

## 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.