

Leamington History Group

10th Annual General Meeting,

Dormer Conference Centre,

Monday 22nd January 2018 at 7.30 pm, chaired by
Cllr Caroline Evetts, Mayor of Royal Leamington Spa

UNCONFIRMED Minutes

Welcome. The Chairman welcomed the Mayor of Royal Leamington Spa, Cllr Caroline Evetts, who had kindly agreed to chair the AGM.

The Mayor thanked the chairman for the Invitation and said she was pleased to be present at the Tenth Anniversary of the founding of the Group. She thanked the group for organising and leading the Mayor's Walk which raised £550 for charity. It is intended to arrange another walk before the Mayor's term of office ends.

1. **Apologies:** Nigel Briggs, Mark Ryan, John Redshaw, Helen and Malcolm Pendery, Frank James. Alan Griffin, Simon Yarwood, Maggie McGreevy and Gill and Robert Starkey.
2. **Minutes** of the Annual General Meeting, 23 January 2017. These were agreed as a correct record.
3. **Matters Arising** from the Minutes.
A question about the future of the archives of the Group was dealt with later in the meeting.
4. **Officers' Reports** for 2017:
Chairman. Barry Franklin introduced his written report. He said that there were 18 members when the Group began and ten years later there are 117 members. It has been a very successful venture with an excellent programme and list of achievements. He had been very involved in arranging for a memorial for those who died in bombing of the town in WW2 and was pleased that it was unveiled in November. He was pleased to report on the involvement of the Group in current research on iron-founders and 100 buildings in the town and expected publications in the coming year. Barry thanked all the officers, Margaret Rushton, Terry Gardner, Michael Pearson for their hard work.
Treasurer. Terry Gardner introduced his report and explained the intricacies of the income and expenditure. This included accounting for the donations for the memorial for those killed by bombs in the town in WW2. He explained delays in receiving Gift Aid. There was no proposal to increase subscriptions; these had been £10 from the start. He thanked Ian McCutcheon for his assistance.
Terry proposed that the Group should donate £50 to the Mayor's Fund and this was agreed.
The Secretary said that Norman Pratt had agreed to be Auditor of our accounts.
Secretary. Margaret Rushton supported the chairman's report. She thanked Terry Gardner for being involved with running the Group in some capacity since 2008 and for becoming the first chairman. She also thanked Alan Griffin who organised the first AGM and had been chairman for some years. She recounted the pros and cons of various venues for meetings. Margaret

explained that the cost of hire of the St Peter's Hall was increasing with a substantial new charge of £30 per night for setting out and clearing chairs and tables.

5. **Election** of two Committee Members, following the resignation of Jo Clark and Tom Lewin.
There were no nominations.

5. **Amendment to the Constitution** to incorporate Honorary Membership of the Society. The amendments were agreed.
The Secretary informed the meeting that the Committee was proposing to award Life membership to Alan Griffin, Jo Clark and Mick Cullen and this was greeted with approval and applause.

7. **Update of Business Plan**
Michael Pearson outlined the purpose of the Business Plan which was being reconsidered by the Committee in three weeks. It was agreed to make the Plan available to members at the next meeting of the Group and to upload it and the revised Constitution on to the website.

8. **Any Other Business**
 - a) Archives. Jo Clark reminded members that the Committee had been considering the future of archives held by the Group for some time and wished to be updated. It was confirmed that this was on the agenda for a special meeting of the Committee in three weeks. Members expressed concern about the possible loss of historic documents and the difficulty of storage, reference to and control of these documents.
 - b) Volunteers. Member Liz Sheasby thanked all those members who kept the Group so much alive.
 - c) Microphones. A member referred to the difficulty of hearing speakers at some presentations. The chairman said that this would be discussed with all speakers.
 - d) Venue for Meetings. One member said that speaking from experience, despite the increase in charges, St Peter's Hall was good value for money.

The business meeting was followed by a presentation by Barry Franklin on the WW2 British Restaurants and kitchen in Leamington.

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The business meeting will be followed at approximately 8.15p.m. by a short presentation by Barry Franklin on the Leamington WW2 British Restaurants.

