

Mere Historical Society

Minutes of the AGM held on Tuesday 2nd April 2024 in the Grove Building

Present: Chair (Peter Landymore), Committee Members: Graham Avory, David Bett, Simon Edkins, Diane Ellis, Derek Fisher, Hamish Bell, plus approximately 47 members

1 Apologies: Julia Mottershaw

2 Minutes of the AGM of 4th April 2023 had been published on the Mere Historical Society website at www.merehistoricalsociety.org.uk . These were unanimously approved by those present for signature by the Chair. Proposer: Caroline Cook; Seconder: Mary Turner-Inman.

3 Matters Arising: None

4 Reports to the AGM:

4.1 Chair's Report (Peter Landymore):

The Chair welcomed the members and said that his full report would be posted on the Society's website and copies were available on request. He went on to give an outline of the key points as follows:

- Membership has continued to hold up well and is around 100.
- The Chair warmly thanked Simon Edkins for his work as Membership Secretary and David Bett for his work arranging the programme of talks. This year there have been 12 talks, which represents excellent value for the subscription fee of £10.
- The Chair thanked David for arranging a replacement speaker at short notice for the talk to be given by Julia Mottershaw on Francis Faugoin, the Forgotten Gardener of Stourhead. This talk will be rescheduled.
- The Chair appealed for members to come forward with suggestions for future talks especially if members can deliver a talk themselves. He reiterated that the programme seeks to strike a balance between subjects of local or regional interest and more general aspects of history. Suggestions may be made to any member of the Committee, whose contact details are on the website at www.merehistoricalsociety.org.
- The Chair appealed for members to volunteer to join the Committee. This would be without the need to fulfil a specific role in the first instance. He urged people to contact members of the Committee if interested.
- The Chair concluded by thanking the Members for their continued support of the Society.

4.2 Treasurer's Report (Derek Fisher):

- The Treasurer's Report and Final Accounts for the Year ending 2023 had been circulated to the Committee and copies are available upon request. A copy can be viewed on the Mere Historical Society website at www.merehistoricalsociety.org.uk . Thanks to Judy Bickerstaff for checking the Accounts.
- The Treasurer said that there is a healthy balance on the accounts with reserves standing at just over £5000. The Society is thus able to retain the Subscription at £10.
- The Treasurer commented on the figures in the report. He noted that subscriptions have been healthy. The Michael Tighe Archive is now stored at the Museum and a sum of £250 has been set aside to cover contributions to the work needed at the Museum following last year's flood. Donations have been made to Mere Matters who help to publicise the Society's programme. Finally, he said that the Committee was open to suggestions to spend some of the money in the bank.

- The Accounts were unanimously accepted by the meeting. Proposer: Vernon Phillips; Seconder: Adrienne Howell.

5 Election of Committee: No new nominations have been received. The current Committee members are willing to continue. The Chair asked for the current members to be re-elected en bloc. This was agreed unanimously. Proposer: Marion Halliwell; Seconder: Adrian Stow.

6 AOB: There was no further business.

Signed as a true record:

Date: