

# **Burton Latimer Heritage Society**

## **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

### **Held at the Burton Latimer Civic Centre**

#### **Present:**

**Committee Members:** - John Meads (Secretary), Ian Hebden, John Peck, Jennie Davies (Town Council Representative), Linda Gregory (Events and Project Group), Penny Lucas, Gwyneth Mellors, Godfrey Bigley (Minutes Secretary)

**Members:** -Mrs. A.J.D. Peck , Penny Lucas, Derrick Smith, Derek Turner, Roy Stretton, Marion & Robert Turner, Lesley & Johnnie Johnson, Gary Tewart,

In the absence of the Chair, it was proposed and Seconded that John Meads should Chair the meeting.

**Item 1 - Apologies:** - Chris Long (Chair), Ian Watson (Treasurer), Tony Dacre (Committee Member), Julia & Stuart Welch, Reg & Allen Carvell Pete Middleton, John & Val Elderkin.

#### **Item 2 Minutes of Previous Annual General Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2022:**

Agreed without amendment and signed by the Chair.

**Item 3 -Matters arising:** none.

#### **Items 4 & 5 –Chair’s & Secretary’s Report: -**

In the absence of the Chair the Secretary presented the following joint report:-

In the absence of Chairman Chris Long, who cannot be here due to family problems, it falls to me to present his report which I shall combine with my own Secretary’s Report. It is quite short because my involvement in the running of the Society was much reduced this year due to my wife Janet’s illness – and I must thank the committee and members most sincerely for their great kindness during that time.

I can’t say how grateful I am to the other members of the Society who have taken over most of the tasks that Janet and I used to do, especially Linda Gregory, Penny Lucas and Tony Dacre who have set up the recent exhibitions and I must say that the results have been far more professional-looking than ours were.

Whereas the chore of opening and closing the museum used to be left to me, the job is now shared between the previously mentioned key-holders but also include Chris Long and Godfrey Bigley. Godfrey has again made my job much easier with his very efficient minute taking at the monthly committee meetings and has done no end of small but essential jobs around the museum.

I’m also grateful to the dedicated band of newsletter deliverers who save the society hundreds of pounds in postage: Craig and Glenys Ainge, Celia Burdett, Penny Lucas – who,

incidentally, has now taken over from Helen Freestone who had delivered for several years, Godfrey Bigley, Tony Dacre, Ian Hebden, Gwyneth Mellors, Linda Gregory and Gary Tewart, Chris Long, Caroline and John Mitchell. And of course, thanks to Sue Hartley who prints the newsletters at St. Mary's Church.

Before handing over to Linda Gregory to complete this report I must thank her, on behalf of the chairman, myself and members of Burton Latimer Heritage Society for all the work she is doing to further the aims of the Society. There were times, as the original active members got older, when I worried about the future of the Society, but now Linda and her band of willing helpers have breathed new life into it, and I am confident our future is assured.

I shall leave it to her to complete this report.

**Linda Gregory continued by presenting the following report:-**

Our programme of events over the last year was very successful, helping to boost funds and raise the profile of the Heritage Society. We have raised approximately £1600 through our range of events, which have also served to boost sales of merchandise.

Our Heritage walks generally sell out, with some people coming on the same walk multiple times. Thanks to Robert Turner for planning and leading them as a lot of work goes into the research. Thanks also to Phil Harpur for guiding us around the grounds of Burton Latimer Hall and part of the house and to the Cricket Club for the use of their facilities. The annual August evening walk with refreshments at Osborne House is very popular and people are eager to see inside what will always be "Dr Kingsley's House"!

We hosted two talks at John Yeomans Hall:

In April John Meads gave his bi-annual talk about Old Burton to a packed house. (The video of the talk is on our YouTube channel). As usual it was very engaging and informative, of interest to "old Burtonians" and incomers alike. John's knowledge of Burton Latimer is second to none and his descriptions of the photographs he used brought the talk to life. A highlight of our Autumn events was the talk given by Stuart and Julia Welch to celebrate the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Jacobean House, constructed in 1622. This well attended talk had the audience enthralled. Stuart and Julia have presented the Museum with a photobook summarising their talk, which is on display in the Research Room.

In October, for the first time in several years, we held an "Afternoon to Remember": an opportunity to browse through our folders of old photographs whilst having a cup of tea and a chat. The event was well attended, with a lovely atmosphere as people reminisced. We have another one planned for May.

The Autumn Exhibition "100 Years of War and Peace" was well attended, with nearly 600 visitors in total, although visitor numbers are not quite back to pre-Covid levels. We also hosted school visits for the first time since 2018. 90 pupils from years 5 and 6 at St Mary's School came with their teachers. It was a pleasure to see their responses to our exhibits. They were particularly touched by some of the letters that we had on display, as letter writing is something they rarely do. Some of the children returned with their families.

