

**MINUTES OF THE FIFTY FOURTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF  
THE HAMPTON WICK ASSOCIATION  
HELD AT NORMANSFIELD THEATRE, HAMPTON WICK  
on Tuesday 15 March 2016 at 7.30pm**

**Present:**

|           |                 |
|-----------|-----------------|
| CHAIRMAN  | Mark Merrington |
| TREASURER | Carol Dukes     |
| SECRETARY | Fraser Wilson   |

and other Members, including Committee Members.

Apologies: Councillor Geraldine Locke.

The meeting followed a fascinating talk by Alison Merrington, who has been researching the names on the Hampton Wick War Memorial.

The Chair welcomed everyone and mentioned Bill Reed of the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames (LBRuT) who is responsible for community links including the village plans.

**Minutes of the 53rd Annual General Meeting**

The minutes of last year's AGM were proposed for acceptance by Chris Drayson, seconded by David Harnden and approved by the meeting. They were signed by the Chairman.

**Treasurer's Report**

Carol Dukes introduced the accounts and said that the 2015 deficit appeared much worse than that in 2014 but this was partially because of costs having been carried over from 2014. Also some capital expenditure had been incurred on, for example, a set of flags for use on the High Street at appropriate events.

The main source of income continued to be Richmond Council. They had helped to finance the Summer Festival for the past three years but a grant would not be forthcoming this year. We had also received Town Centre grants in the past but, as no project had yet been identified this year, no grant had been received. An important Council grant was that for Christmas although our Christmas events continue to run at a loss.

A certain amount of funding is generated by events such as the fish and chips/quiz evening, raffles and auctions, but this is quite small. The Summer Festival resulted in a small profit of £460 but the Christmas event had a deficit of £950.

Although the Association is comfortably in funds at present, the losses are not sustainable and action will be needed to stem these. One area being looked at is production of the Newsletter, which is liked by many but expensive to produce in printed form.

The Friends of Hampton Wick Library has been set up within the Association but its funds are shown separately within the accounts.

Account details are:

|                                       | Lloyds           | NS&I      |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|-----------|
| Opening balances                      | £5,079.23        | £3,893.28 |
| Income during the year                | £8,787.33        | £ 29.20   |
| Expenditure during the year           | -£10,543.18      |           |
| Closing balances                      | £3,323.38        | £3,922.48 |
| Friends of HW Library funds held#     | £ 116.25         |           |
| Total cash position                   | <u>£7,129.61</u> |           |
| Deficit for the year (exclusive of #) | £ 1,755.85       |           |

There were several questions to the Treasurer primarily about alternative fund raising strategies. She explained the constraints, particularly on funding from local businesses. Adoption of the accounts was proposed by Nick Baylis, seconded by Jenny Bourne and approved by the meeting.

### **Report and Adoption of independent examiner**

David Harnden reported a 25p discrepancy which had been dealt with. He agreed to be proposed as independent examiner for the accounts for the forthcoming year and this was approved by the meeting.

### **Chairman's Report**

The Chairman said that, before the evening started, the Association had 111 subscriptions. This compared to 144 subscriptions at the AGM last year. One reason for the difference was that the Association had held its Fish & Chips Quiz Night prior to the AGM last year at which many people join. This year, it would be held on 14 April and tickets were available from Martha Pountain now. The vast bulk of subscriptions were full members, i.e. people who live or work in the Wick, with a negligible number of associate members from outside the Wick (including those areas of South Teddington which are within the Hampton Wick ward).

In terms of events in 2015/16, the Chairman began with Chestnut Sunday. The Association had its usual display of old photographs of the Wick. New members had been recruited and Ray Elmitt's and Paul Barnfield's history books had been on sale. Chestnut Sunday was on 15 May this year.

In June, there was an early sighting of the Hampton Wick Tudors at the Teddington Pram Race, a fund raising event linked to the Teddington Festival. This time the Tudors had raised well over £500 for local charities, particularly Teddington and Hampton Wick voluntary care. The event is happening again this year on 26 June. The participation of the Tudors was under discussion but, whether they are there or not, this would be a great event built around Teddington Fair.

The Hampton Wick Tudors had reappeared at the Hampton Wick Festival in August. This had been organised again around the closure of roads occasioned by the Prudential RideLondon cycle race. The Chairman said that there was an issue of funding this year: the Council grant which had supported this event has been cut. The event was therefore unlikely to go ahead this year - or, at least, not in the form of previous years. The Chairman said that he was therefore personally very sad not to have been able to be at last year's event. Observing proceedings from a hotel room in Florence, this had looked to be the biggest and best event so far with a horde of Black Morris Men making a particularly lasting impression. The Chairman thanked

everyone involved in the Festival for making it such a success – particularly Mark Buckley and Carol Dukes, once again the organisers in chief, and the marshals, organised by Fraser Wilson, who had one of the most difficult jobs on the day.

Autumn had seen some familiar events - Remembrance Sunday Service and its parade had been organised by St John's, with the support of, amongst others, Tom Furber at The Foresters. It was, as always, very well attended and a moving experience.

The Association had organised a trip to our local brewery, Twickenham Fine Ales, in December. This had been a well attended evening on a cold Thursday in December and those who attended had spent a couple of hours learning about the brewing process and, of course, sampling some ales. This was the first outing organised by the Association for many years as far as anyone could remember. The Chairman said that if people have ideas for similar outings they should get in touch - especially if willing to help with the organisation.

