

AGM held via Zoom, 25/02/2021 , 11am

1 Welcome and apologies

Martin welcomed everyone to our first ever Zoom meeting , a new experience for many

Apologies for absence were received from :

Gloria and Brian Miles, Maureen Buckley, Kate and Grant Sangster, Jeannie Clarke, Lyn and Ken Chamberlin, Diane and Keith Mousdale, Vinny Galloway, Louise Tamblin and Geoff Cornwall.

2 Matters arising from last year's minutes ;

There were no matters arising, therefore the minutes were unanimously adopted by those present.

3 President's report

The President reflected on the effect of Covid19 on our activities.

Whilst the majority were shut down there had been a couple of walks early in the year.

The History Group held a meeting early in the year.

We thoroughly enjoyed a barbecue even though it took place on the wettest day of the summer.

Other activities included the wine and dine club and the library meeting once or twice.

At the instigation of Steve Marshall GT adopted the use of Zoom enabling the photographic group to meet and the Hainsford's did the same for the reading circle and online quizzes

The President thanked the retiring members of the committee for their service: Carol Andrews as secretary and John Chard as Southern co-ordinator. Ken and Lyn Chamberlin were thanked for their service until just before Christmas when they had to give up the newsletter editorship through ill health. Annette Green very kindly took over.

The various organisers of activities were thanked as were the web site organizer, Andy Walmsley, and the auditor, Helen Green.

4 Treasurer's report

John Chard queried the change, partway through the accounts , of the format for the date from English to American, A computer glitch was to blame

The accounts as presented were unanimously adopted by those present .

5 Election of Officers

There were two posts vacant - Secretary and Southern co-ordinator,

Secretary; Michelle Hansford proposed by Martin Hughes and seconded by Lesley Ritchie

Southern Co-ordinator ; Jeannie Clarke proposed by Annette Green and seconded by Julia Murray

Both elected unanimously

The remaining members of the committee were re-elected as per the Constitution

Therefore the officers for 2021 are as follows

President , Martin Hughes .

Secretary, Michelle Hansford.

Treasurer Eric Hansford.

Northern Co-ordinator, Louise Tamblin.

Southern Co-ordinator, Jeannie Clarke.

Membership secretary , Julia Murray.

Newsletter editor , Annette Green.

As Eric is treasurer Michele felt that as secretary she should not be a signatory on the cheques so as to avoid two signatories in the same family. Carol Andrews (retiring secretary) who is on all the paperwork with the bank etc., volunteered to remain as the 3rd signatory.

This was approved by the meeting.

6 Appointment of auditor

Helen Green, who has the necessary experience, was appointed by the committee, and duly confirmed as auditor for the 2020 accounts .

The future strategy for auditing the accounts has been discussed by the committee and it was decided that we do not have the funds to pay for external audit.

It also has proved difficult to find a volunteer as external auditor.

Therefore it is proposed that the auditor can be appointed from within the association as long as they have no financial involvement [other than the annual subscription] and are not related in any way to a committee member, therefore remaining independent/impartial.

The meeting endorsed the proposal that is set to be a long term precedent.

Jackie Lockett asked how one applied for the post should it become vacant and Andrea Cornwall was it for a fixed term. This will be discussed at a later date in committee, but if the post becomes vacant it was decided that this information can be shared in the newsletter.

It was agreed that the appointment of auditor be a committee proposal to be ratified at the AGM..

Martin proposed that the auditor for the current financial year be Bradley Warden, a recently retired member who has a long financial background during his working life, Bradley is happy to accept the post.

7 Membership fees,

In view of the Covid restrictions there having been few events to attend the fees for 2021 will be waived.

The fees for 2022 will be 10 euros family membership and 7 euros single membership,

It had also been decided in committee that we would no longer offer the postal option of the newsletter in view of the costs incurred.

The meeting agreed both year's fees.

8 Zoom

Steve Marshall has been holding the GT licence , being reimbursed from funds. It was agreed that this would continue, as at present, on a monthly basis. It is hoped that in the not too distant future we will be able to once again meet " face to face"

Steve reiterated that the GT Zoom account was available for all members to use for group meetings. He volunteered to provide training and advice for users and would maintain a bookings diary.

9 AOB

Alan Peel commented that the history group have only had one meeting during the past year, but Zoom is available to them should they wish to meet interactively, Steve to give help and guidance as above. Jonathan Townsend said however he thought that the HG, was very much a social occasion and hoped that if Zoom was used that the group could come up with something " exciting " .

After discussion it was decided that going forward we should not insist that people attending any GT functions or activities be vaccinated against the Covid virus as that could be seen to infringe on civil liberties and that it should be left to individuals as to whether they attended or not .

Martin thanked everyone for their attendance and Steve for hosting the meeting .

The meeting closed at 12.05