

THE NAILSWORTH SOCIETY

(Founded 1974)

ARTS, CRAFTS & MUSIC RAMBLING LOCAL STUDIES THEATREGOERS
GARDENING LOCAL HISTORY RESEARCH CREATIVE WRITING GROUP

Minutes of the Nailsworth Society AGM held on 30 April 2018 at 7.15pm in

Nailsworth Town Hall

1. WELCOME The Chairman, Jinny Marshall, welcomed everyone to the 44th AGM of the Society. She thanked those who had prepared the room and prepared the refreshments. A particular mention for Rosemary Davis who produced the AGM documents and Jane Butler who sent them out and will collect subscriptions tonight if you need to pay her. Thanks also to Kath Nielsen, who every year, organises the drinks and to the small army of committee members and other volunteers who plan and produce the food. Group accounts were on a table at the side of the hall as was the sample menu for the Society lunch on 3rd October 2018 at Minchinhampton Golf Club. In addition the Local History Research Group are exhibiting a fascinating display entitled "Nailsworth between the Wars." It was the entry for the Gloucester Local History Association's day last Saturday - prepared by Jane Butler and Mike Harvey and it received the award for the best entry on the day. Jane was congratulated by all present.

2. APOLOGIES For absence:- Marilyn & John Miles, Wendy & Michael Kelly, Isobel Hie, Mike Harvey, Sue Brown, Mary Middleditch, Margaret Ganner, Howard Beard, John & Janet Gower, Angela Middleditch, Jim & Caroline White, Paul & Betty Young.

68 members were present.

3 - MINUTES of the meeting held on 10th April 2017 were amended to include at Item 10. "The AGM finished at 8.15pm,"

Marjorie Condie proposed and Jane Bodkin seconded that the minutes of the meeting were now a true record and after a show of hands in agreement they were signed by the Chairman.

4 - MATTERS ARISING: None

5 - GROUP LEADERS REPORTS: (Copies of the reports are with the minutes of the meeting)

a) ARTS CRAFT & MUSIC GROUP - Jane Bodkin

Paper cutting, working with wood, harp making were all tackled. The history of Mr Punch, historical Bath, Edwardian photos of Stroud all featured along with days out at the "Hauser and Wirth" art gallery and "Kilver Court" with the usual joint meeting in December for a Christmas celebration.

b) LOCAL HISTORY RESEARCH - Paul Butler

Six indoor meetings were held - one a joint meeting with the W.I. - with average attendance 43. There were 3 outdoor events. The GLHA day previously mentioned, a visit to the Nailsworth Archives and a walk around Nailsworth on the theme of the blue plaques erected to people who fought in the 1st World War. Thanks were expressed to all who help with meetings.

c) GARDENING GROUP - Kath Nielsen

Kath Neilson reported that the group met on 10 occasions with 3 talks, 4 outings, a Tea Party and Spring Show as well as a members evening. Good attendance at all events.

d) LOCAL STUDIES - Dave Partington

10 meetings including an outdoor visit. A great variety of topics covered. He thanked Lesley his wife for her support.

e) CREATIVE WRITING - Tony Anhoury led a small group with a different theme each month. Occasional tutorials and public performances. Featuring in 2018 Nailsworth Festival.

f) RAMBLERS - Neither Angela Middleditch or Allison Hope were available so Ann Marshall read the report. Steady groups of 8 - 22 regulars managed 10 walks of varying length. Organised the annual supper with quizzes etc. and have a web site.

g) THEATREGOERS - Ann and Jinny Marshall organised two trips early in 2017. "A passionate woman" at Cheltenham and "Nell Gwynn" at Malvern. Gordon Wyles took over in April and with the help of Rachel Phillips made several bookings of which about half were viable including "My Fair Lady" at Bristol" and "How the other half loves" at Cheltenham but other suggestions were not well supported. Numbers are still very small although 1 trip has taken place in 2018 and two more are scheduled.

A volunteer is needed otherwise Group will cease to exist.

6. TREASURERS REPORT:

Before presenting the financial report Jane Butler as Membership secretary gave a short explanation on the procedures that the Society now needs to follow in order to comply with the new Data Protection Law coming into force on 25th May 2018.

A new application form has been produced for those joining whilst existing members will be contacted as to requirements. Meanwhile e-mail addresses have been removed from the register used at each meeting.

The Society started 2017 with a balance of £3,190.35 and finished the year with a balance of £4,117.17, a surplus of £930. The reason for this is that it included a transfer of £750.00 from the Theatregoers Group - a surplus which had accumulated over a number of years, to the main account. In addition funds belonging to individual groups amounting to £1,250 are held in the main account. Some of this money is earmarked for publications.

Jane reminded those present that the Society acts as an umbrella organisation for the Groups, each of whom has their own financial account to pay for speakers or other expenses. Room hire is the main item of expenditure as the hire costs of all meeting rooms, including the Town Hall for the AGM, is paid from the Main Account.

