

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE MENPHYS HUB,  
SOUTH WIGSTON ON TUESDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2023 AT 7.15PM  
69 Members Were Present**

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Mike Bates, Liz Ward, Colin Hames, Peter Chimley, Shirley Moxey, John Stevenson, Neil Hancock, Rosemary Marshall.

**2. AGM MINUTES 2022 & MATTERS ARISING**

The Chairman informed the meeting that the minutes of the AGM 2022 had been circulated by email and letter to all the members, and asked for any comments, of which none were received.

Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Sheila Bolton, seconded by John Woodward.

**3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR 2022**

2022 has been a challenging year for us all with the return to a somewhat normal lifestyle after Covid-19. The Committee have worked extremely hard to return the Society activities to normal even though several changes had to be made, the main one being to the meeting venue. We did however have some issues, but I believe these have now been overcome.

Our Christmas event was a roaring success and although it was a drain on funds, we felt it was right to reward members with a free evening and at the same time fulfil Stella Tweeds request.

The Heritage Centre is growing in popularity as it becomes known across the borough. We have also worked hard to attract sponsors. Details of these can be found on our web site.

This is my final report as Chairman, and I would like to thank all committee members past and present for their support and dedication.

Thank you also to Linda and Margaret who are stepping down from the committee this year.

I would like to ask members to consider helping as committee members or volunteers at the Heritage Centre. Your help is needed.

Finally, we do know that that our Treasurer, Colin Towell, and our Secretary Ann Cousins, will be standing down in 2024. If you know of anyone who would like to fill either of these positions, please contact the Chairman.

**Mike Forryan**

#### **4. WEBMASTER'S REPORT**

The website continues to attract a regular flow of visitors, especially to certain areas of the site, and pages such as the fully indexed and updated Photograph Archive and the Documents section used by members looking at Wigston articles and transaction records which contain a wealth of historical information.

A newly updated speakers index of all of our meetings since 1981 has recently been added, and the full list of 2023 meetings and outings has been updated.

The Heritage Centre webpage is also well used, giving details of all of the centre's facilities, and the popular Thursday afternoon talks held at the Centre. The page also shows details of our sponsors, who provide very generous donations towards the running of the Centre.

Peter Cousins

#### **5. PUBLICATIONS REPORT**

During 2022 we published the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of Wigston Window on the Past. Thanks go to Steve Marquis for putting together and editing the 5 volumes, and to Ann Cousins and Linda Forryan for proofreading.

During the year at various meetings and the Heritage Centre we sold 49 of our historical DVDs and 136 printed publications.

Due to time constraints, we did not publish last year a Calendar for 2023, however Mike Forryan is currently putting together ideas for an edition for 2024.

**Peter Cousins**

#### **6. MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

Last year saw a return to our meetings in the College Hall at first but then from September to our new venue at the Menphys Hub in Bassett Street. Despite some continuing restrictions and concerns related to Covid, attendance at meetings averaged approximately 60 members. We also welcomed a total of 21 Visitors to our meetings through the year.

We had 26 new members join the Society and had a total of 12 resignations through the year for various reasons. Sadly, we have to report the deaths of 6 long standing Members – including our founder and President Duncan Lucas.

At the end of the year we had a membership of 182. 2023 has already brought about an additional 8 new members and a small number of resignations for a variety of reasons.

**Roger Whalley**

## 7. TREASURER'S REPORT

This is the report on the draft accounts for the year ending 31 December 2022.

Looking at general income and running costs, subscriptions and visitor's fees were more than double the previous year after the return to normal subscription rates from £5 charged in 2021 to £10 in 2022 for concessions which constitute the majority of the members.

On Bulletin and programme printing there was a substantial decrease in costs due to more members receiving their bulletins by email and because programmes are no longer printed. The recharge to the Framework Knitters increased in 2022 because all three editions were printed for them after only two editions in 2021. This all means that regular income for the year exceeded costs by about £560 whereas due to the pandemic in the previous year costs exceeded income by about £100.

