

## THE WARNHAM SOCIETY

### 31st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

13th November 2015 at Warnham Village Hall at 8.00pm  
(Please note that refreshments will be served from 7.30pm)

#### AGENDA

**1. Apologies for Absence**

**2. Approval of Minutes of 30th AGM of the Warnham Society**

**3. Matters arising from the Minutes**

**4. Committee's Report on Activities of the Society in 2014/ 2015**

**5. Treasurer's Report and Approval of Annual Accounts**

The Report and Accounts will cover the year 1 Oct 2014 to 30 Sept 2015.

**6. Hon. Auditor's Report**

**7. Election of Members of Committee (Maximum 12)**

With the exception of George Elliot, who has decided to stand down after many years service to the Society as a member of the committee and Minute Secretary, all other members of the present committee have agreed to stand for the coming year. These comprise Anne Davies, Gillian Debenham-Taylor, John Hamer, Brian King, Steve Lancaster, Bill McLaughlin and Jeremy Thompson. Further nominations to the committee will be welcomed.

Note that Officers, who comprise: Chairman, Treasurer, Minute Secretary, Correspondence Secretary and Membership Secretary, are appointed by the Committee at its first meeting after this AGM.

**8. Election of Hon. Auditor**

**9. Membership Subscriptions and Society Income**

Membership subscriptions have represented the principal source of income to the Society, the other being admission charges for visitors attending certain of our meetings. However, the Committee was concerned that the present level of subscription renewals represented only approximately half of our membership and that the resulting shortfall in income could not be sustained indefinitely.

Accordingly, we considered two possible courses of action:

**Option 1** represented the 'status quo' which required intensive and ongoing effort to 'chase up' missing subscriptions.

**Option 2**, preferred by the Committee, was the simpler and dispensed with annual subscriptions in favour of free membership and 'per meeting' payments for all.

Accordingly, the Meeting approved the adoption of **Option 2** on a trial basis for one year, pending a decision for future adoption by AGM in 2015.

Experience with the implementation of **Option 2** has been positive in enhancing our revenue by some £80 over the past year and being simpler to administer as compared to the previous approach. Consequently, the purpose of the present motion is to secure the agreement of this meeting to the adoption of **Option 2** on an ongoing basis and to enable the Committee to amend the Constitution of the Society as necessary and to set the level of payments.

**10. Any Other Business**

**11. Closure of AGM**

The formal business of the AGM will be followed by a talk by John Hamer and Roger Purcell entitled 'Medieval and Modern Warnham'.

John Hamer  
Brian King  
Joint Chairmen, The Warnham Society.

10 November 2015

**THE WARNHAM SOCIETY**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 13 November 2015**  
**REPORT of the COMMITTEE for 2014- 2015**

**ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE PAST YEAR**

Attention during the past year has again been focussed on membership and finances. At our last AGM in November 2014, the meeting approved our proposal for a 12 month trial whereby membership subscriptions would be replaced by an admission charge payable at each meeting. This approach was intended to address the increasing difficulty in securing subscription renewals from existing members and to reduce the need to 'chase up' those members who had not paid. Experience during the trial period has been positive, both with respect to income collected and effort required, and this AGM is requested to approve the approach for use on an ongoing basis. We also believe this will be beneficial in attracting new members.

Warnham's contribution to the remembrance of those who lost their lives during the First World War, Warnham and The Great War, was completed and launched to coincide with the centenary of the outbreak of war in 2014. During the past year, sales of the book have progressed steadily, accompanied by positive reviews as to its content and quality. Two members of the project team, Sue Overton and Steve Lancaster, took part in a BBC Radio 4 presentation based on the book earlier this year.

Considerable interest was shown at last year's presentation of our database of historic wells within the Parish. This project is still on-going with further additions and photos being included throughout the year. The database now contains the whereabouts, some with photos, of over 40 wells and can be accessed via the link on our website.

**MEETINGS**

Two meetings were held during the year:

The Autumn Meeting and AGM in November 2014 featured a talk by Victoria Lillywhite of the Horsham District Archaeological Group on finds resulting from field walking in the vicinity of Ends Place.

The Spring Meeting in June 2015 featured a talk by Kevin Crawley of the Wey and Arun Canal Trust which described the restoration work carried out to reclaim and maintain navigable sections of the canal.

Both meetings were well attended, with interesting speakers and lively discussion.

**COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES**

Our ability to support an active, varied and interesting programme depends on your active participation and the committee now urgently requires additional members. This is vital to the development of new projects as well as to the progress of existing activities. For example, we are involved in preparation of the Neighbourhood Development Plan as well as monitoring planning applications and traffic issues. The Society also wishes to identify future projects that could benefit the parish. Possibilities include:

- An invitation to the BBC in respect of a future broadcast of Any Questions or Gardeners Question Time.
- Warnham in the Second World War
- The republication of key Warnham books
- Ideas for future meetings, etc, etc...

If you are interested in joining the committee we will be pleased to answer any questions or to receive your nomination this evening.

Against this background we regret to note that George Elliot has decided to retire from the committee after many years of invaluable service, particularly as Minute Secretary and for his contribution to Warnham and The Great War.

On your behalf we would like to thank George for his tireless effort and to wish him well in his 'retirement'.

