

Minutes of The Shepton Mallet Local History Meeting September 15<sup>th</sup> 2014 held at Whitstone Hill Farm

- 1) No apologies. Len Ware, Alan Stone, Chris Norman, Pam Preece, Sue Feltham, Amada Le Quesne, Eleanor Norman and Peter Banks.
- 3) Matters arising – none but Show report to be under AOB.
- 4) Pam produced copies of monthly meeting financial returns. All meetings lose money unless the speaker declines to charge the full amount (Robin Thornes) or nothing (Allen Cotton), but the filmshow made a profit of £271.

There are 62 paid up members and £861.08 in current account and £1525.89 in reserve.

Generally speaking our finances are staying at the same levels.

It was raised that we might collect more subs if all members were reminded: "Subs are now due." Last year's membership was boosted by the chance to visit the Cornhill prison.

- 5) It was proposed by Chris Norman and seconded by Alan Stone that 50 copies of Len Ware's book should be printed. CJN reminded that his Zerrard information was required. (It should be subject to previous guidelines on pre-publication.)
- 6) 1) It is likely that Len Ware will not have involvement with the Group after 2015. Also Chris Norman is wishing to retire from being secretary. There is also the problem of what to do with the material given to the Group and stored at Whitstone Hill Farm. Len also has an attic full.
  - 2) No names were forwarded as likely candidates to take over the running of the Group. The committee is 8 members and some of us will have to step aside for new officers. Alan Stone would be willing to be the chairman, say, but his time is very limited as shown by his almost nil attendance at meetings. Amanda was asked to explore ways of attracting members. Lots of suggestions were made (such as Facebook) as to how we might get more people at meetings but how to find new leaders was not satisfactorily answered. The majority of speakers already try to tailor-make their talk to be Shepton orientated, but perhaps all should be. Len liked the concept of meetings where much of it would be audience participation so that everyone would be learning more and more from each other.

- 3) The Group has no need to wind up as it has reasonable membership and secure finances. The only reason it will fold is because of no officers.
- 7) Alan report that the Heritage Tent at Shepton Show won the “Best Trade Stand” and had 18 displays – some wanting to come again.
- 8) Next Meeting. Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November at Sue and Arthur Feltham