



Minutes of AGM 25th April 2022

Hilary Atkinson opened the meeting at 19.45 and welcomed all present.

1) Apologies

There were no apologies for absence

2) Minutes of AGM 2021

These minutes which covered the years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 because of Covid restrictions in place at the time were submitted for approval.

They were adopted as a true and fair record

Proposed - Christine Julier

Seconded - Louise Thistleton

Passed unanimously

3) Matters Arising

None

4) Presentation of Officers' Reports

Chairman

The chairman was pleased to report that despite a very challenging environment the Society has emerged safely from the various lockdown episodes. There are currently 115 members and there has been an average attendance of 73 members at each meeting during the year and a total of 61 visitors, both well up on expectations. She was now looking for a new record membership for the coming year and appealed to all members present to introduce over thirty new members.

The new President, Mark Whittaker, was unable to be present because of a recent operation so she read out a report on his behalf, thanking people for his appointment and looking forward to working with the committee in the coming year.

The Chairman went on to describe how both the website and the newsletter had been expanded because of the other restrictions in place and these had been welcomed by a great number of members. Much of the credit was due to Martin Cruickshank for the website and David Burridge for the newsletter.

The Archives Group meet regularly each week to both catalogue and research but the current priority is putting together an exhibition to commemorate the centenary of the dedication of Memorial Park. This will be held from 22nd - 30th July in the library in conjunction with other events.

Finally, she encouraged anyone who was interested to join the committee as a constant infusion of new blood was always welcome.

Treasurer

Neil Derbyshire, the treasurer, had just tested positive for Covid and has been unable to complete the accounts in time for the meeting. However, prior to becoming ill, he had met with Dale Spencer, the Independent Examiner, in order to discuss the accounts. The summary news from their meeting is that income has exceeded expenditure, unlike the previous year.

As soon as the accounts are complete, they will be uploaded, together with a report, onto the Society website. Members will then be asked to approve the accounts at the meeting in September. The Independent Examiner, who was present, assured the membership that delaying the accounts like this because of Covid was quite common at present.

Visits

Judith Wilshaw described how the onset of the Covid restrictions had put the programme of visits 'on hold.' It was restarted experimentally in October 2021 with a walk around Stockport tracing the town's history. This was popular to the extent that a second walk had to be arranged soon after for those unable to make the first date.

In March 2022 a follow-up to Andrew Simcock's talk about the Mrs Pankhurst statue was arranged, led by Jonathan Schofield, who also included many other pioneering women in the walk.

Whilst Covid is still a factor we will only be arranging outings at relatively short notice.

5) Election of Committee

The following committee members expressed their willingness to stand for re-election:

Hilary Atkinson	Ruth Hargreaves
David Burridge	Louise Thistleton
Jackie Collins	Karen Wellings
Martin Cruickshank	Mark Whittaker
Neil Derbyshire	Judith Wilshaw

As there were no other nominations the names were put forward en bloc for appointment,

Proposed - Brenda Reid
Seconded - Jackie Collins
Passed unanimously

6) Election of Independent Examiner

Dale Spencer has agreed to carry out this role.

Proposed - Judith Wilshaw
Seconded - Christine Julier

7) AOB

In the absence of Any Other Business the meeting was declared closed at 7.56.