

THE NAILSWORTH SOCIETY

(FOUNDED 1974)

ARTS, CRAFTS & MUSIC RAMBLING LOCAL STUDIES GOOD FOOD CLUB

THEATREGOERS GARDENING LOCAL HISTORY RESEARCH

Minutes of the Nailsworth Society AGM held on 21st March 2016 in Nailsworth Town Hall

1. Welcome by Chairman - Jinny Marshall

Jinny extended a warm welcome to everyone and gave thanks to the committee and everyone who had helped to prepare the meeting. She mentioned that Group accounts for 2015 were on display in the hall as was the proposed menu for the Society meal in October. There was also a selection of lovely cards, the work of tonight's speaker, which were for sale.

2. Apologies for Absence: Eileen Avison, Misty Burton, Molly Constant, Ivy Corry, Henrietta Cullum- Court, Gill Hawkins, Jean Hazel, Isabel Hie, Sheila and Robert Kay, Mike Kelly, Pat Marston Smith, Sue Tallett, Ruth Vowles, Allan Williams, Malcolm Williams, Peter Wilson and Betty Young.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 30th March 2015 in the Town Hall.

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

4. Matters Arising.

1. Society Group Meal: Jinny said that she would bring this up later in the meeting.
2. Election and Term of Office for Main Officers: Jinny explained that following on from the suggestion outlined at last year's AGM that officers of the Society should be elected for a specified term of office the idea was discussed further at the committee meeting of 1st July. Although the membership was invited by email to attend no one did so. Two comments were received by email, one opposed and the other in favour of the idea. She said that although the officers and committee were all in favour of the idea and agreed to try to put it into action not much progress has been made but as a first step it is intended to increase the size of the committee.

5. Group Leaders' Reports

Group Leaders gave their reports to the meeting:-

Brenda Rookwood for the Arts, Crafts and Music Group (as Jane Bodkin was unable to arrive until later in the evening), Jinny read Tony Burton's report for the Local History Research Group as Tony had a sore throat,

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 and Paul Young for the Good Food Group.

Jinny passed on Tony's thanks to Paul and Betty Young for their help in running the Local History Research Group and mentioned that Tony was looking for a permanent assistant. In her report Ann said that the Theatregoers Group had an uncertain future as recently several proposed trips had had to be cancelled due to lack of support. She wondered if money in the Group's funds should be used to subsidise outings and would like members' views on this.

6. Treasurer's Report: Jane Butler gave the following report to the meeting

'Individual groups of the Society manage their own money and their accounts are on display. My focus is on the Nailsworth Society umbrella group itself.

The Society started 2015 with a healthy balance of £2770.89 and finished with a balance of £2508.37, an apparent deficit on the year of about £260. The reason for this apparent deficit is that £600, held in reserve on behalf of the Local History Research group, was used to buy a plaque for Chestnut House in recognition of its use as a hospital during WW1. £1100 is still held by the Society on behalf of individual Groups for special projects.

Almost all the Society's **income** comes from subscription fees. The Society's major item of **expenditure** is room hire for all Group meetings and committee meetings. The total for room hire was higher than last year but there were 36 meetings in all compared with 31 the previous year. Cost of printing and administration has been kept low as in previous years by the use of email wherever possible. Insurance costs remain stable. Running a website involves the Society in some cost but again this is kept to a minimum thanks to the work of Steve Partington. We are fortunate to have enough money in the bank to fund all the costs of the AGM. The service at the October lunch was excellent and it was agreed that £42 from funds should be used to tip the staff.

Membership was slightly down again last year on the previous year but our members turn out in good numbers to the excellent meetings and this helps to keep the individual group finances buoyant. No groups have needed a subsidy this year.

Thank you to John McColl for kindly working his way through the figures and with his accountancy background making sure that all is in order.'

The Treasurer's report was proposed by Kath Beard and seconded by Allison Hope. The accounts were approved.

7. Chairman's Report: Jinny Marshall gave the following report to the meeting:

"I enjoy being part of The Nailsworth Society and think it does well in meeting its aims of helping to integrate newcomers into the town, providing social contacts and helping us learn something new about our surroundings . I think 2015 has been another successful year. In times when membership of organisations is in decline, many of you are active and supportive of the meetings provided and this good attendance and the small fee you pay makes it possible to invite a wider range of speakers or those from further away. The Group Leaders deserve our appreciation and thanks as they do an excellent job of finding new and interesting topics each year. Indeed, when the Society was setup it was an inspiration to build it on a structure, which shares out the work involved to leaders, whose interest and enthusiasm in their particular subject area is communicated to members.

