

Tewkesbury Historical Society

Secretary: Janet Martin

Bantry, The Rampings, Longdon, Tewkesbury, Glos, GL20 6AJ

Email: secretary@tewkhs.com phone: 01684 294052

Minutes of THS 27th AGM held on 26th April 2018

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Society held on 26th April 2018 at The Old Baptist Chapel Church Street

Acting Chairman, Sam Eedle, welcomed Dr Steven Blake and David Aldred, the two judges of the Woodard Award, THS members and guests and thanked Simon Lawton for loaning the venue for the meeting and Wendy Snarey for taking the minutes.

1. Apologies for Absence:

Jim Freeman, Keith and Sally Dance, Angela and Dave Devereux and Mike Kean-Price, Eileen Hart, Cliff and Margaret Day.

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 27th April 2017

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 27th April 2017 were read and approved

Proposed: John Dixon Seconded: Ken Flude - agreed unanimously

3. Resolution 1: That the quorum for the AGM be reduced from 25% of membership to 20%

Acting Chairman, Sam Eedle, introduced this by explaining that when the constitution was written, after THS was formed in 1990, the membership was local but now there are many national and international members who cannot attend the AGM and therefore very difficult to guarantee a quorum

At last year's AGM the membership was fewer than needed for a quorum and therefore could only be described as an "Advisory AGM" and the resolutions proposed as "bye-laws"

Currently there are 117 Members, of whom 89 are in Gloucestershire. This means 30 members need to be present to pass changes to the constitution.

Changing this figure to 20% would bring the figure needed to be present to 24 (i.e. 27% of local members)

As there were more than the required 30 members present at this AGM to be quorate

The Committee proposed that the membership adopt this recommendation –

Seconded by Bill Treen and agreed unanimously

4. Acting Chairman's Report

Sam Eedle reported that 2017-8 has seen a change in Society leadership.

John Dixon stood down as Chairman of the Society and was made Honorary Life President. This year has also seen the passing of founder member, Bill Rennison.

The Acting Chairman stated that he would like to thank the following members of the Committee for their invaluable contribution to the administration of the Society: **Kate Watson (Treasurer) Janet Martin (Secretary & Refreshments), Ken Flude and George Shelton.**

He went on to say that the Society would not function without other members who assist with a multitude of activities and each was presented with a token of appreciation:

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Dot Pavey (Posters), **Penny Last**, **Gordon Baker**, **Janet Thomson** (Register Indexing), **Linda Kean-Price** (research) **Joan Smith** (transcription), **Ken Flude** (PAT testing), **Sue Coggin & Jane Blackledge** (book sales), **Derek Benson** (Membership and Website).

This year we also welcomed **Jim Freeman** as Editor of Bulletin 27 and Andrew Stuart, who is helping with the Society's new website.

The Committee would also like to thank the President, **John Dixon**, who remains as a valuable member of the Committee. As the outgoing Chairman, John has contributed many other things towards the running of the Society and as such makes a separate report below.

There is one other member who has been involved over many years coordinating the Register Indexing, research, substitute secretarial and so much more

Resolution 2: The Committee proposes that Wendy Snarey be elected a Life Member of the Society.

John Dixon stated that Wendy Snarey had been a support to the Society and generally contributing to the history of Tewkesbury in Indexing the Register, being Secretary, first winner for the Society of a national BALH award, volunteering at Museum and local research. He proposed, on behalf of the Committee, that she became a Life member

This was seconded by June Flude and agreed unanimously

Benefits to Community

Sam Eedle then went on to say that as a Charity, the Society has to demonstrate benefits to Community to justify its status - and the single most important facet of the Society, as regards the benefit to the local community and the general public, is the publication of the yearly Bulletin. This has been in production since 1990.

This year, the editorship passed from John Dixon to **Jim Freeman**, already a well established contributor of many years standing.

A change of printers is also a continuing drive to make the publication as economical as possible.

5. Life President's Report

John Dixon reported that on 24 June 2017 the THS hosted, for the second time the Gloucestershire Local History Association (GLHA) County History Afternoon at the Baptist Church. The advertised venue was the Old Baptist Chapel which had to be re-organised but Simon Lawton kindly offered this evening as an alternative arrangement and our thanks to him for that gesture.

The 60 guests booked for the day were given three different guided tours of the Town – with an extra one given in October because it was oversubscribed. Attendees praised the organisation, for which the President wishes to thank the committee and the Church authorities and it was deemed a 'gastronomic' success, thanks to the Abbey Volunteers who provided the tea.