We have several regular visitors who come for assistance with their family history research. Tony Dacre specialises in military research, and I am happy to take on any assignment. Trees

researched over the last year or so span the globe, including South Africa, Australia, Jamaica and Fiji, but there are also fascinating stories to be discovered on our own doorstep. Almost every tree contains its own “scandals” and intrigue! This research is free of charge, but we have received a number of cash donations for the work, which are much appreciated.

Our new book “We Will Remember Them” by Tony Dacre was published in early December and sales have been brisk. The culmination of over five years of dedicated research by Tony, this book contains detailed biographies and moving accounts of the 128 who died in WW1 and WW2 and are named on our War Memorial. We are now working on a completely revised version of “Burton Latimer Portrait of a Certain Place”. Tony (in his capacity as a Commonwealth War Graves volunteer) also led two fascinating War Graves Walks in Burton Latimer Cemetery in November.

We now have our own YouTube channel “Burton Latimer Heritage”. It is in its early stages, but we will be adding lots more to it. It will feature slideshows of exhibitions and taster videos of some of our walks. Please subscribe (it is free to do so) to get alerts when we upload new content. Thanks to Pete Middleton for setting it up and producing video clips and slideshows. Our Facebook group continues to grow, with 2083 members and over 10,000 views per month. One of our new contributors, Kev Bird, is producing interesting aerial images using his drone, which are recording the pace of change in our town.

Our Spring Exhibition is “Burton Latimer 100 Years of Progress From Village to Town 1923-2023”, We have produced a timeline to provide a framework for it and this is in a folder in the Research Room. It has been interesting to approach it in this way, highlighting the many changes that have occurred as Burton Latimer has grown. We have a feature on Joan Holmes, born in 1923 – our oldest Heritage Society member, and oldest Burton Latimer resident.

Over the last year we have conducted a rationalisation and reorganisation of the office in the Museum. We now have a new storeroom elsewhere in the Civic Centre, so the office is now a room that can be used by our volunteers for administration and research. We have upgraded the IT facilities in the Research Room which also has new picture roller blinds, making it a very pleasant place in which to conduct research or just to sit and browse our folders of photographs. Thanks to Ian Hebden and Gary Tewart for their IT expertise.

“Thank You”:

Firstly, a big thank you to Marion Turner for co-ordinating the catering at all of our events.

The coffee mornings have become increasingly popular. Many thanks to the volunteers who have made this possible by baking or helping: Marion and Robert Turner (their daughter Diane and grandchildren Will and Hattie), Lesley and Johnnie Johnson, Pat Smith, Margaret and Peter Jones, Pete Middleton, Penny Lucas, Godfrey Bigley, Tony Dacre and Gary Tewart.

Our Museum could not open without our volunteer supervisors and we are grateful to them for giving up their time: Godfrey Bigley, Tony Dacre, John and Val Elderkin, Linda Gregory, Chris Long, Penny Lucas, Gwyneth Mellors, Pete Middleton, Keith Mitchell, Eileen Murphy, Norman Panter, Marion and Robert Turner and Annette Yates. We have just recruited some more volunteers but can never have too many!

Thanks to Godfrey Bigley for all his work in the ongoing maintenance of the Museum, particularly his skill with electrics, and to John Elderkin for his restoration of the Town Crier and producing customised stands.

Heartfelt thanks go to Ken Moate and Kensigns (particularly Hannah Reading), for ongoing help with signage, noticeboards, and display. Recently, Ken has produced additional external signs for our windows which make the Museum stand out from the outside. Kensigns have made all the posters of those who died in the World Wars which Ken and the British Legion put up again last year in Millennium Gardens. Ken generously provides all labour free of charge and only charges us for items that he orders in.

And finally. To John Meads. Although events of the last year have meant that he has had to step back a little, we still rely on his knowledge and wisdom. He works tirelessly in the background, and we would struggle to produce the exhibitions without him.

#### **Item 6 –Treasurer’s Report: -**

In the absence of the Treasurer the Secretary presented the following report:-

I am sorry that I cannot attend this year’s AGM as I am away on holiday. You should have a copy of the Income and Expenses Account and Financial Position for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 and I will expand on the figures where necessary.

2022 was a year when the Society used some of its funds to repair and upgrade the facilities at the museum and purchase new fittings. The figures in the accounts reflect that expenditure has exceeded income during 2022.

