**AYLSHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**



**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Aylsham Local History Society**

**Thursday October 4th 2018**

**Apologies**

Received from Ros Calvert, John Cragg, Sue and Martyn Fox, Geoff Gale, Valerie Hills, Angela Lake, Joan Roulstone and Jeremy Worth

The **Minutes** of the 2017 AGM were signed as a true record. The Chairman asked how members felt about having refreshments before the winter lectures trialled this year. There was no dissent.

**Secretary’s Report**

I stepped in to the experienced shoes of Jim Pannell with trepidation. He did all the work for last Autumn’s lectures which included the entertaining and extremely informative Matt Champion giving the Afternoon Series entitled: *The Art and Archaeology of the Birth of England A.D.410 – 1066.*Matt always presents information in a way that you look forward to the next instalment (and makes you think you’ll remember it all!).

The evening lectures were well attended and the experiment with refreshments beforehand seems to have gone down well.

The annual dinner became a tea at The Dales Hotel right next door to Sheringham Park in the year of the Repton 200 celebrations. We were given a short talk by Rob Coleman from the National Trust at Sheringham. [The meeting was reminded about *Repton Revealed,* a light show at Sheringham early in November.]

This year’s option for socialising includes the chance to join us for Fish and Chips in Cromer as part of this years’ Autumn Course with the title of ‘Cromer’. There are three different speakers with different specialisms, Peter Stibbons (Poppyland publisher), Chris Branford (Retired Foundry Manager) and Alistair Murphy (Curator at Cromer Museum).

If you have any suggestions or comments for future talks or events, please use the slips provided.

**Treasurer’s Report**

The accounts reflect a flourishing society with a strong and increasing membership and in good financial shape. The various events and activities have been enthusiastically supported and carefully costed and you will see that this year we have an excess of income over expenditure of almost £400.

It should be noted that our brochure on *Aylsham Street Names* was sponsored and largely paid for by Broadland District Council.

The accounts are at present with Graeme Johnston, who very kindly checks them for us. They will be published in the Journal in due course.

I have enjoyed serving the Society as treasurer and am sorry that I cannot continue. I wish my successor well.

**Report on Newsletter, Journal and Publications**

The three parts of the Journal and Newsletter published this year start Volume 11 in our 33rd year of publication. Geoff Sadler has kindly trialled one part on the Society website, and now we know the pdf sent to the printer can be transposed we can do this as a regular feature for a wider community. I am most grateful for all the contributions and look forward to your continued support.

Sue Sharpe’s leaflet on the *People of Aylsham Through its Street Names* was printed by Barnwell Press in December 2017 generously supported by a grant from Broadland District Council. Sue added she was very grateful to people who had helped with the compilation. It was distributed to all the houses on the new estates and is available free from Barnwells and the Heritage Centre.

*A New History of Aylsham Public Houses*, edited by Maggie Vaughan-Lewis, based on the work of Elizabeth Gale with new research by William Vaughan-Lewis, goes to be printed at Barnwells next week. Geoff Gale has kindly passed on photos and other material he had from *Aylsham Inns and Public Houses a History* by Elizabeth Gale in 2001 and has been supportive of the new book to be published under the auspices of the Society. We have had a small group working with Maggie to help in small ways with the design and production over the last year.

We are grateful to Caroline Driscoll for marketing and restocking our current books. In the current year we sold 16 copies of *Sail and Storm*, 10 copies of *About Aylsham* and William Starlings *Memories of Aylsham* and 9 of *Millgate*, also a few of the others, raising £318. She has obtained very reasonable quotes for restocking *Memories of Aylsham and Millgate*. The story of Millgate has been revisited by Maggie and William Vaughan-Lewis in chapter eight of their *Hearths and Heaths: Dispersed Settlements in Aylsham’s Early Modern Landscape*, published last year and other more recent publications.

**Report on Visits**

We had two very successful visits this year. Annabelle Stretton-Derham made us very welcome to Earsham Hall on 18th April 2018 and guided us through a most interesting tour of the house and garden, ending with a sumptuous tea. On Friday 29 June we had a very memorable visit to the Castle Museum, where Dr Francesca Vanke gave us a wonderful insight into the Paston Treasure Exhibition that she had taken a large part in putting together.

An outing to Cromer is proposed for 18th October as part of the ALHS Autumn Term on Cromer, open to members even if not taking part in the course.

**Report on Membership**

The Chairman explained that Ros Calvert had very kindly agreed to take on the responsibility of membership secretary as well as that of Treasurer, but unfortunately could not attend the AGM this year.

**Election of Officers**

The Chairman explained that Lynda Wix was leaving Aylsham and asked, in vain, if anyone would be willing to take on the role of Minuting Secretary. He then noted that there had been no nominations for other positions and the Committee stood down for re-election as follows.

**Chair:** Geoff Sadler proposed by Victor Morgan

seconded by Sue Jay

**Vice chairman:** Roger Polhill proposed by Jim Pannell

seconded by Gillian Barwick

**Secretary**: Sue Sharpe proposed by Margaret Rowe

seconded by Diana Polhill

**Treasurer/ Membership Secretary**

Ros Calvert proposed by Geoff Sadler

Seconded by Jill Sheringham

Rest of the Committee en bloc proposed by Geoff Sadler

Seconded by Gillian Barwick

**Any other Business**

Members were reminded of the book launch of *Among the Wolves of Court The Untold Story of Thomas and George Boleyn* organised by the Book Hive in the Town Hall at 7 pm on 11 October.

Geoff Sadler reminded everyone of events organised by the Heritage Centre.