The Christmas party in 2022 was a special event costing £821.65 whereas income was £340.00 (including sales of raffle tickets with thanks to Judith) meaning a cost in these accounts of £481.65 but the legacy received in 2020 in memory of Stella Tweed of £200.00 can be offset against this.

Visits this year produced a profit of £148 from which needs to be taken the cost of £50 paid in a previous year for the deposit for the Lamport Hall trip.

There were several new events this year many of which were arranged by Peter and the income from them totals £1223.60 as detailed in the extreme left column of figures. We also received a legacy from the relatives of Duncan Lucas in the sum of £705.00 and in a new scheme headed by Mike Forryan to attract sponsors, we received £1137.00.

There were 3 of the remaining calendars for 2022 sold early in the year with no cost.

As a result, the overall surplus for the year was £2362 which, after non cash adjustments, lead to bank balances increasing to £11,165.

These are draft accounts because they have not yet been examined by Garry Davies, but he has agreed to undertake this task and so once again, our thanks, go to him. The signed copy can be seen in due course if you wish. Garry is prepared to act again next year.

My own thanks go to Peter Cousins who has controlled the sales and postage where needed of DVDs, calendars, books and other sundry goods at the Heritage

Centre and by post, to Roger Whalley as membership secretary dealing with subscriptions and Mike Forryan for accounting for the sponsorships.

I present these draft accounts for your approval.

I have advised the committee that I will be standing down as Treasurer at the AGM next year after 15 years. (Took over in 2007)

Colin Towell

The Treasurer also informed us that Garry Davis will continue to audit the accounts when they are finalised.

Proposed by Peter Cousins

Seconded by Linda Forryan

## **8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE**

Chairman – a nomination was received for Peter Cousins to become Chairman, which he has agreed to take up the role for two years.

Proposed by Pat Poultney

Seconded by John Woodward

Vice Chairman – a nomination was received for Judith Proctor to become Vice Chairman.

Proposed by Alan Freckingham

Seconded by Linda Forryan

Mike Forryan proposed that the rest of the Committee be voted in en bloc:

Treasurer	Colin Towell
Secretary	Ann Cousins
Membership Secretary	Roger Whalley
Bulletin Editor	Steve Marquis
Heritage Centre Co-Ordinator	Joan Rowbottom
Committee Member	Neil Hancock

Proposed by John Woodward

Seconded by Stuart Mucklejohn

Following hand over from Mike Forryan, the new Chairman Peter Cousins proposed that Mike Forryan should be elected as our new President, the position being vacant following the passing away of Duncan Lucas.

This nomination proved very popular with the assembled membership, and Mike Forryan agreed to take on the role.

Proposed by Peter Smart

Seconded by Roger Whalley

## **9. SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2024**

Peter Cousins informed the members that due to the fact that the Wigston Academy were currently undertaking a review of all costs of water and power, and the rising costs of meeting speakers, that we could not yet fix a subscription rate for 2024/5. Therefore members will be informed when a decision is made.

## **10.A.O.B**

The Chairman reported that we have to alter our Constitution to include the following statement:

### **Data Security Declaration**

**The Greater Wigston Historical Society (GWHS) processes personal data in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations 2018. Personal data is used for the purpose of maintaining an accurate membership record, to allow us to contact you in respect of membership matters, events and publications.**

**We may, where necessary, share your data with our affiliated organisation 'Wigston Framework Knitters Museum' (WFWKM) This is to avoid duplication of membership matters and to provide you with information concerning the activities and joint ventures of both organisations.**

Proposed by Colin Towell

Seconded by Stuart Mucklejohn

A comment was made regarding the sound system used at the meetings due to several members having hearing difficulties, with the sound being distorted and not clear. A suggestion was made that we look at the possibility of a hearing loop, which we were informed are good for older hearing aids but not newer technology. The committee will look at this problem.

**The meeting closed at 7.45pm and was followed by Peter Cousins' talk on Wigston Street With A Long History, which he kindly gave free of charge.**