

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 29 April 2019 at 7.15pm in

Nailsworth Town Hall

1. WELCOME: The Chairman - David Partington welcomed everyone to the 45th AGM of the Society. He thanked those who had arranged the room and prepared the refreshments; special thanks to Phil Tomlinson who had assisted in setting up microphones etc. Group accounts were on a table at the side of the hall as was the Information display from the Town Meeting on 27th April. Jane Butler, Angela Middleditch, Kath Nielson and Lisa Parker were thanked for setting up this display.

2. APOLOGIES: Allison Hope, Isobel Hie, Sue Brown, Howard Beard, Duncan Wood, Mary Day, Ann Dickenson, Marjorie Condie, Jane Hutton and Lesley Partington.

60 members were present.

3. MINUTES of the meeting held on 30th April 2018 were approved unanimously and signed by the Chairman.

4. MATTERS ARISING:

None.

5. GROUP LEADERS REPORTS: *(Copies of the Reports are filed with the Minutes of the meeting)*

a) Arts Craft & Music Group - Jane Bodkin.

Talks on Brueghel, Absinthe in Art and Literature, the job of an Auctioneer, the evolution of style and subject matter of Gillian Keightley and Landscape photography were enjoyed as well as trips to Waterperry Gardens, and the Museum of Mechanical Music in Northleach with the usual joint meeting with the Local Studies group in December for a Christmas celebration. Thanks were given to Brenda Rookwood and Rachel Phillips for help in running the meetings.

b) Local History Research Group - Paul Butler.

Six indoor meetings were held - along with a joint meeting with the W.I. - an average attendance of 35. There were two outdoor events - one a visit to the Gloucestershire Archives' new Headquarters, the other a walking tour of "*Nailsworth between the Wars*". Thanks were expressed to all who help with meetings. Ideas for local research projects are always welcome. The Society Account was in a healthy condition with some money set aside for publications and exhibitions. Advance notice of a visit to the Estcourt Estate in Tetbury on 10 June 2019 was given.

c) Gardening Group - Kath Nielsen.

Kath Neilson reported that the Group met on ten occasions with five talks, three outings, a Tea Party and Spring Show as well as an evening in a member's garden. The Spring Show had to be cancelled due to snow. Good attendance at all events. Thanks to Heather Cunild, Marjorie Condie and Judith Haines for their help at meetings.

d) Local Studies Group - David Partington.

Ten meetings, including an outdoor visit to Wotton-under-Edge, were organised with a great variety of topics covered. He thanked Lesley, his wife, for her support.

e) Creative Writing Group - Tony Anhoury.

Tony Anhoury leads a small group who work on a different theme each month. Occasional tutorials and public performances. The Group was featured in the 2018 Nailsworth Festival, Halloween and Christmas events and will be featuring in Nailsworth Festival in 2019 - the theme being "*Love and Longing*". Would welcome 3 or 4 new members.

f) Ramblers Group - Angela Middleditch.

Angela Middleditch's report detailed ten walks of varying length - many in very hot weather so lots of ice cream stops! Organised the annual supper with quizzes etc - the group has a Facebook page.

g) Theatregoers - Lisa Parker.

Lisa Parker explained how she had taken over this group following the 2018 AGM. She has worked very hard to provide opportunities for visits to a variety of performances and in organising transport. It is a difficult group to manage as so many shows require advance payment. To date one show in Cheltenham and two in Bristol have been attended with bookings already in for three shows in 2019 along with the possibility of a Christmas trip to London.

Following the Group reports Guy Williams asked if any progress had been made on using some of the Local History Research group money on publications of any kind. Paul Butler answered that this is still under consideration and invited anyone who feels they could take on this commitment to come forward with ideas.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT:

Jane Butler said that the Society started 2018 with a balance of £4117.17 and finished the year with a balance of £3,916.91 - a reduction of £200. The reason for this is that the Committee decided that the £750.00 from the Theatregoers Group should be used for general benefit. £100 was donated to Nailsworth in Bloom and £100 used to subsidise a theatre trip in 2018. The remainder has been set aside to subsidise coach travel to the Malvern Show in May 2019 and theatre trips which will appear in the 2019 Accounts. Approximately £1,250 belonging to individual groups is held in the main account.

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 are the hire costs of all meeting rooms including the Town Hall fee for the AGM which are all paid from the Main Account. Other 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 slightly up - 183 compared with 180 last year - with good numbers at meetings keeping funds buoyant. The increased admission charges in 2018 from £1 to £2 helps with the increasing cost of speakers. No group needed a subsidy in 2018. As the majority of members 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.

Jane followed her report by stating that, having been Treasurer and Membership Secretary for seven years, she felt early in 2019 that the time had come for her to retire. Judith Haines has already taken over as Membership Secretary and Allison Hope has agreed to take over as Treasurer.

On a proposal by Jinny Marshall, seconded by Kath Nielsen, the Treasurer's Report was approved unanimously.

7. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

David Partington began by saying he felt a bit of an imposter following Jinny Marshall's eleven years in the chair and he hoped that following the Group Reports he did not repeat too much. He thanked Kath Nielsen and the Garden Group, along with Jane Bodkin, for organising the annual Tea Party - a valuable event creating opportunities to join or renew membership and to discuss forthcoming events. Membership is consistent despite the rise in fees in 2017. This increase has strengthened the Groups' abilities to provide good speakers for all meetings. Using email saves paper and postage and he assured members that their records, held by the Membership Secretary, were used solely for direct contact re the Society.

Following the very cramped location of the Society's presentation in the marquee at the 2018 Town Annual Meeting he had looked forward to a bigger marquee being used in 2019 only to be defeated by "storm Hannah" and ending up in the corner of the Town Hall. He again thanked those who organised the excellent display. Thanks were expressed to Lisa Parker for coming forward to take on the Theatregoers' Group. Thanks also to the Gardening Group for their efforts in looking after the Mortimer Gardens for the Nailsworth in Bloom Group. The annual lunch at Minchinhampton Golf Club on 3 October with 39 attendees was excellent. At the end of that month the Creative Writing Group put on a spooky Halloween performance which provided plenty of food for thought.

With Jane Butler's decision to resign as Membership Secretary and Treasurer it was good that Judith Haines and Allison Hope came forward to take on those positions subject to electoral approval. Details of all meetings are well publicised and the Committee would welcome any new ideas to keep the Society in the Public eye. He thanked all the Committee members and back room assistants for their work.

8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE:

Proposed Officers were nominated on the AGM invitation and with the unanimous agreement of members present were elected - likewise the proposed six committee members.

9. PRESENTATIONS:

Although Jinny Marshall had resigned as Chairman in 2018 both she and Ann Marshall had stayed on the Committee and provided support and experience to newcomers. As a small appreciation of their extended service each was given flowers. Jane Butler was then presented with flowers, a gift token and Honorary Life membership as a thank you for all the work and organisation she has done for the Society.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

None.

The AGM finished at 8.15pm.

After a short interval William Reddaway was welcomed and, after an introduction to his horse *Strider* with a lovely picture he entertained us with an amusing breakdown of the seven month journey and the years leading up to it that he took in travelling 2,674 miles to the four corners of the country visiting thirty Cathedrals on the way. This was a marvellous achievement for a man and a horse supported by many strangers along the way, being blessed inside many Cathedrals, educating us to the care of horses and raising money for *Wormwood Scrubs Riding for the Disabled* and the *Family Holiday Association*.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Approved.....

Date.....