

**MINUTES OF THE FIFTY THIRD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
THE HAMPTON WICK ASSOCIATION
HELD AT NORMANSFIELD THEATRE, HAMPTON WICK
on Tuesday 24 March 2015 at 7.30pm**

Present:

CHAIRMAN	Mark Merrington
TREASURER	Carol Dukes
SECRETARY	Fraser Wilson

and other Members, including Committee Members.

Apologies: Veronica Finlay and Jane Turner.

The meeting followed a very interesting talk by Ian Jones-Healey, Normansfield's Archivist.

The Chair welcomed everyone and particularly mentioned our local Councillor, Tony Arbour, and representatives of the Teddington Society. He introduced Bill Reed of the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames (LBRuT) who said that he was responsible for community links including the village plans. He asked members who were interested to hear more about the village plan to give their details on a paper that he circulated so that they could be kept up to date with information.

Minutes of the 52nd Annual General Meeting

The minutes of last year's AGM were proposed for acceptance by Sharon Bastion, seconded by Anne Hardy and approved by the meeting. They were signed by the Chairman.

Treasurer's Report

Carol Dukes thanked David Harnden for checking the accounts which were submitted to the meeting. She said that, although the Association had a deficit of £661.54 for the year, it was in a healthy position with unallocated available cash of £6,972.51. She set out the main sources of income and main items of expenditure. Income came mainly from membership subscriptions and funding from LBRuT. A Civic Pride grant of £2,000 had not yet been spent as flags and flagpoles for the High Street for various events were being sourced. Despite the weather the 2014 Summer Festival made only a small loss of £162.84. If we have volunteers to help we may be able to generate sponsorship in 2015. The 2014 Christmas lights and the carols evening made a significant loss of £1,397.69. Although some of the costs (approximately £700) are non-recurring, we need to generate more income. Because of a change in the dates there was no Fish & Chips Quiz Night during 2014. This event usually makes a profit of between £200 and £400,

Details are:

	Lloyds	NS&I
Opening balances	£5,769.75	£3,864.30
Income during the year	£7,880.88	£ 28.98
Expenditure during the year	-£8,571.40	
Closing balances	£5,079.23	£3,893.28
Total cash position	<u>£8,972.51</u>	

Deficit for the year £ 661.54

Adoption of the accounts was proposed by Ray Sutcliffe, seconded by Chris Drayson and approved by the meeting.

Adoption of independent examiner

David Harnden had 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 144 subscriptions. This compared to 116 subscriptions at the AGM last year. Each subscription could represent more than one person. The vast bulk of subscriptions are for full members, i.e. people who live or work in the Wick, with a negligible number of associate members from outside the Wick.

In terms of events in 2014/15, the Chairman began with Chestnut Sunday. The Association had 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 is on 10 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 is happening again this year, on 28 June.

In July, the Association had organised one of Ray Elmitt's famous history walks one Saturday afternoon. The Chairman thanked Ray for his continued support of the Association.

The Hampton Wick Tudors had reappeared at one of the major events of the year, the Hampton Wick Festival in August. This had been organised around the closure of roads occasioned by the Prudential RideLondon cycle race, intended to be a post-Olympics annual event. The impetus for a community based event had come from the Council. Mark Buckley and Carol Dukes once again were the organisers in chief and were thanked.

The Chairman said that, after being blown away by the success of this event in 2013, the Association was nearly blown away in a different way in 2014 because the day of the festival coincided with the UK being hit by Hurricane Bertha. Some things planned did not go ahead or went ahead in a different form but the decision to "keep calm and carry on" was vindicated by some fine weather in the afternoon.

In the Autumn, there were many events across the Borough to commemorate the First World War. The Chairman's wife, Alison, had given a talk in the Library about her researches into the names on the Hampton Wick Memorial. That research is now available on a website "Hampton Wick Remembers". This continues to evolve and it is hoped shortly to start to share some information about people involved in the First World War who, although not commemorated on the war memorial, had close local connections.

The Remembrance Sunday Service and parade was again organised by St John's and Tom Furber at The Foresters. It was, as always, very well attended and a moving experience.

The Christmas craft fair, organised for a fourth year by Sharon Bastion and Ronnie Finlay, was on a small scale but had a great atmosphere. By then, the Association had put up over 40 real Christmas trees up and down the High Street and this year the cost-effective battery powered lights had been duly modified and worked a treat. More thanks were given to Mark Buckley and Carol Dukes for that.

