

THE NAILSWORTH SOCIETY (FOUNDED 1974)

ARTS, CRAFTS & MUSIC RAMBLING LOCAL STUDIES GOOD FOOD

THEATREGOERS GARDENING LOCAL HISTORY RESEARCH

Minutes of the Nailsworth Society AGM held on 30th March 2015 in Nailsworth Town Hall

1. Welcome by Chairman - Jinny Marshall

Jinny welcomed everyone and thanked the committee on their behalf for providing the refreshments and dealing with other aspects of the meeting. She drew attention to the Group accounts on view and displays from last June's 40th anniversary tea party and to information about the memorial plaque recently unveiled at Chestnut Hill House.

2. Apologies for Absence

John and Eileen Avison, Sue Bean, Henrietta Cullum-Court, Heather Cunild, Rosemary and John Davis, Ann Dickinson, Jean Flook, Jane Bodkin, Mike Harvey, Gill Hawkins, Isobel Hie, Ros John, Frances and Roger Lewis, Rachel Phillips, Malcolm Williams and Peter Wilson.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 31st March 2014 in the Town Hall.

The minutes were agreed; proposed by Guy Williams and seconded by Angela Middleditch.

4. Matters Arising.

Jinny informed the meeting that it had been decided not to buy a PA system for the Society and they would continue to use Probus' system in the Mortimer Room and the Town Hall PA system at AGMs.

5. Group Leaders' Reports

Group Leaders gave their reports to the meeting:-

Brenda Rookwood for the Arts, Crafts and Music Group (in the absence of Jane Bodkin), Tony Burton for the Local History Research Group, Kath Nielsen for the Gardening Group, Dave Partington for the Local Studies Group, Angela Middleditch for the Rambling Group, Ann Marshall for the Theatregoers Group, Paul Young for the Good Food Group

6. Treasurer's Report: - Jane Butler

Jane said that each Group had started 2014 with between £200 and £300 with the Theatregoers holding a larger reserve to cover potential cancellations. The Society started 2014 with a healthy balance of £2403.03 and finished with a balance of £2770.89, a surplus of about £370. £1600 is still held by the Society on behalf of some Groups for special projects. Almost all the income comes from subscription fees.

The Society's major item of expenditure is on room hire which includes all Group meetings. Cost of printing and administration has been kept low by the use of email wherever possible. Miscellaneous costs were higher than last year

mainly on account of the subsidy of roughly £150 which covered the cost of the guests invited to the 40th anniversary party last June.

She said that the number of members in 2014 was 206, a decrease of 8 on 2013. She felt that membership of around 200 is about right for the Society. The wide range of interesting activities provided by the Group leaders are well attended and appreciated. Members join throughout the year and present membership stands at 167 which compares favourably with that at the same time last year.

She thanked Les Haines for verifying the accounts.

When asked from the floor she explained that the Society's insurance covered all members including ramblers and theatregoers against accident on outings and at meetings.

Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Kath Nielsen and seconded by Lesley Partington.

7.Chairman's Report.

Jinny started by commenting on the success of the tea party at Chavenage on 22nd June in 2014 when 60 people celebrated the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Nailsworth Society. Beautiful weather, an entertaining house tour, lovely tea, champagne toast and a stunning celebration cake made and decorated by her sister, Ann added up to a delightful and memorable afternoon.

She said she was pleased to see many new faces and she encouraged people to offer to come on the committee as new ideas are always welcome. A good way of starting would be to give occasional assistance to Group leaders and for that reason she welcomed Alison Hope to the Rambling Group to assist Angela in place of Freda Bonner-Barlow and Catrina McDonald to the Arts, Crafts and Music Group to help Jane Bodkin.

She thanked Jane Butler, the Treasurer and Gwen Williams, the Secretary for their work and the Group leaders for their commitment to providing between them more than 60 varied and interesting events for all to enjoy. She recommended that people try a new group or activity and meet new people in the process.