Despite semi-retirement, the President is also responsible for Publication Coordination: In addition to 'Then & Now' Volume 5, this year (for the benefit the Friends of The County Archives), he collaborated with Roger Workman to publish 'Fuelled by Milk' – a combined edition of Harry Workman's re-edited memories and Roger's History of the Dairy. THS acts as agent for sales with no financial investment but earning £1 per copy sold.

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He said the Society sponsored him to accompany Rosemary Wherrett to attend the British Association of Local History (BALH) in London to receive her award for her article on Victorian Photographers – she will talk to us about her work at our May meeting.

In October there was an extra meeting, at no cost to the Society when the Bristol & Gloucester Archaeological Society (BGAS) launched the “The Giles Geast Charity Book, 1558–1891,” edited by US academic Dan Beever.

WW1 Plaques: the Society is collaborating with the Town Council Working Party which plans to attach new plaques for those omitted from the War Memorial. This is due to take place on 2nd July 2018

The Society having donated £187.37 for the British Legion from the proceeds of ‘Never Has So Much Been Owed’, still have a reserve for future commemoration such as replica plaques in the garden of our Host Church.

Most recently, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) has agreed to produce a headstone for the unmarked grave of H.J. Waylen who died of TB in 1917 after service in Salonika and is buried in Tewkesbury. We await its delivery and installation.

A nephew of H.J. Waylen, John Sidebotham has written a book about his time growing up in Tewkesbury – it is called “Green and Pleasant” and can be read in the Library or borrowed from John Dixon as it has not yet been published

A further book recommended by a local author was “Hubert Parry” by Michael Trott
A vote of Thanks was proposed by Derek Benson and seconded by Kate Watson

6. Secretary’s Report

Janet Martin reported that one of the Society’s aims was to be of benefit to the Local Community and Tewkesbury Historical Society (THS) has an important role in protecting and preserving the local historical record and to also interpret the past to the public. The THS aims to maintain a library of relevant reference material to establish an index of resource material held by record offices, newspapers, books, photographs and any source of material that may become available, and to record or transcribe recollections, experiences or remembrances of people with long or distant associations with Tewkesbury. This is all consolidated on the Woodard Database which is accessible to members on-line.

She said that Andrew Stuart had been working with Derek Benson on improving the website to make it more user friendly. Statistics show that there are 117 members, 89 of whom live in Gloucestershire, and also 798 Facebook followers, and 239 twitter followers

She went on to say that a new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) comes into place on 25th May 2018 and the Committee will need to review how the society keeps personal data, so that it complies with the new legal requirements. The Committee members will agree a new Data Protection Policy and Privacy Notice at their next Committee meeting in May 2018

A vote of thanks was proposed by John Dixon and seconded by Alan Snarey

7. Treasurer’s Report

Kate Watson stated that the financial aim of the Society was to cover running costs, accrue a small surplus and contribute to the local community and this year had ended in a profit of £439.87 as opposed to a deficit of £297.33 last year. This was mainly due to

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the talk by talk and book sales of Roger Workman on the launch of the book "Fuelled by Milk"

	Year to 31 March 2018	Year to 31 March 2017
Net Income/Expenditure	£	£
Meetings	176.68	(28.84)
History Hunt	0	(132.23)
Membership	3.27	59.92
Publications	253.36	(325.21)
Special Publications	(213.87)	0
Interest	23.63	40.40
GLHA Day June 2017	(17.20)	0
Hulks Walk	8.00	0
Other	206.00	88.63
Total Income / Expenditure	439.87	(297.33)

THS Meeting	Speaker	Number of Attendees	Net Income / Expenditure - £
April 2017	AGM	35	(65.99)
May 2017	Facebook Offline	52	(10.79)
September 2017	Ian Boskett	52	47.11
October 2017	Roger Workman	83	141.50
November 2017	N. Mann.	46	26.17
January 2018	Social	18	0.00
February 2018	R. Skelt	44	31.66
March 2018	J. Gill	33	(21.88)

Kate said that the room hire at the Methodist Church had increased by £1 per hour and an insurance cover of £56 means that it may be the last year that membership fees may remain the same however at this stage the Committee propose to keep meeting entrance charges and membership rates at the same level for 2018/2019 season **although this level will be reviewed during the year.**

Annual Membership to remain at £5.00 per person

Meeting entrance fees to remain at £2.50 for members and

£4.00 for visitors, with a £1.00 reduction on both entrance fees for the May meeting.

Resolution 3: That Meeting Entrance Charges and Membership Rates remain unchanged

Proposed: Alan Snarey

Seconded: Steve Dawe

Agreed Unanimously

Kate produced a balance sheet for 31 March 2018 and said she hoped to progress towards an income and expenditure account reflecting the true cost of sales for publications.

