



THE HERNE HILL SOCIETY

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 8 March 2017 at 7:45 pm at the United Church Hall, Herne Hill

1. Welcome: Colin Wight, outgoing Chair, welcomed all present to the 35th AGM of the Society. 44 people attended.

Apologies for absence: Sara Bristow, Julia Kirby Jones, Jeanne Reeve, Geoff Worley

2. Minutes of the 2016 AGM

The Chair reminded those attending that only paid-up members of the Society were eligible to vote. It was moved by **Jackie Plumridge** and seconded by **Annie Gelly** that the minutes of the 2016 AGM be adopted as circulated. The motion was carried.

3. Report of retiring Chair

Colin reported that it had been a good year for the Society, and proceeded to thank all those who had contributed to making it such a success:

Sophia Marsh had taken over from **Mike Richards** as magazine designer, and had continued his excellent work.

David Taylor had provided much general advice and had worked on the Herne Hill Neighbourhood Plan.

Bil Harrison had continued as the Society's Transport Correspondent.

Henry Ferguson looked after the audio-visual arrangements at the meetings.

Robert Holden had continued to maintain the Herne Hill noticeboards.

Colin also thanked everyone who had submitted articles for the magazine, and the History Group for their research into new titles. He also thanked the Planning Group, whose members examined all planning applications for SE24. Finally, he thanked all the other members who had helped out, from providing refreshments at meetings to delivering *Herne Hill* magazine. There were two Committee members who deserved special mention: **John Brunton** and **Rosalind Glover** had given many years' service to the Society, but had now decided not to stand again for the Committee. They were presented with a card of thanks and a bouquet of flowers.

Colin went on to summarise last year's activities. He felt that the Society had made good progress in a number of areas. Some of these were:

- The Society's first full-colour magazine
- *The Pubs of Dulwich and Herne Hill* book
- A series of articles in the *South London Press*
- New logo and letterhead
- Amended Constitution

- Oral History recordings on SoundCloud
- Job descriptions for Committee officers
- Reserves Policy drawn up
- Corporate Membership scheme relaunched

As well as the achievements listed above, the Committee had continued with its usual activities, including:

- Commenting on planning and licensing applications
- Online bookselling
- A programme of regular events

Colin advised that the Committee is always looking for ways to help improve the environment and was recently successful in obtaining funds for Southwark's Cleaner, Greener, Safer scheme to replace missing street trees and, thanks to **Rebecca Tee**, clean and maintain boundary markers. It is often said that Herne Hill is a very desirable place to live, but a visitor might not think so when arriving at the station. However, over the summer that is set to change with major improvements to the Commercial, the Rail Station, Network Rail's retail units, the Half Moon (opening on 20 March) and Pullen's restaurant. There is also a new Velodrome pavilion. There is even - at last - a scheme to refurbish Dorchester Court, the condition of which has been a concern for many years. Less uplifting was the news about the Carnegie Library. Although the Society had put together a well-argued case against GLL's plans, it had not been successful in changing the minds of Lambeth's Planning Committee.

Sadly, we had lost two valued members of the Society: the Honorary Life Member **Stephen Humphrey** and **Irene Kirby**, wife of our President Bill.

Finally, Colin advised that it was important to continue to interest younger people in the work of the Society. The Society's major campaign for the next 12 months will be a WWI project with the Charter School, which hopefully will result in a memorial to Herne Hill's many casualties.

4. Report of retiring Treasurer

Copies of the accounts were available for all. **Rosalind Glover** presented the Society's 2016 accounts. Income exceeded expenditure by £394.27. She advised that the Society's financial position was healthy. Income from subscriptions and donations was a little lower in 2016 than in 2015, but this does vary from year to year, depending on when annual subscriptions are received and paid into the bank. Income from the sale of publications was steady but we have more books in stock at the moment. This reduces the Profit on Publications. On the expenditure side, the increase in the cost of Hall Hire and stall fees is because the cost of hire of this hall for the second half of 2015 (£170.00) has been included in the 2016 accounts. The Society introduced a Small Grants Scheme. The projects we supported were Lambeth Local History month, Brockwell Lido Fun Palace and the People's Piano Appeal. There is more information about the Small Grants Scheme and how to apply on the Society's website. She thanked **Nick Vaisey** for checking and auditing the accounts. It was moved by **George Young**, seconded by **John Brunton**, that the report be adopted as read. The motion was approved.

5. Report of retiring Secretary

Jeffrey Doorn presented his report. He advised that in his role as Secretary he had undertaken various activities: preparing and circulating agendas, arranging rotas for the Society's stall at various events during the year, writing articles, reviews and listings for the quarterly Magazine and contributing generally to the work of the Society. His main task, however, was to organise the talks and presentations at the Society's monthly meetings and introduce the speakers. The Society had welcomed many excellent and entertaining speakers during the past year:

6. Report of the retiring Membership Secretary

Val Suebsaeng advised that the Society currently had 323 members, including 77 life members. Although 12 households had joined so far in 2017, thanks to a vigorous recruitment campaign nearly 100 still had to renew; several renewed at the meeting. She thanked all those who delivered the magazine, and also those who had recently participated in a recruitment drive. **Robert Holden** encouraged people to become life members.

7. Outgoing Committee retired

8. Election of new Committee 2017-18

Elections were conducted by the Society's Honorary President, **Bill Kirby**. He thanked John and Ros for all their work for the Society over the years. The new Committee members were nominated, seconded and elected by a show of hands:

Chair: Colin Wight

Vice-Chair: Laurence Marsh

Secretary: Jeffrey Doorn

Treasurer: Martyn Hall

Committee members elected were: **Michèle Arnal, Henry Ferguson, Elizabeth Ochagavia, Jackie Plumridge, Patrick Roberts and Valerie Suebsaeng.**

9. Any other business

Laurence advised that he had been involved in discussions about Herne Hill's Neighbourhood Plan, which **David Taylor** has been coordinating. The group had been discussing various areas of concern, two of which Laurence wished to bring to the Society's attention. The first was the proposed development at Dorchester Court. The second, which is more pressing, is the space near the Judith Kerr school, currently being used as a playground for the school. The Dulwich Estate wishes to use this space to build new almshouses, to house 14 people currently living in almshouses in the Village; the Estate believes that these are no longer fit for purpose. Anyone interested in commenting should visit the Southwark Council website under Planning Applications, and search for "62-68 Half Moon Lane".

End of AGM Business

Guest speaker: Dan Townsend

Colin welcomed Dan, Subject Leader for History at the Charter School, who spoke about his researches on the Great War. While teaching in Letchworth, Hertfordshire, he had co-founded the Herts at War project. He spoke about the involvement of Herne Hill's soldiers at the battle of the Somme, and suggested ways of researching this subject further: at the

Commonwealth Graves Commission, websites such as ancestry.co.uk, military records, and census records, as well as local newspapers, previous research done by local organisations, batallion diaries, and the National Archives. The aims of the Herne Hill Remembered Project are to publish a book, create an electronic resource and, finally, erect a War Memorial by November 2018. The achievement of these goals would require a lot of local involvement. Dan's enthusiasm for his subject and this project was contagious; hopefully many local people will wish to become involved.