

**Minutes of the THIRTY EIGHTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the BISHOP'S WALTHAM SOCIETY
held in the Church Hall, Free Street at 7.30pm on 16th February 2023**

Chairman Tony Kippenberger welcomed members to the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. He said as it was his last meeting as Chairman after 10 years in the role, he had pulled together a brief presentation outlining some of the things undertaken by the Society over that time. There were the well-known public facing events such as the monthly members' meetings (of which there had been 100 over the past 10 years), the Agincourt event in 2015, the Henry VIII commemoration in 2022 and the production and sponsorship of numerous publications including two editions of Alan Inder's "Changing Face of Bishop's Waltham" book. In addition, the Society carried out a lot of behind the scenes work such as reviewing planning applications, considering their impact and submitting detailed responses to WCC, preparing documents for members asking for opinion / giving guidance on important local issues such as the potential closure of the Recycling Centre and saving documents from the Austin & Wyatt offices.

Tony Kippenberger showed a slide detailing membership numbers over the past 10 years and although these had dropped during 2014/15/16, the number has since risen steadily to the point where we have around 350 members which he considers to be excellent. He thanked members for their tremendous support of the Society and was delighted to be able to say we were welcoming four new members this evening.

He then expressed his gratitude to all the Trustees he had worked with over the past 10 years and said it was their hard work and dedication to the Society which had made his time as Chairman so enjoyable.

APOLOGIES for absence were received from Sarah Hetherington and Diane & David McLean.

MINUTES of the 37th AGM having been circulated to members with the agenda; there were no comments so TK suggested that the minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record. Nominated by John Riches and seconded by Gareth Morgan.

MATTERS ARISING from the minutes: there were no matters arising.

ADOPTION OF THE TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR 2022 having been circulated to members with the agenda: Tony Kippenberger asked whether anyone had any comments but none were raised. The adoption of the Trustees' Report was proposed by Jeff Chandler and seconded by Penny Copeland.

ADOPTION OF FINANCIAL REPORT: The Treasurer, Keith Fry, said that 2022 had been an interesting year because of the Society's involvement with the Henry VIII event. It was felt that suppliers and sponsors would have more faith dealing with a bank account of a charity rather than an individual, so the Society had agreed that one of its accounts could be used. However, it turned out that this made things very complicated and it took a great deal of work by Keith and Paul Emmerson, the Society's examiner, to ensure that the accounts were resolved accurately. Keith and Paul are now confident that this is the case.

The accounts situation had also been complicated by the increase in subscriptions which came into effect on 1st January. Some people have not paid at all, some people have paid the old amount, some have paid the old amount and then topped this up with an additional payment and some have paid the correct amount. Keith urged members to please amend their standing orders to the correct amount. He confirmed that over the next month or so he would be contacting those members who have amounts outstanding.

He referred to the financial report and statement of account circulated with the Agenda and asked whether anyone had any comments, but none were raised.

KF thanked Paul Emmerson for his examination of the far from straightforward accounts, especially as this involved checking both the Society's accounts and those of the Henry VIII event.

The adoption of the financial report was proposed by Ray Crump and seconded by Mike Boyd.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Tony Kippenberger confirmed that as he is stepping down, Robin Shepherd has kindly agreed to become Chairman for a year. Members present were delighted at this news. Tony nominated Robin for the role, this was seconded by Anita Taylor and it was agreed nem con. Tony then stepped down from the Trustees' table and Robin

Shepherd chaired the remainder of the meeting. Robin confirmed that the role of Vice Chair remains vacant. Keith Fry has agreed to continue with the role of Treasurer – nominated by Tamsin Withers and seconded by Ian Leesmith. Eileen Rainey has agreed to continue with the role of Secretary – nominated by Keith Fry and seconded by Fred Woodfine. All motions were passed nem con.

ELECTION OF UP TO EIGHT TRUSTEES: Robin handed over to Eileen Rainey who confirmed that the Society's appeals had been successful and that we now had four new Trustees, three of whom were with us this evening. The new Trustees are Tamsin Withers – proposed by Anita Taylor and seconded by Sandra Boyd; Nigel Russell – proposed by Keith Fry and seconded by Tony Kippenberger; Steve Forrest – proposed by Robin Shepherd and seconded by Keith Fry and Sue Lowe – proposed by Anita Taylor and seconded by Sandra Boyd. Sandra Boyd and Mike Berry are prepared to remain as Trustees. All proposals passed nem con. Robin said he was sorry to lose both Fred Woodfine and Anita Taylor who were stepping down from their roles as Trustees at tonight's meeting, as well as Lindsay Edge who had stepped down in August as a result of a conflict of interest with her role on the Parish Council.

APPOINTMENT OF THE EXAMINER OF THE SOCIETY'S ACCOUNTS: Keith Fry thanked Paul Emmerson for his work on the accounts. He asked Paul if he is prepared to remain as examiner and Paul confirmed that he is.

HYPOTHECATION OF GIFT AID: Keith explained that each year, the Society receives an amount of money as a Gift Aid payment – this represents a refund by the Government of the tax paid by members on their subscriptions (it costs members nothing to sign up to Gift Aid). He reminded members that four years ago the Trustees had proposed that rather than this money simply going into the Society's general account, it should be used for donations to good causes. The members having agreed that proposal, we have each year since then paid the money to various local organisations. This year we have received approximately £400 in Gift Aid and the Trustees propose this money should go to the Meon Valley Food Bank. Members agreed so KF will arrange payment.

MEMBERS' FORUM – ANY OTHER BUSINESS: None raised.

CLOSING REMARKS BY CHAIRMAN: Robin said that he was delighted to take on the role of Chairman, although he is still currently Chairman of the Town Team which keeps him very busy! He intends to “keep a steady hand on the tiller” but stressed how lucky we are to have new Trustees who could not only take on some of the traditional tasks but who would also bring in new ideas and would help reinvigorate the Society. He plans to remain in the role for a year at which time it is hoped that one of the new Trustees would feel confident enough to take it on for a longer term.

Robin said the Town Team have just received a grant from Winchester City Council to set up a volunteering database and reminded members how important it is to have volunteers to do things for the people of Bishop's Waltham and that the community is really important.

Robin said he had a proposal to put to Tony Kippenberger which was to say the Trustees and members would be delighted if he would consider becoming President of the Society. Tony said he was flattered and would be delighted by this. This proposal was nominated by Ray Crump, seconded by John Riches and agreed nem con.

The meeting concluded with Robin making presentations on behalf of the Trustees and Society's members to Anita Taylor, Fred Woodfine and Tony Kippenberger to thank them for all their hard work and support over the many years they've been involved with the Society.

After the AGM members enjoyed cheese and wine and this was followed by a presentation by Dr Roy Stainton of Bishop's Waltham Museum Trust on “Lady Jane Grey – The First Queen Regnant of England”.