Representative) P. Hartley, S Welch, Margret Heels, Helen Featherstone,

Item 2 Minutes of Previous Annual General Meeting held on 22nd March 2019: agreed without amendment and signed by the chair

Item 3 - Matters arising: none

Item 4 – Chair’s Report: -

Chris Long presented the following report:-

Good evening, everyone and welcome to the Burton Latimer Heritage Society annual general meeting. It is pleasing to see you here after the unpleasant experiences of the past two years. Let us hope all that is now behind us.

Welcome also to those of you who are not members and I hope that if you like what you hear and see tonight you may wish to join the Society. Membership forms will be available after the meeting.

Burton Latimer is a very friendly and interesting town, with many buildings of interest and I think a society such as ours is very important in keeping that heritage alive.

I would like to thank all the committee members, members of the events and projects group, museum supervisors, magazine deliverers and all those others who have helped in the running of the society, including those invisible helpers, the wives, partners and families who help them with their duties. I would like to extend thanks to Janet Meads who, with her husband John, was a founder member of the society, Janet, who cannot be here tonight will not now be standing as a member of the committee. I am sure that all who know her recognise that her input over the past 22 years has been invaluable to the Society. As a small token of their appreciation the committee have sent her a bouquet of flowers.

Thanks are also due to Tony Dacre who has attended the museum on most Thursdays when the museum was open and has given much assistance to visitors with their family history research.

On a sad note I must express my condolences to the families and relatives of those members we have lost since the last annual general meeting: Ivan Cox who was a founder member of the committee and who put in a tremendous amount of work over the years, even after he had ceased to be a committee member; Trevor Cooper, also a founder member whose knowledge of the town was invaluable and whose sense of humour will be greatly missed, and Mike Roche who was the Town Councils representative .

In 2019 the Society held two successful exhibitions, “Ordinary Women, Extraordinary Lives” and “Burton in the 1930, End of an Era”. The exhibition in 2020, “Our Sporting Town Then and Now” had only just opened when it was forced to close due to lockdown restrictions, but the exhibits remained in situ and the exhibition was held later. The current exhibition opened last Saturday. Now we are up and running again the Projects Group run by Linda Gregory has been responsible for arranging several heritage walks and coffee mornings which raised money for the Society. In addition, Linda has been giving Family History lessons the fees for which she has kindly donated to the society. She has also been responsible for running the Society’s Facebook group which has helped to increase the membership.

That is all I have to say for the moment, but I hope that you will all remain after meeting to partake in the refreshments and hear Paul Cooper’s talk.

Item 5 –Secretary’s Report: -

John Meads presented the following report: -

When preparing for an AGM it’s not usually too difficult to draw up a list of who and what, as secretary, I should be drawing attention to during the past year. Tonight, having missed both the 2020 and 2021 AGMs, I’ve had to go back to April 2019 to pick out what to comment on. We had just opened the "Ordinary Lives, Ordinary Women" exhibition when the last AGM was held, and a very successful exhibition it was. This was followed by the “Burton Latimer in the 1930s” exhibition. Over 1100 visitors came to these exhibitions. The first exhibition of 2020 was “Burton Latimer – Our Sporting Town” which attracted 73 visitors on the first day. Little did we know that it would be open for only two more days before Covid-19 struck. We then closed the exhibition until a special opening at the end of November 2021 when the Town Council planted a tree outside the Civic Centre to commemorate the townspeople who had lost their lives during the pandemic. This opening was successful, so it was decided to re-open the museum for the Christmas Lights switch-on and the day of a Coffee Morning in early December, both of which attracted lots of visitors. The current exhibition “We had one of those too!” is proving to be popular – even though it makes some of us feel quite old! Here I must thank Linda Gregory, Tony Dacre and Penny Lucas for setting it up. For twenty years my wife Janet and I have been setting up exhibitions almost by ourselves so it’s such a relief to know we have three people who can do the job that we are not physically able to do anymore. Thanks, are also due to the supervisors, one or two of them are new, and once again, it’s good to see others gradually taking over these duties.

The Society took the opportunity during lockdown to make improvements in the museum, a new bookshelf, a new cabinet, a new display board and alterations to an office cupboard. These were done professionally, but in addition to that, Godfrey Bigley has also been a great help by carrying out

electrical and other essential jobs that will make life safer and more convenient for museum supervisors and visitors. Linda and Tony had a great tidy-up and disposed of a lot of obsolete equipment and general rubbish. The Society has bought new acid-free artefact packaging and storage boxes for our collections and Janet, and I have re-packed them and put them on a database and photographed a lot of them.

