

**THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**Thursday 11th April 2013 at 7.15 p.m. in Harpenden House Hotel**  
**MINUTES**

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**1. President's Address**

The President, Alison Steer, welcomed everyone to the AGM.

**2. Apologies for absence**

Councillors Teresa Heritage & Bernard Lloyd,

Members Ian & Rachel Brooke, Mike Peters, Linda Haynes

Committee Members, Arnold Allen, Steve Gledhill & Vicky Evans.

**3. Minutes of the AGM of the 29<sup>th</sup> March 2012.**

The minutes of the 2012 AGM were approved with no matters arising.

**4. Chairman's Annual Report**

The Chairman, Chris Marsden, welcomed everyone to the AGM.

The Chairman stated that a full version of The Society's Annual Report had been distributed before the meeting with the Spring 2013 edition of the Newsletter and also had been on the website for the past month or so.

The Chairman reported that The Society has had a good year. A number of exciting projects are underway and The Society is looking forward with enthusiasm to taking them forward in the coming year. He reported that he was pleased that this meeting has given the opportunity to so many of The Society's members and others to talk to us about what we are doing and for the meeting formally to have given its unanimous support for the continuation of our work.

The Chairman formally thanked committee members Ron Taylor and Eric Midwinter for their hard work in arranging the new format AGM.

Alan Bunting, a member of the Harpenden Local History Society, informed the meeting that the History Society had recently published two Town Trails of Harpenden which he had available for members who wished to receive a copy.

**5. Treasurer's Report:**

The Treasurer's Report, copies of which had been provided throughout the hall, was presented by the Chairman. The Society's reserves currently exceed £9,000. The Chairman reported that this year there had been two large items of expenditure. £1,500 had been contributed to the Town's Jubilee Statues and the printing & distribution costs of the newsletter, one issue of which had a very large circulation, incurred over £2,000 in expenditure.

The Chairman confirmed that The Society's finances are in sound shape.

Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Ken Jenkins and seconded by Richard Thomas.

Acceptance of the Treasurer's report was agreed unanimously by the meeting.

The Chairman thanked Norman Powesland, who is retiring as The Society's auditor, for auditing the accounts for so many years.

A question from the floor asked if the Society was considering raising the annual subscription fee from £5. The Chairman confirmed that this was being considered.

## **6. Election of Officers & Committee Members**

The President referred to the nominations for the Officers and Committee members listed in the agenda, copies of which had been provided throughout the hall, and stated that nominees were all willing to stand as stated.

### **Chairman**

The President stated that the Chairman had expressed a willingness to continue for a further year.

The election of the Chairman was approved by the meeting.

### **Officers**

The President stated that the following officers had expressed a willingness to continue for a further year.

Vice Chairman                      Richard Thomas

Secretary                              Bob Fletcher

Treasurer                              Arnold Allen

The election of the Officers was approved by the meeting.

### **Committee members**

The President stated that the following committee members had expressed a willingness to continue for a further year.

Penny Ayres, Michael Waddilove, John Davis, Eric Midwinter, Barbara Ouston, Anthony Steele, Vicky Evans, Alan Jackson, Steve Gledhill, Tim Riley, Ron Taylor, Don Robertson.

The election of the Committee Members was approved by the meeting.

## **7. School's Competition**

The outcome of The Harpenden Society Primary Schools Competition was announced by Eric Midwinter

The theme had been 'Why I like Harpenden', an attempt to persuade children to take an interest in their local area. The winning exhibits were on show at the event.

Eric Midwinter reported that The Society was delighted with the response. Eleven of the town's thirteen primary school had entered, with one or two schools using the competition as their half-term project. It was estimated that there had been as many as 2,000 entries. Many schools had organised their own exhibitions and displays internally before forwarding their best entries to The Society. There were three age group divisions and entries were welcomed in five categories; art, photography, creative writing, drama and music.

There were some fine group entries as well as individual entries. Every single child who entered will receive a certificate, while the expert panel of judges made 42 awards, including some special judges' awards. Every school won some awards – and every school has been given – with the help of a generous discount from the company – a W.H.Smith and Son token. Three telephone prizes have been kindly donated by fonehouse of Harpenden which will go to the three schools which produced the most entries

Three teachers from Grove Juniors received the awards for Grove School.

Greatly encouraged, The Society plans to repeat the exercise each year.

## **8. Society Awards**

Anthony Steele announced the results of the 2012 Society Awards.

He stated that 30 nominations had been received covering 12 projects.

The results were:

**Letter of Commendation** – Strada restaurant ( the new Strada restaurant in Amenbury Lane facing Leyton Green is significantly better looking than the old engineering factory, which was just a brick wall with a couple of doors; and therefore deserves a letter).

**Certificate of Merit** – Jubilee Arch, Thompson’s Close.

**Certificate of Merit** – The three Jubilee Memorials (designed by Roy Bentley and Phoebe C - a pupil at Grove school and manufactured by Richard Sweetland).

**Certificate of Merit** – Pine Court in Carlton Road, financed by Mencap (a good example of modern architecture).

**Plaque** – the Foresters development in Bowers Parade (a significant improvement of this part of Harpenden).

Alan Millard thanked The Society for the award to Pine Court saying that it filled a long time need for such accommodation in Harpenden.

#### 9. **Membership Drive**

Ron Taylor announced The Society’s membership drive.

He reported that any member who recommends a new member will be entered into a prize draw for dinner for two at The Harpenden House Hotel. The new members will also be entered into a prize draw for a similar prize.

#### 10. **Any Other Business**

There was no other business

#### 11. **Dates of the next AGM**

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2014.

#### 12. The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the formal part of the meeting at 9.00 p.m.