

Minutes of Shepton Mallet Local History Group Committee Meeting 11th November 2019

Attended By Pam Preece, Arthur Feltham, Eleanor and Chris Norman.

Pam reported that she has finished the financial results for the last year but did not bring a typed up copy. However, during the last year there was a cash flow surplus mainly as a result of Alan Stone's "Talks and Walks" in the summer.

A budget for this coming year was discussed at length. With membership standing at only 45 and Speakers' expense not getting any less, something has to be done or we will be eating into our reserves. If only about twenty people turn up for a meeting and the hall hire and speaker fee is not met, then we lose money.

The consensus was that we should keep the Group going but it was acknowledged that it relies on Pam who is happy to be treasurer and Chris and Eleanor who, without them, the Group would fold. Chris agreed to find speakers.

Possibly we should blend into the Shepton Mallet Heritage Society (Reg Charity 800161) which is dormant but has similar aims to the Group. The title might well be SMHS Shepton Mallet History Group until such time as the Charity Commission allowed a change of name. The advantages could be that it might attract a different sort of new membership and it would be easier to attract grants. This idea to be put forward at the AGM.

Whilst the U3A would happily take on the Group, organising speakers would still fall on the Group and thus possibly Chris, who would love to step aside having been responsible for finding speakers for most of the years that the Group existed (except for when David Williams ran it), finding them. Possibly U3A with its normal morning meetings might attract more members.

Len Ware's book "Made in Shepton" was discussed as the TIC would love to be selling a new Shepton book and, more importantly, Len's information should not be lost. Chris to investigate if it can be viable.