We have added newly designed mugs, tea towels and shopping bags to the range of Burton Latimer themed items for sale in the museum – all at reasonable prices. The Town Trail leaflets have been printed professionally together with a new brochure for distribution around other museums and to give to our own museum visitors. At the beginning of the pandemic, I increased the size of the newsletter from eight pages to twelve. The thinking behind this was that not being able to visit the museum or attend other events, members weren't getting their money's worth, so it would help compensate. Obviously, it is costing more to print, but members seem to appreciate it and it gives the opportunity to include longer articles so this will probably continue. Postage continues to rise affecting the cost of sending it to over forty of our members who live away from this area, but this makes the value of the contribution by our local distributors even more important, so I would like to thank Glenis and Craig Ainge, Godfrey Bigley, Celia Burdett, Tony Dacre, Helen Featherstone, Gwyneth Mellors, Ian Hebden, Chris Long, Linda Gregory and Gary Tewart for their help.

As our chairman has already said, Tony Dacre has been busy with his research on the names on Burton Latimer war memorial and has been fielding enquiries from visitors in the Research Room. Linda Gregory has also helped many people with their family history which has resulted in several donations to the Society. There have been other significant cash donations by members to the Society, for which we are deeply grateful.

Chris has already mentioned the success of our Facebook pages. It has proved to be a great asset in getting people re-connected with their place of birth or where they grew up resulting in family relationships being discovered or renewed. Already this year we have been pleased to open the museum to two family groups who wanted to visit out of normal opening hours to research their Burton Latimer roots. Although the website working party did not meet during the pandemic and hasn't yet resumed its weekly sessions, the website itself has had a large increase in visitors especially last summer when in one month alone, July, there were 39,600 individual visitors to the site who looked at 55,700 pages - a rise of 20% and 40% on the previous year. I might add that one of the working party members, Ian Hebden, is currently scanning hundreds of photographs from albums we have been given that contained photos from carnivals, parades, fun days and Christmas Lights switch-ons. We are currently working out how to identify the years and names because very few were dated – we will possibly have another "Afternoon to Remember" with coffee and cakes to give folks a chance to see them and perhaps identify them. And here I must thank the helpers and cake-bakers at the December and March Coffee Mornings. The Turners – Marion, Robert & Diane, Margaret & Peter Jones, Lesley & Johnnie Johnson, Mandi Twigg, Godfrey Bigley, Penny Lucas and last but not least Linda Gregory and Gary. They make a great team that contribute to very successful events. The Heritage Walks, conducted by Robert Turner have been very successful again and the same helpers are to be thanked for their contribution here too. Further walks are planned for April and May this year.

Some of you may have noticed that my wife Janet isn't here tonight. It's the first AGM she's missed in 22 years, and she sends her apologies. She is retiring from the committee this year but, thankfully, she is still well enough to remind me what I should be doing, when to do it – and sometimes how to do it! For which I am very grateful. She hasn't been well, and I would like to thank the committee on her behalf for the lovely flowers that she received this morning. They are much appreciated.

I'm still waiting for someone to volunteer to take over my duties as secretary or take over some aspects of it. Please think about it.

Item 6 –Treasurer’s Report: -

Ian Watson presented the following report: -

I am pleased to present the I&E and Financial position of the Society for the year to 31.12.2020 & 2021. You should have a copy of the accounts in front of you and I will expand on the figures where necessary. As we didn’t have an AGM last year, I am presenting both years accounts.

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

Subscriptions and Advance subs are fairly static and reflect that we have an average of 250 members.

The next few items are sales of photos, DVDs, House Histories, tea towels and mugs which have been sold from the museum.

Calendars have continued to be an excellent income for the Society.

Donations are mainly from the collection bottle, but specific donations have been received following family history research undertaken by Linda and Tony.

Events were held which resulted in some good profits.

Covid grants were successfully applied for, and we have received over £28K over the last 2 years.

Sundry Income includes other items that are sold in the Heritage room.

Our income for the 2 years was over £34K.

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

- The first 2 lines show that stationery costs increasing as where postage costs as newsletters have been sent out by post.
- Insurance is necessary!
- Rental for the Civic Centre is a major expense for us and showed an increase in line with our agreement with the Town Council.
- The computer expense reflects the need for maintaining our PCs.
- Sundry expenses include the cost of 2 laptop computers purchased and given to the 2 local schools.
- We purchased stock of calendars, cards and mugs during the 2 years.
- The next item is security costs mainly covering our alarm system.
- The Society made some small purchases of items for display in the museum.
- We used the lockdown period to carry out some essential repairs costing just over £1700 on 2021.
- Expenses were just over £10K for the 2 years so our income exceeded the expenses by more than £24K.
- To finish off with the Financial Position, we started the year 2021with just over £15K and finished with just over £28K. There will be no increase in membership subs.