N.B. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting and Officers' Reports will be circulated prior to the meeting by email where possible.

Please bring your copies to the meeting. Some hard copies will be available on the night.

Agenda

Welcome by Cllr Evetts, in celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the founding of LHG

6. Apologies.
7. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, 23 January 2017.
8. Matters Arising from the Minutes.
4. Officers' Reports for 2017: Chairman
 Treasurer
 Secretary
5. Election of two Committee Members, following the resignation of Jo Clark and Tom Lewin.
6. Amendment to the Constitution to incorporate Honorary Membership of the Society
7. Update of Business Plan
8. Any Other Business

Margaret Rushton
Hon Secretary

Leamington History Group
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, held at
Dormer Conference Centre on
Monday 23rd January 2017 at 7.30 pm

The chairman of LHG, Barry Franklin, introduced Councillor Ann Morrison, Mayor of Royal Leamington Spa, who Chaired the Business Meeting.
Apologies: Mike Clarke, Mark Ryan, Chris Dee, Peter Chater, Tom Lewin, Margaret Watkins, Janet Alty and Jo Clark

1. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting on 25 January 2016 were agreed as a correct record.
2. Matters Arising from the Minutes. Robert Starkey commented that it could cause difficulties because subscriptions are agreed at AGM but standing orders were taken at the start of January. It was agreed to reconsider the position.
3. Officers' Reports for 2016. These reports had been circulated beforehand and were made available at the meeting.
 - a. Chairman. Barry Franklin presented his report. He thanked Margaret Rushton for organising meetings. Two new members joined last week. He thanked those who helped with the reminiscence project. The stone and plaque for the civilian war memorial, have been ordered by Robert Nash and the money raised will be handed over soon. Unveiling of the memorial will hopefully be in March; all relevant folk will be invited. The committee will probably consider the publication of a book in the next year or so. Thanks to Michael Pearson for organising walks including the Mayor's walk. Alan Griffin, Margaret Rushton and assistants were thanked for the calendar which sold out. The Group always needs more information and people to help.
 - b. Treasurer. Terry Gardner presented his report. Good news was that subscriptions are kept at £10; 30 members pay by standing order. The Civilian War Memorial will cost just under £1,000. Nearly 250 calendars were sold. Thanks to Ian McCutcheon & Terry for compiling the accounts.
 - c. Secretary. Margaret Rushton presented her report. She said it had been another successful year thanks to the hard work of several people. The History Fair was successful despite setbacks. Thanks to Anthony Eden, hairdresser, for selling many calendars. Margaret Rushton asked for photos for the next calendar. The Newsletter and Website also need pictures but we need to be aware of copyright issues. Margaret thanked all committee members for their efforts and appealed again for people to help.
4. Election of Committee Members: All existing members were willing to stand except Jo Clark. There is one vacancy. All were present except Tom Lewin. All those prepared to stand were elected en bloc. There was a Vote of thanks to Jo Clark for being a member of the committee for many years
5. Any Other Business.
 - a. Barry Franklin introduced the Business Plan which had been circulated. It was agreed by the meeting. It was also agreed that the committee will report progress with the Plan next year.
 - b. Mick Jeffs is collecting information about every street in town and he will welcome contributions from all members.
 - c. The Group's Archive is looking for a new home.
 - d. There was a question about Blue plaques and how they were funded and involvement of Leamington Town Council. The idea of having information plaques on buildings was mentioned.
 - e. The Constitution was amended in line with committee recommendations. The changes related to the Business Plan, appointment of Project leaders, disqualification of any member if he/she misses 3 meetings and amendment to role of the vice chairman. Barry Franklin thanked the Mayor for chairing the business meeting and presented a small gift which had commemorated the end of the old Leamington Borough. The meeting was followed by a presentation by Barry Franklin about Miss Joan Parsons, Leamington Music Teacher and Aviation Pioneer.

Mick Jeffs

Minutes Secretary 24.01.17

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Leamington History Group Chairman's Report 2017

Once again we arrive at our AGM following another successful year of activities. It falls to me to thank all those who contributed to our success and to the hard working members of our committee and I would like to thank retired member Tom Lewin for his service.

