



HARPENDEN AND DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

**Eric Morecambe Centre
Rothamsted Park
Harpenden
Herts. AL5 2FR**

www.harpenden-history.org.uk

10 November 2023

Dear Member

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

I hope that you will come to the AGM on Tuesday, 28 November 2023 at 8pm in the Eric Morecambe Centre. This is my first AGM as Chairman, and I am looking forward to beginning a conversation with members – more on that below.

Notice of AGM, etc.

This letter is accompanied on the website by:

- Formal notice of the AGM;
- The Trustees' Report and Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 December 2022; and
- The text of the Constitution as proposed to be altered.

If you are receiving this by post or by hand, the first two items are enclosed.

Commentary on AGM business

As you will see from the notice of AGM:

- The Report and Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 December 2022 are presented for approval. As it may seem odd to be approving these 10 months after the year end, we propose next year to bring the approval for 2023 forward to earlier in the year.

- Several Trustees retire under the Constitution and their names are put forward for re-election by the Members. They are:
 - John Bristow has served as a Trustee and Treasurer since incorporation in 2019 and previously as Trustee and Treasurer of the predecessor charity;
 - John Wassell has served as a Trustee since incorporation in 2019 and previously as Trustee of the predecessor charity. He is the Newsletter Editor and Acting Membership Secretary;
 - I was appointed a Trustee on 4 July 2023, Chairman on 23 September 2023 and Acting Secretary on 10 October 2023; and
 - Jeff Phillips is Chairman of the Harpenden Society and was appointed a Trustee on 23 September 2023.

Trustees remaining in office without re-election are: Christine Bristow, David Keen, Gavin Ross and Rosemary Ross.

- Whilst we had hoped to propose an extensive overhaul of the Constitution, this is delayed owing to delay in obtaining the prior approval of the Charity Commission to certain aspects and, in any event, the Commission has very recently produced a new template. Accordingly, certain limited changes are proposed at the present time:
 - the name of the Society be changed by changing “and” to “&” – this enables us to standardise our publicity on the more elegant ampersand;
 - Clause 9(1)(a) is amended by deletion of the certain words, which whilst merited in some charities are of little utility in our case and cause burdensome bureaucracy;
 - Clause 9(5) is amended by addition of the facility to admit members without payment of a membership fee. This could be in the case of honorary office holders or for technical reasons where the status of member is desired;
 - The current text of Clause 11(3)(c)(iv) requires, where a change to the Constitution is proposed, the text of the change to be sent to members. This is not a problem for those with e-mail addresses who are directed to the website, but where the changes are extensive could be disproportionately expensive in printing (and postage) costs in the case of members who receive notice of AGMs by post (or by hand). The change removes the requirement. All members will continue to receive the notice of meeting itself. We will continue to send the change in hard copy form to any member who so requests in writing”;
 - In Clause 12(3)(b) the maximum number of Trustees is to be increased from 12 to 15 in order to increase flexibility;
 - Clause 28(4) is amended in accordance with an imminent change in the law and the recommendation of the Charity Commission; and
 - A new clause 31 is added to provide explicitly for the offices of Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, Honorary President and Patron and for children to become affiliated to the Society as Pioneers.

Please see next page

After the AGM

- I propose to share with members:
 - my vision for the Society; and
 - our plans for our Local History Community Event on Saturday, 20 April 2024:

Local History Community Event
Saturday, 20 April 2024
Eric Morecambe Centre, Rothamsted Park
Provisional times are 11.00am – 5.00pm.

With kind permission of the EMC, we will be utilising the entire EMC for the day as a Local History Community Event, to include marking the Society's 50th anniversary and the official opening of our new Museum.

The official opening will be conducted by Annie Brewster, designate High Sheriff of Hertfordshire.

We aim to include activities for adults and children. The public will be welcome. At this stage, all arrangements are subject to confirmation.

I will invite questions from members – on the organisation of the Society, rather than on subjects of historical interest.

- After the AGM *Lexi Diggins*, a local archaeologist, will give a short talk on “*A mausoleum near you!*”
- Refreshments will be provided and there will be an opportunity to socialise.

Conclusion

Whilst non-members are welcome to attend, £4 donation is requested, but only members are entitled to vote at the AGM.

I look forward to seeing you at the AGM. I am, of course, happy to hear from members, or indeed members of the public, at any time – contact details are below.

Yours,

Roger

Roger Butterworth

Chairman

chairman@harpenden-history.org.uk

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