

LETCHWORTH ARTS & LEISURE GROUP

Minutes of the 26th Annual General Meeting held at The Settlement on Tuesday 5th November 2013.

- 1. Apologies for Absence:** Linda & Malcolm King, Sheila Hogan, John Tomkins, Julie Bolter and Peter & Gill Moore.
- 2. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting:** These were accepted as a true record, proposed by Peter Groves and seconded by Geoff Smith.
- 3. Matters Arising:** There were no matters arising.
- 4. Chairman's Report:** William Armitage reported a record year with over 80 groups now running and holding over 1000 meetings between them over the last year. He highlighted some of the group successes during the year as the Wine Tasting, The Icknield Way Walk organised by Shirley Whitworth, The London Village Walks, the display of the 1911 Census by the History Group and the successful start of History 3. He thanked Kate Thompson for organising the sell out lecture about Richard III held at the Broadway Cinema. He also commented on the new venue for the Monday Members Meetings which is warmer and more comfortable than the previous one. He then thanked the many people who give their time and effort to keep LALG running smoothly mentioning the committee, the newsletter and website editors, Pat Sanderson and Bob Taylor who have run the newsletter distribution for the last 12 years and are now retiring, the "Stuffers" and the New Groups Team. He then moved on to the other organisations in Letchworth who support us including Prontaprint, the LGC Information Centre, The Hub and Letchworth Heritage who sponsored Richard III, David's Bookshop for the use of the building and bookings and The Art Centre which hosts 7 groups on a regular basis. On a sad note he reminded us of the death of Rob Hailstone earlier in the year. He organised the highly entertaining Celebration wine tasting at the last AGM. Jean Grimes, who has run History since the start of LALG is moving away and the group have formed a committee of 6 to replace her! He ended by making a formal vote of thanks to Pat Sanderson and Bob Taylor which was passed unanimously.
- 5. Treasurer's Report:** Jan Turner distributed a copy of the financial report for the year ending 31.08.13 showing an overall profit of £679.35 for the year. During the year £2000 was transferred from the Nationwide deposit account to the HSBC current account to ensure funds were available to cover essential expenses. Overall income came to £17,021.71 and overall expenditure was £16,342.36. Newsletter expenses were the major expense during the year in spite of some savings being made using discounted stamps. More changes are being made to the newsletter distribution next year. The membership for 2013-14 has been increased to £12 (£10 if your newsletter is an electronic copy)

6. Membership Secretary's Report: John Gregory reported membership to date is 20 more than the same time last year. Allowing renewals to start in the June newsletter has enabled the workload to be spread over a much longer period. At the point when members who have not renewed are dropped from the newsletter list 1082 members remained. 80 letters and 228 e-mail reminders have been sent resulting in 100 rejoining. At the end of August 1347 members had a printed newsletter of which 227 also receive an e-mail copy and a further 247 receive e-mail only and have a discounted membership of £10. 75% of the current members have given their e-mail addresses enabling information to be sent about trips, alterations to content of the newsletter, renewals etc. Membership location percentages are Letchworth 58%, Hitchin 21%, Baldock 9%, Stevenage 10% with the remaining 2% further afield. Membership fees were paid 37% in cash and the remainder in cheques. The committee are looking at using BACs payments in the future.

The membership team is made up of 4 people, Mady, Gail, Julie and John.

7. Election of the Committee: Kate Thompson took the floor to complete this task.

Post	Name	Proposed	Seconded
Chairman	William Armitage	Kate Thompson	Veronica Tomkins
Vice Chair	Ann Pegrum	Nigel Carrick	Diane Jury
Treasurer	Jan Turner	Joy Stroud	Sue Lines
Secretary	Glenda BD	Peter Groves	Marianne Linford
Membership	John Gregory	Tony Maynard-Smith	Joan Webb
Committee Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Jane Bird * Julie Bolter * Linda Castle * Grant Cameron Gwynneth Grimwood Sheila Hogan Sue Lines Marianne Linford * Maureen Strutt * Andrew Tether 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed en bloc by Kate Thompson Seconded by Joy Stroud 	
	* denotes a new committee member		

8. AOB: Uschi Groves asked for confirmation of the financial year ending on 31st August. This was given by Jan Turner.

The meeting was declared closed at 8.10 pm.