She had a particular "thank you" for Kath Nielsen, leader of the Gardening Group, who is the longest serving committee member and for the volunteers from her Group who have had a significant impact on the Mortimer Gardens. Two working parties worked hard on the site, one in 2014 to clear plant debris and plant shrubs and perennials and one in 2015 to plant hundreds of crocuses and hyacinths. She thanked Barbara Uzzell of the Group for the delightful small and colourful border at the entrance to the library.

She also thanked the Gardening Group for allowing their New Year Tea Party to be used for recruitment and thanked Dave and Steve Partington for providing the eye-catching banner to advertise it.

She thanked Tony Burton, leader of the Local History Research Group for researching the use of Chestnut Hill House during World War 1 as a Red Cross Auxiliary Hospital and Convalescent Home. A Voluntary Aid Detachment Group of local people staffed the home from 1915 to 1917. The Local History Research Group paid for a very fine commemorative plaque to be placed on the south wall of the house. This was recently unveiled by Lord Lieutenant Dame Janet Trotter. Jinny ended her report by thanking all the members for their continued support.

8.Presentation to Rambling Group Walkers' Organiser.

In making the presentation to Freda Bonner-Barlow, who was not at the meeting and was stepping down as walks organiser with the Rambling Group, Jinny explained that Freda was introduced to the Group by Ron and Ivy Corry when she and her husband Harri moved to Gloucestershire. She took on the role in 2009 when Ortrude Pettet was the Group's leader and she continued to work happily with Alma Williams and then Angela Middleditch. Her role included organising

the Ramblers' Supper and she became well known for the entertaining and challenging quizzes that she provided on these occasions.

She thanked Freda for her many organisational skills and included Harri in her thanks as he always closely supported her. She was pleased to hear that she and Harri will continue to join the ramblers and she presented her with a voucher to spend at her favourite store.

Jinny also extended well deserved thanks to Steve Partington for his continuing role as the Society's webmaster, keeping the website up to date and ready for reference. She passed a cheque to his dad, Dave, for him to pass on to Steve along with our thanks.

9. Election of Officers

There were no nominations for officers and as all the present incumbents were willing to stand again they were elected en bloc.

Proposed by Maureen Embrey and seconded by Kath Nielsen.

10. Any other Business.

1. Nailsworth Society Group Meal.

Jinny said that, although Christmastime was a pleasant time for an annual Group meal, it posed certain problems; possible bad weather, the need for booking well in advance and, because most members belonged to several other local societies, they found themselves eating several Christmas Dinners in a short period of time.

She suggested that we consider having a mid-year Society Group meal instead, probably in the Autumn this year and thereafter in the Summer with the date entered in the Year Book. It might encourage more members to come. Lifts could be offered to people without cars. She was open to suggestions for venues and asked people to send their ideas to the committee members.

She proposed that the committee should investigate an alternative time of year and venue for a Nailsworth Society Group meal. This was agreed.

2. Election and Term of Office for Main Officers (Chair, Vice- Chair, Treasurer and Secretary)

Jinny explained that at present the posts are filled by volunteers or by recruitment and they serve open ended terms. She said that there have been no nominations or uncontested elections while she has been on the committee. She suggested that officers be elected for a period of 3 to 4 years and maybe a maximum of 2 terms, the beginning and end of these terms to rotate through the 4 posts so that they do not all resign at the same time. The reasons for suggesting the change are as follows: it would be fairer as posts can become onerous if no end in sight, it might make others more willing to serve on the committee, there must be a pool of knowledge and know-how among members which at present is untapped, it would create a healthier organisation where members expect they might take on a role.

She proposed that the committee review the present method of electing the main officers. This was accepted by the meeting and Jinny said that it would be discussed at the next committee meeting which is to be held on 1st July at 7PM in St. George's Parish Rooms. She said that anyone was welcome to come and join in the discussion.

Ivy Corry proposed a vote of thanks to Jinny for all her hard work and for capably chairing the meeting.

The meeting closed and Fiona Warin gave a most entertaining as well as informative talk, which included some audience participation, about the work and experiences of Land Girls during World War Two.