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

- Subscription and Advance subs show a small decrease from the previous year as our membership numbers are slightly down. Be assured that every effort is made to remind members to pay their subscriptions.
- I have had to amalgamate our sales figures for our various items as more sales are being made using our card machine. If someone buys a number of different items then it has become very difficult to itemise the purchases. It is pleasing to note, however, that overall sales have increased over the previous year.
- Donations have increased due to 2 bequests received following 2 members who passed away in 2022.
- Profits from events showed a healthy simply because we had more events than in 2021.
- No grants were received in 2022.
- Bank interest has increased due to increased rates and higher bank balances.
- Expenses exceeded in come by £7279.78.

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

- Stationery costs have reduced as clearly our secretary has been using his stock of paperclips!!
- Postage costs have reduced as Newsletters have been hand delivered rather than posted as we did in 2021.
- Insurance has shown an increase despite our best efforts to negotiate.
- Rental for the Civic Centre is a major expense for us but has remained the same over the last 2 years. There is, however, an increase in 2023.
- The computer expenses reflect the purchase of a new laptop and 2 hard drives.
- Sundry expenses have decreased as we spent more than £800 on 2 Chromebooks in the previous year for the 2 local schools.
- The Cost of Items for Sale figure show that we purchased 100 copies of the “ We Will Remember Them” books costing over £900 as well as the normal stock of tea towels, calendars, cards, etc.
- Security figure remains the same and we made no specific purchases for display at the museum during the year.
- The Museum Maintenance figures reflects the improvements we have made in the museum and new storeroom. They include new security shutters, blinds, signage and display boards. We also purchased racking for our new store room.
- Total expenses were £12144.22.
- To finish off with the Financial Position, we started the year with just over £28000 and finished with bank balance of just over £20812.. As we are still in a fairly strong financial position, you will be pleased that subs will be held for this year.

I will be happy to answer any questions regarding the finances on my return from holiday.

**Item 7 –Adoption of Accounts.**

The accounts attached at Appendix A were adopted by the meeting,  
Having been proposed by Derrick Smith and seconded by Penny Lucas.

**Item 8 – Appointment of Honorary Officers**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Proposer</b>	<b>Secunder</b>
Chair	Tony Dacre	John Meads	Robert Turner
Secretary	John Meads	Linda Gregory	Penny Lucas
Treasurer	Ian Watson	Godfrey Bigley	Ian Hebden

All were elected unanimously.

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

It was proposed by Robert Turner, seconded by Jennie Davies 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 and Gwyneth Mellors

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 21st March 2024,

Date of next committee meeting Thursday 20th April 2023

Meeting closed @ 0757

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Dated \_\_\_\_\_

After the meeting refreshments were served by Robert and Marion Turner, John Meads gave a talk “What the Papers Say”.

(1 Of 2 pages)

**The Burton Latimer Heritage Society**

Registered Charity No. 1090009

**Income and Expenditure Account**

**Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022**

<b><u>Income</u></b>	<b>31.12.2022</b>	<b><i>31.12.2021</i></b>	<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>	<b>31.12.2022</b>	<b><i>31.12.2021</i></b>
Subscriptions	1343.00	1383.00	Stationery	116.62	472.16
Advance Subs.	130.00	167.00	Postage	150.12	371.50
Sundry Income & Sales (2022)	955.72	175.20	Insurance	350.17	300.29
DVD & House History Sales	-	63.99	Civic Centre Rent	1311.36	1311.36
Tea Towels Sales	-	23.00	Computer Expenses	948.51	662.99
China Mugs Sales	-	17.50	Sundries	500.37	1550.24
Calendars sales	-	255.00	Cost of goods for sale	1820.46	734.40
Donations	794.76	312.99	Security Costs	99.88	99.88
Profits from Events	1619.54	307.20	Museum Purchases		70.00
Grant	-	17269.21	Museum Maintenance	6846.73	1709.68
Interest	21.42	2.47			
Expenses/Income	7279.78				12700.16
	<b><u>12144.22</u></b>	<b><i>19982.66</i></b>		<b><u>12144.22</u></b>	<b><i>19982.66</i></b>

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**Financial Position at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022**

<b>Balance at Commencement (01.01.2022):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Current Account</li><li>• Savings Account</li></ul>	<b>1142.58</b> <b>26949.62</b>	<b>Expenses/Income</b>	<b>7279.78</b>
		<b>Balance at End (31.12.2022):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Current Account</li><li>• Savings Account</li></ul>	<b>1746.92</b> <b>19065.50</b>
	<b><u>28092.20</u></b>		<b><u>28092.20</u></b>

.....I.S.WATSON

**TREASURER**

Dated: 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023