

DEREHAM ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY
Charity No. 293648

63rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 10th March 2016
At Trinity Methodist Church Hall, Dereham.

Jonathan Boston opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Sue Walker White welcomed Anthea Briggs, a new member, and Megan Dennis our Museum Mentor.

1. Apologies

Bob and Margaret Davies; Joan Cole; Anne Betts; Sheila Jones; Galina Russell

2. Minutes of previous AGM

The minutes were circulated and accepted.

3. Matters Arising

None

4. Chairwoman's Report

Sue reported that the activities associated with the Zeppelin raid and the Museum Open Day had been the highlights of the year. At the talk about the Zeppelin raid, given by Neil Storey in the church, candles had been lit for those who had lost their lives. This had been a well-attended event.

Talks and outings had taken place, and thanks are owed to Peter Bradbury, and Tony and Sheila Jones for these events.

Sue thanked the volunteers who had helped run the museum, some of whom had worked with the Society for many years. Thanks were also given to Phillip Duigan our Town Council representative, and to Megan Dennis. Sue also thanked Judy Rogers and Janet Mallon, the past secretary and treasurer.

2015 had been a difficult year as the committee was very small, and members had suffered from health problems. Alison and Alan Phillips had moved away. There were too few people to manage all the usual jobs and eventually an emergency meeting was called seeking help from previous committee members to try to redeem the situation.

The website has had 3,500 'visitors' and there are over 800 Facebook followers.

The Museum will open on 7th May 2016 at 1.30, with a free day. Volunteers are needed to man the Museum throughout the summer.

Steffi gave thanks to Sue for battling on throughout the last year.

5. Museum Report

There were more visitors this last year, producing more income. The Open Day in May was successful. Help had been given for the Zeppelin exhibits from Neil Storey and Steven Smith, for which the Society was grateful. There had been an exhibit about Edith Cavell and the World War 2 massacre at La Paradis, which had involved local people.

The Facebook following has helped with the identification of people and places in photographs.

The negotiations with the Town Council to lease the room in the Assembly Rooms as the archive are ongoing, but it is anticipated the archive will be moved this year. Help will be needed with this undertaking.

Accreditation is due for renewal in the autumn.

For 2016 an exhibition has been prepared about William Hythe Woollaston who was born in the old rectory, and rose to be an eminent scientist. Phillip Duigan has assisted with this. There will also be exhibitions of 'Two Photographers', one being Herbert Cave and present photographer, Jim Mottram.

Sue thanked Rosemary for her help with managing the volunteers.

It was suggested Gordon Olley may wish to add exhibits to the photographic display.

5. Accounts

Many thanks were given to Pat Skittrall who picked up the Accounts from the previous Treasurer who resigned mid-year. Pat prepared the Accounts for audit, as presented to the meeting.

The acceptance of the Accounts was proposed by Pat Boatwright and seconded by Julian Walker, and carried. Jim Stebbings has indicated he was willing to audit the accounts next year, this proposed by Steffi Spooner, and seconded by Rosemary Fraser, and carried by the members.

6. Election of Officers

Sue Walker White indicated her willingness to continue as Chair. Proposed by Marian King and seconded by Anthea Briggs, carried.

Vice chair – Bob Davies – proposed by Pat Boatwright, seconded by Tony Jones.

Secretary – Steffi Spooner – proposed by Pat Boatwright, seconded by Anthea Briggs.

Treasurer- Julian Walker – proposed by Steffi Spooner and seconded by Anthea Briggs. (to be a temporary appointment, and to work with Pat Skittrall).

Committee members: Rosemary and Ray Fraser, and Dinah Reed, were proposed by Tony Jones, and seconded by Julian Walker.

All proposals were agreed by the members present.

There was a strong appeal made for more people to come forward to serve on the committee, or to help with specific projects.

7. Motions

The Committee sought approval for the use of e-mail to circulate letters and newsletters to members, or any other communication. Where members have no email facility, post will continue to be used. The email addresses will be held confidentially and kept for the Society's communications only. Appropriate mailings will also be sent to those people who register at the Museum.

This was agreed by members present.

8. AOB

Tony Jones asked if the newsletter and programme/membership card would be reinstated. Sue explained Peter had been managing the newsletter when he died, and no one had been able to take

it on since. Similarly Peter had been arranging speakers and there was some uncertainty about what was arranged. Currently this is in hand, and confirmation of dates from speakers is awaited. As soon as the programme is finished cards will be produced. The lack of committee members over the last year, and of course Peters' sad death have caused problems. Information is available on the website.

It was suggested the 'members only' part of the website should have a new password each year, given to members when they enrol.

It was suggested that these jobs, and others, could be carried out by anyone, they would not necessarily have to be part of the committee.

Jonathan offered to run another Cowper evening.

Jonathan also raised the matter of the annual dinner, but this was felt best left for the committee to consider.

Ken Hawkins, who is the local footpath officer, indicated his desire to create a new town trail, and wanted information about previous work done in this area. He is trying to establish Dereham as a 'Walkers are Welcome' town, which is a national standard and would bring more people into Dereham. It is intended to feature Bishop Bonner's Cottage and he will be seeking written support for the project. It was suggested that on a town trail places where people have lived who are significant to the town's history should be included, even if the building is unremarkable. The Society is trying to forge links with other local attractions such as the Windmill and Station.

Meeting closed at 8.15 p.m.