Please accept our thanks for your support and continue to help us to remain an active and thriving Society into the future.

**The Committee**  
**The Warnham Society**  
**November 2015**

**WARNHAM SOCIETY**  
**ACCOUNTS 1ST OCTOBER 2014 TO 30TH SEPTEMBER 2015**

Balance brought forward  
 from accounts at 30th September 2014

At the bank: £1,272.75

**Income**

Subscriptions £97.00  
 Entrance fees £160.00  
 Surplus from refreshments £65.80  
 Donations £0.00  
 Closing balance from defunct  
 Warnham Historical Society  
 Santander A/C £45.07

WW1 Book Sales £335.00

**Expenditure**

Insurance (B.A.L.H.) £65.00  
 CPRE subscription £36.00  
 GACC annual subs £10.00

Autumn mtg speaker donation £40.00

WW1 book repayments to  
 Warnham Parish Council (WPC) £560.00

Hire of Village Hall £57.75  
 Flyer printing £23.98  
 Wey & Arun Trust fee £60.00  
 Gratuity gift to presenter £7.86

**Total** £702.87

Excess of Expenditure over Income  
 £157.72

**Total** £860.59

**Total** £860.59

**Reconciliation**

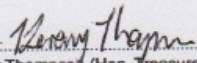
Funds brought forward £1,272.75  
 Less deficit for the year £157.72


**Reserves at Bank: £1,115.03**

**£1,115.03**

**NOTES:**

1. In 2013-14, there was an income surplus of £342.49 which contained an element of WW1 book sales for which deferred payment to Warnham Parish Council was arranged.
2. The income deficit for this year reflects payments made to Warnham Parish Council for WW1 book sales made in 2013-15.
3. As WW1 books are sold, the gross proceeds are then passed to the Warnham Parish Council. Any incidental expenses are covered by the Warnham Society. As of 30th September 2015, we have £165 to pass to them.

Signed:  Date: 30/10/15  
 Jeremy Thompson (Hon. Treasurer)

Signed:  Date: 30/10/2015  
 R. J. Boud A.C. MB (Hon. Auditor)

## THE WARNHAM SOCIETY

Minutes of the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting held in the Village Hall on Friday 13 November 2015.

Mr. King chaired the AGM, welcoming about 40 members and guests.

**1. Apologies for Absence:** Elizabeth Bridges, Hilary Farquhar, Mr and Mrs Boud, Mr and Mrs Thompson, Mrs Debenham-Taylor.

**2. Previous AGM minutes:** The Minutes of the 30th AGM were approved: proposed by Gill Jones seconded by Eileen Ramsay.

**3. Matters Arising from the Minutes:** None

**4. Committee Report on the Society's Activities in 2014-2015:** Mr Lancaster explained how at the previous AGM in 2014 it was agreed to trial suspension of membership fees in favour of deriving income from door takings instead. After a full year's trial we have found that the process is much easier to administer, has met with favour by the membership and having free membership has helped attract new members.

Mr Lancaster further reported that the Society's book "Warnham and the Great War" continues to sell and has been well received. Notably the BBC said that this was the best book of its type they had seen. Both Mr Lancaster and Mrs Overton were interviewed by the BBC, and this was broadcast on BBC radio earlier in the year.

The database of wells in the Parish has continued to grow, with all the results so far being available on the website.

The Society held two public meetings. Victoria Lillywhite of the Horsham District Archaeology Group presented results from a joint project with the Warnham Society of field walking near Ends Place looking for artefacts. Also, Kevin Crawley of the Wey & Arun Canal Trust told the story of the canal's restoration to-date.

Mr Lancaster ended with an appeal for volunteers to join the Committee to help the Society continue to meet its purpose, safeguarding the character of the parish.

**5. Treasurer's Report & Approval of Annual Accounts:** Mr. Lancaster spoke in place of Mr Thompson. He explained that income from the door at meetings was £257 which compared to £180 from membership fees in the previous financial year, an improvement of nearly £80. Profit from the bar at these meetings was £65.80. There was also an additional one-off credit of £45 from a dormant bank account belonging to the Warnham Historical Society. Expenses and costs amounted to £300.59, leaving the Society with a surplus of £67.28 and a net bank balance of £950.03. The Accounts were approved on a proposal by Janet Lee, seconded by Rachel Hamer.

**6. Election of Committee Members:** Mr King announced that Mr Elliott had elected to stand down from the committee, and expressed the Society's thanks for his many years of service as Secretary, presenting him with a bottle of wine. The remaining members of the Committee were re-elected en bloc, proposed by Angela King, seconded by Janet Lee. There were no other nominations. Mr King reiterated that new members of the committee would be very welcome.

**7. Election of the Honorary Auditor:** Mr. Boud was re-elected, proposed by Geoff Read and seconded by Marion Stockley. Mr Hamer thanked him for his support over the past year.

**8. Membership Subscriptions and Society Income:** Mr King re-addressed the issue of funding, saying that it was the Committee's recommendation that the one year trial of income from door takings be adopted on an on-going basis. There were no objections from the members, so the recommendation was adopted, proposed by Sue Thomas and seconded by Janet Lee.

**9. Any Other Business:** None.

**On completion of the AGM Mr Hamer and Mr Purcell of the Warnham Society gave a joint presentation on the development of Medieval and Modern Warnham.**