The Christmas carol evening had fine weather for a change, and, once again, members of the Fulham Brass Band accompanied the singing. Gerry Michelmores had provided some magical transport for Father Christmas and thanks were due also to Mark Young who is intimately acquainted with Santa. Sharon and Ronnie had worked wonders with presents for the children – each of them getting a hand-painted, homemade, Hampton Wick sack. Sharon and Ronnie had decided to stand down from the Committee this year and were given a particular thank you for their contribution to the carols evening and many other events over the past few years.

About a month ago, the Association had held a slightly delayed Fish and Chips Quiz Night. This was a very successful event held in the Hampton Wick Royal Cricket Club. Thanks were due to David Rees, as quizmaster, and to Keith Nicholls at the Cricket Club for hosting it.

Turning to campaigns, the Chairman started by talking about three things that were important to Hampton Wick – the post office, the station and the library.

Shortly after the previous AGM, the Association was alarmed to hear about proposals to modernise the post office. The principal concern was loss of services. After meeting with Dr Cable and the Post Office, the Association had been satisfied that a wide range of services would be maintained and that the proposals would ensure that there would be a viable post office business in the Wick in the 21st century.

The station is unloved, however Jane Turner – who lives near the station but couldn't attend the meeting – had fought a one woman campaign with South West Trains. This has had the effect of putting Hampton Wick station on the political map – several parliamentary candidates were referring to it in their election material. The Association also now has much better lines of communication with them. Jane has much bigger plans – but needed the support of the wider community and ultimately funding. If anyone was interested in being part of a station action group, they were asked to get in touch with the Association.

The Council was also keen for the Association to support the Library and it was proposed to set up a Friends of the Library Group as a sub-group of the Association. If anyone wanted further information or to volunteer to help, they were asked to speak with Carol Dukes or Mark Buckley after the meeting.

The Chairman also mentioned, as examples, two planning issues. The first was the redevelopment of Sanho/the Rose and Crown. The proposal to turn this into largely residential accommodation would sadden those who remembered when there was a theatre there and the Association has objected to the application. The other thing was the UDC building beside The Foresters. The Association was indebted to Richard Pain who spotted how aggressively the beautiful terracotta work had been cleaned. There were now proposals with the Council which, amongst other things, aimed to address its restoration.

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 12 pages – but another 8 pages were currently being prepared.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Resignations:

As noted in the Chairman's report Sharon Bastion and Veronica Finlay had decided to stand down from the Committee. All other members were presenting themselves for re-election.

Elections:

Sharon Bastion proposed and Jenny Bourne seconded Mark Merrington to continue as Chair. He was elected by a show of hands. Anne Hardy nominated Carol Dukes as Treasurer and this was seconded by Piyush Patel and they were elected by a show of hands. Mark Buckley proposed and Chris Drayson seconded Fraser Wilson as Secretary and he too was elected by a show of hands. The other continuing Committee members (Jenny Bourne, Catherine van den Broek, Mark Buckley, Anne Hardy, and Roger Hall) were nominated by Ray Sutcliffe, seconded by Carol Dukes and also elected by a show of hands. Bob Patton, David Rees and Jane Turner had all agreed to stand for election for the remaining places on the Committee and were nominated by Anne Hardy and seconded by Mark Buckley. They were elected individually by a show of hands.

Any Other Business

Jenny Bourne asked whether anyone knew who had been responsible for felling the poplar tree at Hampton Wick station. No-one knew but it was assumed that it had been Southwest Trains' contractors.

Sheena Harold, Acting Chair of the Teddington Society, thanked the meeting for the invitation to attend and invited all members to attend the AGM of the Teddington Society which is to be held at the NPL at 7.30pm on 14 April. As well as the meeting there will be two talks on the First World War. She also asked for support in objecting to planning permission for the Ham Hydro project.

Jeroen Vonk said that the Association did not get much credit for the HW Festival as not many people realised that we were the organisers. Perhaps we should put up a banner clearly saying this? The Chair said that we would consider that.

Ray Sutcliffe said that the platforms had been lengthened at the station but the service had worsened as there had been no trains to Richmond at the week-end for some time. Peter Holland noted continuing problems of non-paying passengers at the station and the poor state of the area around the station. We will continue to press for improvements.

Piyush Patel remarked on increasing noise from late flights. It was agreed that this was a continuing problem.

The Chairman drew the meeting to a close at 9.30pm with thanks to all for attending.

Signed **Date**