

Shepton Mallet Local History Group Committee Meeting 13Jan20 Whitstone Farm

1. Apologies for absence.

Present David Randon, Alison Randon, Pamela Pre, Robert Goodhand,
Chris Norman, Eleanor Norman

CN agreed to Chair the meeting and had prepared an agenda.

2. Financial Report given by PP

Current account £992.37. Savings account £1533.34

In hand £105 cheque receive from Tourist Information – book sales

About £450 still owed to CN

3. Membership Report PP

PP reported we had 45 paid members last year – report provided. – 18 people had joined so far this year.

4. Affiliation Report RG

RG produced a draft “affiliation list” in 3 sections. He had emailed to 70 email addresses notice of Thursday’s meeting – 20 of those were shared emails so 90 people in total. In addition he had sent slips by post to another 24 people where we held no email or mobile (to text). The committee reviewed a list of about 30 people who had had no communication and it was agreed all these were lapsed members unlikely to have any further interest in the Group. A third list of assumed lapsed members resurrected another 8.

Action RG to send slip by mail to these people asap.

Action RG to issue revised list plus updated Officer list

5. Outside Visits DR

DR had investigated possibilities, Tintinhull, Fairfield, Lydiard Park and Chavenage House – details attached Appendix A. These were discussed in detail. The recommendations were

Tintinhull – pursue for April – access by car share

Fairfield – pursue for May – access by car share

Action RG to produce sign up nominal interest sheet

Lydiard Park – pursue for June / July – coach trip

Chavenage House – pursue for Sep/Oct – coach trip

There was then discussion about a combined trip to Claverton Pumping Station and “Bath at Work” museum.

6. 2020 Programme CN

This was well advanced. Suggestion for talk by Ed Lorch as “taster” for visit.

Action CN to prepare ready for distribution Thursday

There was discussion on the presentation by Alan Mechen. His talk on items produced by members was impressive and informative. It was an option to repeat next year but the organisation and arrangements could be more deftly managed.

7. Made in Shepton

Chris Norman had researched printing this book as authorised at the 11th November meeting. Andy Smy, the local printer from Fosse Lane Estate was approached. The estimated cost was £20 per book which was not viable. He would have had to charge well into the twenty pounds which was obviously not viable. Other printers were approached. Henry Ling Ltd of Dorchester quoted £1120 for 100 copies. Booksellers advice was that a 40% margin was normal so marketing would have to be by the Group or TIC who agreed a £2 mark-up. The market could only stand £12.50 for a local history book. All advice recommended that an ISBN was essential should there be future potential.

CN ordered an initial run 100 to break-even and a 100 reprint 100 for £870 would then show a profit. However Henry Ling then advised they had misquoted but did hold to the original price. The reprint would now be £1604.

RG commended this was an excellent book which now had the status of a limited edition which increased its value. It was agreed that unless we found a sponsor/benefactor to bridge the £6 / book shortfall we couldn't pursue.

Action CN to brief meeting those that had purchased were now in possession of a collectors' item limited edition copy and if ever available for disposal to gift back to the Group.

8. Mid Somerset Show (aka Shepton Show)

The Show was due to move this year but as the redevelopment was still in planning there was no overwhelming reason. Ian Harvey seemed of a mind still to relocate.

There was discussion about the running of the Heritage Tent and how we might achieve a more coordinated approach from the various interested parties.

The meeting closed.