From the floor Peter Jones asked if the Charity Commission would query if we were holding too much money,

Ian assured the meeting that this would not be a problem.

Ian also assured the meeting that we do not need to increase the subscriptions this year.

John Meads also commented that we will need to replace the security grills during the coming financial year as they are now difficult to open and close due to their age but are a requirement of our insurer's.

Item 7 –Adoption of Accounts.

The accounts attached at Appendix A were adopted by the meeting,
Having been proposed by the chairman and seconded by the secretary

Item 8 – Appointment of Honorary Officers

Position	Name	Proposer	Secunder
Chair	Christopher Long	John Meads	Godfrey Bigley
Secretary	John Meads	Godfrey Bigley	Ian Watson
Treasurer	Ian Watson	Tony Dacre	John Meads

All were elected unanimously

NB the committee urgently needs a volunteer to gradually take over the general secretarial duties

Item 9 – Appointment of the remaining seven members of the Executive Committee.

It was proposed by Marion Turner, seconded by Margret Jones and agreed unanimously by the meeting that having previously stated their willingness to remain on the committee that the following be reappointed: - Godfrey Bigley, Tony Dacre, Linda Gregory, Ian Hebden, John Peck

Linda Gregory in her absence had nominated Penny Lucas which was seconded by Tony Dacre that Penny Lucas be appointed to the committee. This was and agreed unanimously by the meeting.

This leaves one vacancy on the committee, Godfrey Bigley said, and John Meads agreed that if a willing member comes forward the committee has the power to co-opt them onto the committee.

The Town Council representatives (currently Ruth Groome and Jenny Davis, both also members of the Society) will be appointed at the April Council Meeting.

Item 10 -Any Other Business -none

Item 11 – Date of next AGM - Thursday 16th March 2023,

Date of next committee meeting Thursday 21st April

Meeting closed at 20.10

Signed _____ Dated _____

After the meeting refreshments were served by Robert and Marion Turner and then the guest speaker, Paul Cooper, gave a talk “My Life as a Grenadier Guardsman”

Income and Expenditure Account

Year ending 31st December 2021

<u>Income</u>	31.12.2021	<i>31.12.2020</i>	<u>Expenditure</u>	31.12.2021	<i>31.12.2020</i>
Subscriptions	1383.00	<i>1456.00</i>	Stationery	472.16	<i>95.08</i>
Advance Subs.	167.00	<i>208.00</i>	Postage	371.50	<i>185.28</i>
Photo Sales	6.10	<i>00</i>	Insurance	300.29	<i>283.46</i>
DVD & House History Sales	63.99	<i>10.00</i>	Civic Centre Rent	1311.36	<i>1311.36</i>
Tea Towels Sales	23.00	<i>13.50</i>	Computer Expenses	662.99	<i>326.37</i>
China Mugs Sales	17.50	<i>00</i>	Sundries including school computers	1550.24	<i>416.66</i>
Calendars sales	255.00	<i>160.50</i>	Cost of goods for sale	734.40	<i>00</i>
Donations	312.99	<i>946.65</i>	Security Costs	99.88	<i>232.91</i>
Profits from Events	307.20	<i>352.95</i>	Museum Purchases	70.00	<i>00</i>
Grant (Covid)	17269.21	<i>11334.00</i>	Museum Maintenance	1709.68	<i>00</i>
Sundry Income	175.20	<i>56.20</i>			
Interest	2.47	<i>3.56</i>			
Total income	19982-.66	<i>14541.36</i>	Total Expenditure	7282.50	<i>2851.12</i>
Excess of Expenditure over income	00	<i>00</i>	Excess of Income over expenditure	12700.16	<i>11690.24</i>
	19982.66	<i>14541.36</i>		19982.66	<i>14541.36</i>

Financial Position at 31st December 2021

Balance at Commencement 01.01.21			
Current Account	1944.89		
Savings Account	13447.15		
Excess of income over expenditure	12700.16	Balance at End (31.12.2021): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current Account • Savings Account 	1142.58 26949.62
	<u>28092.20</u>		<u>28092.20</u>

..... I. S. WATSON

TREASURER

Dated: 1st February 2022