

Kingston Local History Society

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 9 November 2017 in the Reading Room

Present.

Brian and Judy Alloway; Carol and Robert Beard; Alan and Jacky Coleman-Smith; Pauline Deschamps; Mervyn and Viv Freeman; Jeanette and Tim Kingdom; Margaret Kelly and her guest, Patricia Reeves; Cynthia and Geoff Smith; Jennie Stanley; Caroline and Bruce Thomson; Susie Cattley; Doreen Edwards; Visitor, Ken Prowse, Chair of Salcombe LHS.

Apologies for absence

Margaret and John Cocks; Cilla Dyson; Bob and Janet Gilbreath; Hugh Stanley. Ron Knight; Anne and John Sibley.

Approval of the 2016 AGM minutes

The Minutes of the 2016 AGM were approved, proposed by Cynthia Smith and seconded by Bob Musk.

Matters arising

Jennie reminded people of the very interesting and entertaining presentation given by Brian Alloway at the 2016 meeting and entitled 'Our daily Lead'

Chairman's report

Jennie ran through the key points in her report, which had been circulated with the agenda (*copy attached*). She made particular reference to: -

1. Her intention to stand down at the end of the 2017/18 year after a long (14 years) and productive involvement with KLHS, which had seen its significant growth. A new Chair would then need to be sought. People were invited to express an interest in this role or to recommend others who might take it on.
2. That membership was down in numbers and current members were, therefore, asked to encourage people to join and/or re-join.
3. The need for support in managing KHLS archives, which were extensive and rich in information. She urged people to review them (*in the Church*) even if they were unable to assist in the archiving work; and to access the KLHS Website.
4. Arrangements were in hand for the re-printing of KLHS publications (*by Jon Hardy in Kingston*) with a more modern sophisticated appearance.
5. New ideas for the annual programme of events were always welcome and recent annual programmes had included wide ranging and interesting topics

Our visitor at the meeting, Ken Prowse, Chair of Salcombe LHS, advised that all LHS groups in Devon were struggling with visitor numbers. Also, that Salcombe could assist with archives if Kingston LHS were willing to reciprocate with feedback and support. He explained that they had created a South Devon 'virtual museum' with all South Hams villages linked across one Website. He advised that Salcombe could assist with archiving; Website; and attendance at a future KLHS meeting to demonstrate what Salcombe LHS has put in place, including a genealogy Website for South Devon showing dispersion and linkages of families across the area.

Jennie extended thanks to Ken for his attendance, information and offer of assistance.

Treasurer's report – approval of audited accounts.

Alan confirmed that the 2016/17 accounts had been signed off by Paul Ellis (*copy attached*) and thereby approved. He explained that the increase in expenditure was due to the change to current year payment for Reading Room hire; and purchase of equipment, particularly upgrading of the Laptop. The reduced income reflected the lower membership and reduction in donations and sales of publications. Intentions for the future were to build up stocks of publications and maintain quality speakers at KLHS events.

Nominations for new committee members

Jennie explained that new members are always welcome on to the Committee and that the commitment was not onerous, involving only 4 Committee meetings each year. Work on archives was an important issue, exacerbated by the pressure of business commitments on Mike Jarvis who had played a major part on this in the past. Bob Musk had advised that he would be willing to help on archiving, on a co-opted basis, and it was suggested that Sally Davies might also be interested. Viv Freeman had advised that he was standing down as President of KLHS with immediate effect as he felt he had made a more than a good contribution over the years. On behalf of all members, Jennie formally thanked Viv for his sterling work for KLHS. She asked all present to try to identify new members to carry on KLHS work.

Programme of future events

Jennie ran through the 2018 schedule (*attached*) asking people to put their names down for the Christmas meal (*7p.m. on 7 December 2017 in The Dolphin*); to attend events throughout 2018; and to confirm availability for the 2018 visit to Hemmerdon House.

Any other business

- 1) The start time of KLHS events had been raised by several people, who felt that 8 p.m. was a little late, particularly when people travelled from a distance. Equally some of those attending after work hours found the current start time more convenient. Jennie proposed that the matter should be put to a vote for the options of a 7.30 start or retaining the current 8 p.m. start. The majority vote was for the earlier start and Jennie said that this would apply thereafter, except

for any session in 2018 when the already booked speaker was unable to meet the earlier time.

- 2) Jennie then led a vote of thanks to Bob and Rae Musk for the exhibition mounted for this AGM meeting.
- 3) Pauline led formal thanks to Jennie for her work over the years. She also advised that she would be willing to join the KLHS Committee, once her other commitments were clear.

The meeting was then formally closed, allowing time for people to socialise and review the new '*Kingston village then and now*' exhibition.