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	31 March 2018	31 March 2017
Assets	£	£
Power Point Projector	160.38	178.20
Tape Recorder	37.18	41.31
Cable Projector	0.00	30.00
Total Assets	197.56	249.51
Stock		
Bulletins	687.90	514.00
THS Publications 1-5	104.00	158.00
Then and Now Vols 1 - V	127.60	136.00
Railway Plaque Leaflets	0.00	8.00
Noble Band of Heroes	36.00	72.00
Literary Tewkesbury	0.00	391.50
Total Stock	955.50	1279.50
Debtors		
Costs for Bulletin 27	70.00	0.00
Bank Balances		
Lloyds Current Account	914.09	1655.10
Lloyds Savings Account	1428.82	1028.26
Virgin Money Account	4631.38	4608.31
Total	6974.29	7291.67
Creditors		
Income for Bulletin 27	77.50	0.00
Then & Now – Charity and Author Payments	88.40	283.95
Hulks Walk	0.00	60.00
GLHA Day June 2017	0.00	455.20
March 2017 Meeting Costs	0.00	54.00
Total Creditors	165.90	853.15
Net Assets	8031.45	7967.53

Kate went on to say that the Society was in good shape with a good level of funding available for the future. She thanked Tony Barrett and Steve Bowers for overseeing and auditing the accounts and proposed the accounts were adopted

Proposed: Derek Benson Seconded: Alan Snarey and agreed unanimously

8. Appointment of Auditor and Internal Account Examiners

The re-appointment of **Steven Bowers** (SWB Solutions) as auditor and **Cliff Day** and **Tony Barrett** as Internal Account Examiners was proposed by Sam Eedle and Seconded by Kate Watson and agreed unanimously

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The donation of £30 to the Tewkesbury Cricket Club, Steven Bowers charity of choice, as a thank you was proposed by Kate Watson and seconded by Janet Martin and unanimously agreed.

Sam Eedle proposed a vote of thanks to Kate for her hard work, commenting that with the year ending 31 March to producing, and getting figures checked and audited for the AGM meeting was extremely impressive
This was seconded by John Dixon

9. Election of Committee for 2018 / 2019

Committee members for the past year were: Sam Eedle, Kate Watson, Janet Martin, John Dixon, Ken Flude, Jim Freeman, and George Shelton

Sam Eedle said new members were always welcome and there was no limit to the number of Committee Members. He said the Committee were willing to serve again with the exceptions of George Shelton who was standing down at this AGM and Andrew Stuart, who is willing to be nominated this year.

The Committee were then re-elected en bloc

Proposed: Gordon Baker Seconded: Steve Goodchild and agreed unanimously

10. Presentation of the Bob Woodard Award

The Acting Chairman then introduced the two independent Award Judges, **Dr Steven Blake** and **Mr David Aldred** and invited them to present the award

Dr Steven Blake, in speaking for both of them, thanked the Society for inviting them as judges and also both the editorial and production team for the outstanding publication. He said it was always a pleasure to read the Tewkesbury Bulletin.

He said that *Bulletin 26* was a good mix of local and family history. He mentioned an article by Dr Karen Banks who, he noted, first wrote for the Society as a student and it was good to see she was still contributing to history.

Dr Steven Blake went on to say that the choice of a winner had been difficult because of the quality of the articles, but, they had decided to award it to the article "From Howell's to Hollams [and on to Canada]! by John Dixon (Tewkesbury) and Barbara Jones (Canada) for both the local and family history and the amount of research

In presenting John Dixon with the award he stated that looking back through the 26 Bulletins he could find only one year in which John did not have an article and he hoped that as John was now stepping back from the editorial team he would have more time to devote to writing history!

In accepting the Bob Woodard Award John Dixon thanked Barbara Jones in her absence.

Sam Eedle thanked the judges and they were warmly applauded

11. Any Other Business

A presentation was made to **Gordon Baker** who had reached his 90th birthday. John Dixon said that Gordon had been a stalwart member from the early days and could always be seen helping out at any of the events put on by the Society. He sold the Bulletins and books at the monthly meetings and still helps with transcribing the Register

He thanked Gordon for all his work and presented him with a framed scroll of events in Tewkesbury in 1928 (his birth year).

Gordon thanked the Society for the most unexpected presentation

[The Scroll was designed by Sam Eedle with Research by John Dixon]

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A reminder was made of the next meetings:-

May 17th: Early Photos of Tewkesbury by Rosemary Wherrett

September 20th: Three Wise Women! Local Suffrage Activists by Dr Sue Jones

12. Date of 2018 / 2019 AGM: Thursday 25th April 2019

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm

Refreshments followed and then **Simon Lawton** gave a very interesting talk on the Baptists in Tewkesbury and the work done in renovating the Old Baptist Chapel

DRAFT