

ALBURY HISTORY SOCIETY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 20th MARCH 2018

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

Margaret Clarke welcomed members to the start of a new year.

Apologies for absence had been received from Sue Darling, Gerry Slessenger, Angela & Roger Deason, Pat Grayburn, John & Daphne Foulsham, Gay & Chris Harris.

2. Minutes of the 2017 AGM

These had been made available on the website for members to consult.

3. Secretary's Report

This was given by Margaret Clarke, Secretary, and is attached.

Acceptance was proposed by Tessa Grundy and seconded by Kerstin Paul.

4. Treasurer's Report

This was given by Trevor Brook, Treasurer, and is attached.

Acceptance was proposed by Bob Brown and seconded by Andrew Pearson.

5. Election of Committee Members

We are losing lost two members of the Committee this year: Janet Brown and Kerstin Paul. A plant was given to Janet Brown as she had been a Committee member for more years than she can remember and for many of those was the Secretary. Thanks were expressed to Kerstin Paul for being the Membership Secretary. Jenny Taylor has agreed to come on to the Committee, and also Malcolm Clarke, who has volunteered to become the Membership Secretary. The rest are willing to continue.

Roy Hogben proposed acceptance, which was seconded by Janet Brown. Members of the Committee are therefore: Margaret Clarke, Secretary; Trevor Brook, Treasurer; Malcolm Clarke, Membership Secretary; together with Sally Caton, Diane Crouch, Bill Folkes, Andrew Norris and Jenny Taylor.

6. Any Other Business

1. Roy Hogben suggested that the financial situation of the Society could be helped if a number of people opted for Life Membership. This would be set at ten times the annual membership. Of those present five people expressed an interest, so Life Membership could be offered next year as well as the annual membership.

2. Malcolm Clarke as Membership Secretary spoke about the implications of the new Data Protection Legislation which becomes law in May. It will be necessary each year for members to give their consent to their particulars being retained by the Society so that they can be contacted. They will not be passed to anyone else. Those present were asked to sign to that effect.
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SECRETARY'S REPORT

We had our usual varied programme of 6 talks and 2 visits last year. Our AGM was followed by a talk on Gertrude Jekyll, and the donation we gave to the speaker was for the Godalming Museum Trust. They have put this towards the digitisation of the complete set of Gertrude Jekyll archives held at the University of California (why they were there, I do not know). This will mean easy online access to the detailed original designs and supporting documents. The management of the project is in the hands of The Surrey Gardens Trust.

We had a most amusing talk on the developing role of women police officers, called 'Handbag to Handcuffs', and our visit to the Surrey Police Headquarters in July had an emphasis on the historical role of the Surrey Police – we could remember a number of the outstanding crimes they had dealt with.

Our other visit was a guided tour of St Nicholas Church, Compton an early Saxon church with a unique double sanctuary.

The historical development of two methods of transport formed the subject of two talks: the Guildford to Horsham railway and the restoration of the Wey & Arun Canal.

I must confess I had not heard of Princess Charlotte, who, had she not died in childbirth, would have been Queen instead of Queen Victoria.

For me, a highlight of the year were the Tillingbourne Tales, six stories told very professionally about various craftsmen: John Parkhurst, clothier in Shere (1519-1563), Peter Brockley, pewterer in Wotton (1597-1640), John Dibble, smith in Abinger (1661-1728), Charles Ball, paperworker in Albury (1761-1818), John Lambert, miller in Shalford (1781-1858) and Job Darbridge, gunpowder worker in Chilworth (1880-1951). The stories were enhanced by mannequins, beautifully made – you can see them in the Shere Museum, where they have opened a Tillingbourne Valley section. If you have any comments about the programme or suggestions for future talks or visits, please get in touch with one of us.

AHS - Treasurer's Report

This is a report on the Society's finances for the year ending 31 January 2018.

The Society has ended the year with total assets of £369.11 which is a decrease in assets of £378 over the year.

This represents quite a sudden worsening of our finances. Partial reasons are increasing hire fees for Albury Hall and the gradual fall in the number of members but the main culprit is rising expenses. We cannot rely on 'free' talks from our own committee every year and fees for professional speakers at all of our meetings last year meant a total of £381 for talks, up from £151 the year before and accounting for £230 of extra costs.

For the seventh year now we have paid the Post Office to distribute our annual programme folder leaflet to every household in Albury. Along with printing of the programmes the total cost of this is around £100 which we still believe is worthwhile.

Family membership for the coming year remains at £10, with single membership at £5. These rates compare very favourably with other history societies nearby but your committee anticipates that next year an increase will be essential.

Trevor Brook 20 March 2018

ALBURY HISTORY SOCIETY

Financial situation at year ending 31st January 2018

	PREVIOUS YEAR	THIS YEAR
Receipts	608.00	555.26
Plus interest	0.37	0.28
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Total receipts	608.37	545.54
Less payments	581.46	923.27
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Change in assets	26.91	-377.73
 <u>Details of assets</u>		
Treasurers Account	75.60	27.59
Business Interest Account	671.24	341.52
Cash	0.00	0.00
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Total Assets	746.84	369.11 Change: 377.73

[Years from 1990:

£557-49/£588-88/£585-02/£554-58/£655-57/£765-09/£819-32/£810-41/£622-65/£612-26/£612-55/£753-15/
£951-74/£1019-03/£1787-72/£1402-03/£1401-53/£1258-70/£1774-25/£1716-54/£1497-17/£1304-42/£1161-09/
£1040-85/£965-38/£725.62/£719.93]

Summary of payments

Speaker fees	151.00	381.40
Trips	150.00	90.00
Hire of Village Hall	99.00	235.00 (late 2016 invoice)
Committee expenses	181.46	216.87