

**BERKSWELL & DISTRICT HISTORY GROUP**  
**AGM - Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2018**  
**Commencing 2.15pm in Balsall Common Village Hall**

**Committee:** Glyn Price, Eric Cooper, Dave Felthouse, Stephen Gill, Jackie Tomnie & Peter Whalley.

**Members:** Sheila Bates, Janet Bloor, Jean Cooper, Alan & Marjie Douglas, Helen Essex, Angela & Keith Hooper, Ted Inett (Late on), Marion Keeley, Cedric Lea, Barbara Mason, Jill Nightingale, Joe Poole, Barbara Price, David & Peggy Sargent, Anita Smith, June Smitten, Tony Sweatman, Sandra Tandy, Jackie Tomnie, Kathleen Wilkinson, Betty Woodward.

**1. Apologies:** Innes Brett, David & Pam Deanshaw, Connie & Ivor Fell, Nancy Felthouse, Kirsty Hooper, Judy Lea, Lynda Moore, Chris Philp, Robert Smitten, Anne Snelson, Maureen Sweatman, Jean & Terry Wood.

**2. Minutes of 2017 AGM.**

Though the minutes had been ratified by the Trustees; with the cancellation of the December meeting, it had not been possible to circulate them to all members, therefore, the chairman read out the major items. The minutes were accepted as a true record: proposed by Joe Poole and seconded by Betty Woodward.

**3. Chairman's Report on 2017.**

Glyn reported on another busy year, with nine speaker meetings; unfortunately, the Christmas social had to be cancelled, due to the poor weather conditions. Besides thanking the other Trustees and the custodians of the two meeting venues, he paid special tribute to Tony Sweatman, who is standing down, after more than ten years, from managing the Group's communications and website, which he also set up.

Though, they will still be involved in the Group's activities, Glyn announced that he and Barbara are stepping back from their monthly commitments; a copy of his report is attached.

**4. Treasurer's Report.**

Eric reported that the accounts were similar to the previous year with a small loss for the year of £5.05. Though income from membership subs was down by £45, the increase in attendance subs raised an additional £229. As forecast, at last year's AGM, major costs for the year were for web hosting and the purchase of software for website maintenance. The accounts were adopted: proposed by Sheila Bates and seconded by Sandra Tandy. Copy of accounts attached

**5. Membership Report.**

Eric reported that membership had declined to 47.

**6. Election of Trustees and Officers for 2018:**

The current committee members were willing to stand and were re-elected en bloc; proposed by Anita Smith and seconded by June Smitten.

New member Helen Essex has volunteered to organise future meetings and was formally elected: proposed by Glyn Price and seconded by Dave Felthouse.

Marion Keeley was also elected: proposed by Dave Felthouse and seconded by Glyn Price.

**7. The Future of the History Group**

Glyn asked Helen to outline her thoughts on how to take the History Group forward, during 2018. Helen explained that she had attended a number of talks, during 2017, which she had thoroughly enjoyed and was disappointed to hear the news that there was no programme for 2018. Believing that once something stops it is difficult to

restart it, she has volunteered to organise meetings for 2018. She proposed that these be on a bi-monthly basis and has booked provisionally, speakers for the relevant five months. Her husband has volunteered to help with setting up the room, but the continuation of the programme depends on other members volunteering to help with setting up/clearing down; collecting money; helping with refreshments. Helen circulated a list to enable members to volunteer for the three activities.

The provisional programme is attached to these minutes.

Jackie Tomnie asked members to think about the desirability of a coach trip and if interested to suggest possible destinations. The over-riding difficulty is the cost of a coach; a full 49-seater costs £10 per head; 25-seaters are not much cheaper. Feedback to be taken at the February meeting.

Glyn announced that, after the success of our Open Day, last year, the Trustees have decided to hold another one on Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> March, in the Jubilee Centre. Further details will be circulated nearer the time; admission will be free.

#### **8. Subscriptions and Meeting Fees for 2018.**

The Trustees recommended that the annual subscription remains at £5, meeting fees for members remain at £3 and £4 for visitors; proposed by Cedric Lea and seconded by Jackie Tomnie.

#### **Other Business.**

On behalf of the members, Keith Hooper moved a vote of thanks for Glyn and Barbara for all their work in organising meetings.

#### **Conclusion.**

Following the AGM, refreshments were served by Barbara Price and her team.

Sufficient volunteers came forward to ensure that we can go ahead with Helen's programme for 2018.

#### **Presentations 2018**

**February 14<sup>th</sup>** 'A.T. Sidwell the Meriden Photographer' – talk by Doreen Agutter.

**April 11<sup>th</sup>** 'Postcards of Coventry' – talk by Colin Walker.

**June 13<sup>th</sup>** 'Seaside Resorts – their Development and Entertainment' – talk by Helen Larner.

**August 8<sup>th</sup>** 'Workhouse Children in Victorian Warwickshire' – talk by Rosemary Hall.

**October 10<sup>th</sup>** 'Brummagen Toy Makers' – talk by Helen Larner.

**December 12<sup>th</sup>** Members' Christmas Social.

Welcome Everyone.