The Christmas craft fair had been abandoned because it had been a very small scale event last time and a similar fair had been part of the Summer Festival. But, once again, the Association had put up over 40 real Christmas trees up and down the High Street. Cost-effective battery powered lights on the whole had worked well (with the possible exception of some coloured lights with which we were experimenting). More thanks were given to Mark Buckley and Carol Dukes and Fraser Wilson.

The Christmas carol evening had had fine weather, and, once again, members of the Fulham Brass Band had provided the accompaniment. Andy Courtney had provided some magical transport for Father Christmas in the form of his magnificent 1926 Rolls Royce Silver Ghost and thanks were due also to Aron Bell who was intimately acquainted with Santa. Chris Drayson had been Santa's little helper and organised presents for the children. Thanks were given to all of them.

The Chairman referred to the Village Planning process instituted by the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames. A very successful event had been held in January at the Warehouse at St John's and more recently there had been a Leader's Question time in Teddington with Lord True at which Hampton Wick issues had figured prominently. The Chairman said that members would be kept in touch with further steps in the Village Planning process and invited Bill Reed of LBRUT to say a few words. Bill outlined that a drop in session and walkabout (probably the next day) were planned in Hampton Wick and the Chairman said that the dates would be confirmed in due course.

The Chairman moved onto campaigns. The land on which the Timothy Bennet memorial stands was owned by Thames Water. The memorial - having been spruced up some years back - had fallen into neglect again. The Association had hoped that Thames Water would simply give access to the site. This proved difficult - but after a long period of correspondence, Thames Water tidied the site and laid new stone chippings. The Association was continuing to see if it could get access for the future.

The station remained unloved. Jane Turner – who lives near the station but couldn't attend the meeting – had continued to fight a one woman campaign with South West Trains. Jane had set up a Friends of Hampton Wick Station group. This was separate from the Association but the Association was continuing to work with Jane to help apply pressure where it could. Progress was slow. The Platform 2 embankments were given some attention in November and the cause of the leak in

the underpass was finally under investigation. Jane had much bigger plans for station redesign - but it was a difficult time at the moment because of the franchise renewal, the possibility of TFL taking over the line at some point in the future, and Crossrail 2. All those things made future planning difficult. Nonetheless, the Chairman said that if anyone was interested in being part of Jane's group they should get in touch with the Association.

Another friends' group was the Friends of the King's Field. This was the idea of Mariosz and Mariola who run Pistachios café. Their ambition was to make the King's Field a better community space by, for example, improving the maintenance of the play equipment. There had been improvements already in terms of engagement with users of the skatepark and some new fencing. It was a very welcome initiative.

The other Friends group was the Friends of Hampton Wick Library – set up to help protect and enhance our Library. This group was more closely linked with the Association and had been a great success with 54 members subscribing so far. Its achievements so far had been:

- A great website and Twitter feed along with email updates;
- Five new pedestrian signs to the Library are about to be put up, including one opposite the station;
- A talk and exhibition with more planned;
- Works started to preserve the Victoria memorial outside the Library;
- A meeting with Parks department to start development of a master plan for grounds maintenance with the help of an architectural horticulturalist.

More people were needed to help and those interested should speak to Mark Buckley, Carol Dukes or Alison Merrington.

The very first Friends of the Library event would be an exhibition and talk by Dr Chris French on the history of Hampton Wick Royal Cricket Club. The talk and opening reception for the exhibition will take place on 27 April. Tickets were already selling fast with booking via the Friends website.

Finally, the Chairman mentioned communications. The Association's excellent website (and many other excellent websites including Hampton Wick Remembers) and the e-mail news service was down to Carol Dukes and Mark Buckley. Anne Hardy had once again put a lot of work into the paper newsletters. There had been two editions since the last AGM – a total of 20 pages. Anne was standing down from the Committee and thanks were given to her for all that she had done.

The Chairman said that the Association needed to consider whether to continue with a paper newsletter in the e-age. One alternative might be an annual "yearbook" and views were invited on that idea.

## **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

### **Resignations:**

Anne Hardy had decided to stand down from the Committee and Jane Turner had already stood down. All other members were presenting themselves for re-election.

### **Elections:**

Steve Collins proposed and Jenny Bourne seconded Mark Merrington to continue as Chair. He was elected by a unanimous show of hands. David Harnden nominated Carol Dukes as Treasurer and Fraser Wilson as Secretary and this was seconded by Iain Burgess. They too were elected by a show of hands. The other Committee members offering to continue (Nick Baylis, Jenny Bourne, Catherine van den Broek, Mark Buckley, Bob Patten, and David Rees) were nominated by Ray Sutcliffe,

seconded by Iain Burgess and also elected by a show of hands. The Chairman asked for volunteers to join the committee or to help out to make themselves known to him or any other member of the committee.

**Any Other Business**

Robin Bell thanked the Association for publicising the courses for job seekers, Room for Work, that he runs at the Warehouse.

Jenny Bourne asked whether it might be appropriate to seek a blue plaque for the house on Glamorgan Road where Edward Kay Robinson, who was the founder of the British Empire Naturalists Association and about whom Alison Merrington had spoken, had lived.

The Chairman drew the meeting to a close at 9.40pm with thanks to all for attending.

**Signed** ..... **Date** .....