As ever the yearbook summarised the 60 or so events provided, which were all open to every member. They included the January tea party, the October group lunch, a mini flower show, 10 rambles and a Ramblers' Supper, theatre visits and meals out, a history walk, whole and half day garden outings, a day out at the Cheltenham Jazz Festival, craft activities, about 25 varied talks and Christmas quizzes and celebrations. I hope you sampled events from more than one group or will plan to do so this coming year. If you have any good ideas for future events do tell us.

The idea of a meal together but not at Christmas was well received so we plan to repeat the Group Lunch in October 2016. The New Minchinhampton Golf Club provided an attractive place to meet with a separate dining room for us and a welcoming atmosphere so we will use it again. As before, lifts can be arranged for those without cars. There is a sample menu on display with two courses, followed by tea or coffee. The cost would be about £17 each and the proposed date is Thurs 13 October. Your comments are welcome before this is finalised. Put it in your diary and we will publicise the final arrangements about 6 weeks ahead in early September.

Your Officers, Group Leaders and other Committee Members have continued to work very hard on your behalf and have valiantly agreed to continue in post for another year. They all do an excellent job but it is a lot to expect them to continue indefinitely. My particular thanks go to our excellent, hard-working and reliable Treasurer, Jane and Secretary, Gwen. Jane has had some welcome help from John and Marie McColl, however, her heavy load could be split into Treasurer and Membership Secretary. Some group leaders are also looking for more support and, finally, Steve Partington, our web master is pretty good at keeping the website up to date but he can have his own busy spells and a technically literate assistant would be wonderful. The inescapable fact is that we need input from a larger group of people and perhaps you are one who could offer some skills or knowledge. There are usually only 4 committee meetings a year, they rarely exceed an hour and a half and I try to keep them concise. Other jobs are not really burdensome, focussed on social events and involve not much more than some shopping, a bit of food preparation or help setting up an event but it is your energy and your ideas we are after.

Communication with the majority of members is much easier with email and our Treasurer's computer skills mean that you get news and reminders that would have been more difficult and more expensive to pass on in the past. We use as many methods as we can to get information to everyone and are very grateful to The Nailsworth News for its listings of our events. The Group leaders make beautiful posters if ever you look at the notice board in the Library and information on events is spread through the town as much as possible. Not all members live in Nailsworth and I dream of a Publicity Officer, who would spread information more widely. Do make communication a two way process and tell us what you think about any aspect of the Society and do ask for information too. It isn't easy to anticipate everyone's needs.

In recent months, I had the sad job of sending condolences on your behalf to the families of two past members, who had made major contributions to the Society. Amy Underwood was a great enthusiast of The Nailsworth Society and filled many posts during her membership from 1995 to 2007. When she and her husband moved to Nailsworth, they appreciated the way the Society helped them to learn about the area and meet new friends and went on to give it every support themselves. Amy was a great communicator; she led the Rambling Group and the Luncheon Group for several years and then became Vice-Chairman, Chairman, Vice-President and President in turn so the Society owes her a considerable debt.

John Avison died recently after a short illness. He and Eileen, his wife, ably led the Theatregoers for many years from 1990 to 2004, giving many members access to local theatres, company and considerable enjoyment. We extend our sympathy to Eileen and it is good to see her here this evening

On an evening like this with many members present, it also seemed a good occasion to take the happier role of offering congratulations to our webmaster, Steve Partington, who is getting married later this month. He does the increasingly important job of organising our website voluntarily, without pay, so it seemed important to mark this happy event with a present. On your behalf, I am pleased to deliver a card and cheque to his dad, Dave and to wish Steve and Janice a wonderful April day for their wedding and many happy years together."

Election of Officers: As no names had been put forward to be considered for election it was proposed that the standing officers be elected en bloc. Proposed by Maureen Embrey and seconded by Guy Williams.

Any other Business: There was no other business.

Jane Butler proposed a vote of thanks to Jinny for all the work she undertook on behalf of the Society

Jinny introduced Martin Fry who as well as being former head teacher of Horsley school is a multi-award winning photographer, Fellow of the Royal Photographic Society and well-known lecturer and international judge in all forms of photography. He talked about the inspiration behind his art and gave a wonderful audio-visual presentation of his photographs portraying the beauty of his native Gloucestershire and the spectacular Cornish landscape and seascape.