During 2017 we held 9 speaker meetings, an open day in July and our AGM in January. Sadly we had to cancel our December social evening due to the snow & ice. We continue to provide details of our events through our own website, in the Communicator, the Bugle, the Meriden Mag, and both Parish Magazines as well as through our direct contacts.

Our membership is something over 50. As ever, we need new, younger members.

The Archive Centre is very important to us. Peter Whalley has continued the job of documenting the material in the Archive Centre, a catalogue of which is available on our website and is being updated progressively. Stephen Gill has also been closely involved in this and was a prime mover in the July open day. As you will hear later, we plan a similar open day later this year. So far, the continued future of the History Group Archive Room has received the verbal support of both Berkswell Charities and the Parish Council Chairman.

The electricity supply to the Archive Centre has to date come via the ex-Museum building and is paid for by Berkswell Charities. At some point this cost is likely to fall to the History Group

We continue to acquire more documents and photographs as members and others donate, loan or bequeath material of local interest. We would welcome more support both in generating this sort of material and in sorting & cataloguing the material we receive.

What do we mean by research activities? A member recently asked me what they could do. Some research is driven by the trustees, eg the census project and the war dead. But members do not need to wait for ideas from the trustees. If you want to explore a property, a group of properties, a person, an organisation, a company the please feel free to do so. We will try to help or advise where appropriate.

Dave Felthouse continues to be actively involved on the committee of the Bugle, the local Community Magazine. We believe that our features in the Bugle provide an interest to the community. His help, particularly with the donated photographs has been extremely useful. Dave also continues to look after our audio equipment for our meetings which is much appreciated. As well as the Bugle Dave also looks after the Communicator in which our events are

included. Dave has also recently taken on the task of looking after our website and e-mail system. Many thanks for all your efforts, Dave.

At this point I would like to record my personal thanks and the thanks of the trustees for all the work Tony Sweatman has done over the past decade or so. He established our website, was much involved in our publications in 2006 and 2007, as well as producing a number of video type presentations. Those lucky enough to see Moonlight Sonata on the Coventry Blitz and the more recent World War 1 Poppy event, amongst others will know what I mean. Many, many thanks, Tony.

The History Group continues to be a member of the Friends of Warwick County Record Office and the British Association for Local History (which provides our insurance cover).

No Group such as ours can survive without the hard work and commitment of key individuals. I would personally like to thank all our trustees. So, Kirsty, Jackie, Eric, Dave, Peter and Stephen – for all your time, effort, expertise and support during the year, my grateful thanks. My thanks also to Barbara and to everyone who has helped with the setting up the meeting rooms, cash collecting, clearing up the rooms and providing refreshments. All your efforts are very much appreciated, thank you. As ever, we can always do with more help please.

Our thanks also to the custodians of the Reading Room and Roy Aucott in particular and of this Village Hall, Jackie thank you, for their continued support and the use of their facilities.

As most of you will know, Barbara & I are stepping back from our monthly commitments. You will hear more about the future in due course. We have enjoyed this involvement tremendously but it is time to move on. Hopefully we will still be around and involved but without the monthly commitment. So, in conclusion, thanks to all of you, our members, for your friendship and support. Your continued support in the future is vital – we just need more of you!

Thank You.

GP January 2018.

**Balance Sheet**  
As of 31/12/17 (in Pounds)

Acct	31/12/'17 Balance	31/12/'16 Balance
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash and Bank Accounts		
Cash in Hand	0.00	0.00
HBOS Savings Account	0.00	0.00
HSBC Community Current Account	266.20	240.18
HSBC Community Savings Account	3,307.22	3,305.84
<b>TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts</b>	<b>3,573.42</b>	<b>3,546.02</b>
Other Assets		
- Sundry Debtors	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Other Assets</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>3,573.42</b>	<b>3,546.02</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>		
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
- Other Liabilities		
Cemex Archive Room Fund	856.10	856.10
Sundry Creditors	300.00	267.55
<b>Total Other Liabilities</b>	<b>1,156.10</b>	<b>1,123.65</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>1,156.10</b>	<b>1,123.65</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>	<b>2,417.32</b>	<b>2,422.37</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>3,573.42</b>	<b>3,546.02</b>

**Profit & Loss Comparison**  
01/01/17 Through 31/12/17 (in Pounds)

<b>Category Description</b>	<b>01/01/'17- 31/12/'17</b>	<b>01/01/'16- 31/12/'16</b>
<b>INCOME</b>		
Annual Subs	245.00	290.00
Meeting Subs	773.00	544.00
Book Sales	93.95	48.00
Donations	4.00	0.00
Interest Income	1.38	1.59
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<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>1,117.33</b>	<b>883.59</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Speakers' Fees	366.00	498.00
Room Hire	320.00	310.00
Refreshments	0.00	32.65
Insurance	75.00	65.00
Archival Costs	4.50	0.00
Computer	306.47	7.99
Postage & Packing	17.63	6.45
Stationery	6.78	0.00
Subscriptions	26.00	26.00
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<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>1,122.38</b>	<b>946.09</b>
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<b>TOTAL INCOME – EXPENSES</b>	<b>-5.05</b>	<b>-62.50</b>
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