1) Margaret Rushton for organising our meetings and talks which have been wide and varied this Year and for the hard work of organising the History Group's best 'History Day' yet.

2) Thanks to Terry Gardner and Ian McCutcheon our joint treasurers for their excellent work on our accounts and finances. I would also like to thank Terry for opening the Lodge every Tuesday morning for our weekly members' get together.

3) Michael Pearson our vice chairman for his excellent work organising our committee meetings and also for the big task of organising the annual free walks we carry out on behalf of Leamington Town Council and the volunteer guides. Michael and I enjoyed providing a walk and a talk for the Mayor's charity event and we are to do another one before the Mayor's term of office ends.

I was pleased that we finally installed the Bombing victims' memorial a week before Remembrance Day after a couple of years' hard work.

I would like to thank all those members who helped at our most successful History Day, and all those members who contribute to all our events.

The major highlight for me this year will be when we publish our book, "The History of Leamington Spa in 100 buildings".

Finally, I would like to thank the Mayor of Leamington Cllr Caroline Evetts for kindly officiating this evening.

Barry Franklin
Chairman

Leamington History Group Income and Expenditure Account 01.01.2017-31.12.2017

Cash at Bank 31.12.2016 £9,798.06

Income

Subs	£1,170.00
Visitors	47.50
Local History Day	150.00

Expenditure

Room Hire	-587.00
Speakers	-430.00
Printing	-195.00

Walks	374.00	Banners	-264.00
Books	299.48	WLHS/BALHS Subs	-91.00
Refreshments	801.61	Auditor's Fee	-50.00
Donation	11.00	War Memorial	-876.00
Calendars	885.00	Calendars	-468.00
Commission	5.00	Computer (Web) Support	-396.00
	<u>Total £3,743.59</u>	Misc.	-96.12
		Donation	-50.00
		Books	-67.50
		Printing (Local History Day)	-126.96
		<u>Total £-3698.28</u>	
		<u>Balance at Bank</u>	<u>£9,843.37</u>

Summary as at 31.12.2017

Balance at Bank	£9,843.37
Petty cash	50.39
	£9,893.76
Payments Pending:	
Room Hire, December	-42.00
<u>Total Funds Available</u>	<u>£9,851.76</u>
War Memorial Fund	-123.30 *
*Ring-fenced for Wreaths	
<u>Total LHG Funds</u>	<u>£9,728.46</u>

Terry Gardner Hon Treasurer
Ian McCutcheon, Asst Treasurer

Leamington History Group Annual General Meeting 2018 Secretary's Report

Yet again I am happy to report a further successful year, and although in terms of numbers, Leamington History Group goes from strength to strength, we now no longer see some familiar faces. My band of willing volunteers continues to support LHG in ventures such as the compilation of the Calendar, stewarding South Lodge on open days, and of course, the

annual Local History Day at the Parish Church in September. This year was the best ever in attendance figures and support.

Our next 'Day' is booked for 22 September, and South Lodge is booked for the first of the two Heritage Open Weekends. Please come and give us half an hour of your time.

Michael Pearson, too had a tremendous year with the Town Walks. Organised in conjunction with Leamington Council, the walks run from mid-June to mid-September, and thanks to the volunteer guides and the themed walks they have developed to cover different aspects of the town's history, they now attract visitors from the all over the Midlands, and farther afield. They are to be congratulated on their PR efforts on behalf of the town.

Mick Jeffs continues to do an excellent job managing the website, and additionally, in 2017, began the mammoth task of co-ordinating a team to compile a History of Leamington in 100 Buildings, whilst taking part in a joint research project with Warwickshire Industrial Archaeology Society (WIAS) on Ironfounders in 19th Century Leamington. Both projects are due for publication in the Spring.

LHG members achieved a 'first' in researching and promoting the appeal to set up a memorial to Leamington's WW2 Civilian War Dead. We were all delighted to see its inauguration the week before Remembrance Day.

As ever, I would like to thank my fellow committee members for their support, and all our volunteers. Anthony Eden Hairdressers in Clarendon Street again deserves special mention: he and his staff remain our best 'Calendar' salesmen.

Margaret Rushton,
Hon Secretary