Costs of the AGM are also met from the Main Account as are costs associated with running the website which thanks to Steve Partington's input are kept very low. We need to have a minimum £5,000,000 Public Liability insurance to use the Mortimer Room so insurance costs are necessarily high but will be reviewed before renewal.

Membership was 180 compared with 187 last year but good numbers at meetings keep funds buoyant. The increased admission charges in 2018 from £1 to £2 will help with the increasing cost of speakers. No group needed a subsidy in 2017 as this has helped in paying speakers etc. With the majority of members able to receive information by email costs are kept as low as possible.

Jane expressed her thanks to the Chairman and secretary for their help and to John McColl for auditing the accounts making sure all was in order.

Approval of the treasurer's report was proposed by Lesley Partington seconded by Guy Williams and approved by a show of hands.

7. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

2017 was another successful year for the Society with good numbers attending most meetings and with the exception of the Theatregoers events being well supported. The rise in the entrance fee had not had an adverse effect on attendance but the increased income had made it easier to plan ahead and pay for good speakers. New and varied programmes are produced each year.

Sadly there have been some losses from past or present membership since the last AGM.

Kath Beard a very active member. Pat Griffiths with her lovely smile. Michael Tomlinson a regular and supportive member and Richard Gaiger who had played an important role as Society treasurer throughout the 1990's and in helping his wife Delphia with the "Ceramics and Decorative Arts Group".

Most members can now receive e-mail so with the help of our treasurer's expertise this is the best and fastest method of communication. Information goes on the website and adverts in the Nailsworth News with posters throughout the town enable non-members also to enjoy our meetings. Information comes back to us as well and we have heard of the new project to enter Nailsworth for the RHS "Britain in Bloom". Helen Thompson, Liz Steele and the committee will welcome any support you can give.

Another event to look forward to is the Society lunch on 3rd October.

Jinny thanked Guy Williams and Jane Butler the two treasurers she had worked with Gwen Williams and Rosemary Davis the two secretaries and all the Group leaders along with her sister Ann for all her support before announcing that she had decided the time had come to resign.

8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Jinny pointed out that there are no instructions on elections in the Constitution and the AGM has not been successful in the past at providing nominations for new officers or committee members so in the interests of continuity two experienced members of the committee had been asked and had agreed to take on the essential roles of Chair and Vice Chair. They are:-

a) Chairman - Dave Partington - proposed by J.Marshall seconded by Allison Hope

b) Vice Chairman -Kath Nielsen proposed by J.Marshall seconded by Allison Hope

Jinny asked if there were any other nominations. As there were none she asked for the approval of the meeting for both positions by a show of hands. Agreed.

There is also a vacancy for Group Leader of the Theatregoers Group as Gordon Wyles has resigned due to other commitments. Jinny, herself, is prepared to take this on in a temporary capacity to cover the existing bookings but if no one comes forward the Group will have to cease.

Jinny will move to the committee. All other committee members were as listed on the AGM documents.

Rosemary Davis - secretary, Jane Butler - Treasurer and Membership secretary, Jane Bodkin, Paul Butler, Marjorie Condie, Lesley Partington, Tony Anhoury, Angela Middleditch, Allison Hope all Group leaders, along with Ann Marshall and Jinny Marshall.

Proposed as a group by Guy Williams seconded by Heather Cunild and agreed by a show of hands.

8. PRESENTATIONS

Jinny then presented Jane Butler with a beautiful hydrangea as a thank you for all she does for the Society. Jane then presented Jinny and Ann with a framed picture of photos taken at the 40th anniversary celebrations at Chavenage in 2014. Dave Partington followed up with a gift of raspberry plants, a potentilla and a cistus and a gift token from the Society as a thank you to Jinny, who with the support of her sister Ann, had worked so hard for the Society over the past 11 years and to them both for running the Theatregoers for 14 years.. Jinny was honoured to be presented with life membership.

10. AOB Tony Burton added his thanks to Jinny before asking members to think of ways to attract Forest Green people to meetings.

Suggestions were needed to use the funds in the Theatregoers Account if they were no longer needed.

A possibility could be to fund the coach for a trip to an event such as the Malvern Show in Spring 2019.

A suggestion was made to the Chairman and secretary that a donation could be given to help with Britain in Bloom.

The AGM finished at 8.15pm

After a short interval during which there was the opportunity to stretch the legs, enjoy some more items from the buffet and look at the various displays Jill and Clive Field were welcomed and they gave an excellent presentation on the work of the Cotswold Canals Trust. Clive assisted by Jill took us on a journey along the Stroudwater Navigation canal opened in 1779 from Saul Junction to its joining the Thames and Severn Canal opened in 1789 at Wallbridge in Stroud. The pictorial presentation was excellent and they were both very informative as to the reasons for the canal's existence and entertaining with stories and memories as well as the actual facts of all the hard work achieved by the volunteers. They were both warmly thanked by Dave Partington on behalf of all present.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm