



Purley Literary Society:

AGM 20th March 2025 at Christ Church, Purley

Meeting opened at 7:40

Approximately 53 members including the committee were present .

1 Chairman's Introduction. Richard Walker welcomed members and visitors and hoped that they had enjoyed the season of talks.

2 Apologies for absence received from Jennifer Sturdy.

Richard also noted the sad passing of Dennis Newland, who had been a member for decades, and died shortly after his 100th birthday; and of Richard Shore, who recently lost his battle with cancer, and had been the Society's Independent Examiner for the last 5 years or so.

3 Minutes of last AGM 21 March 2024. Minutes which are on website, were unanimously approved by show of hands.

4 Accounts for 2024 -25 and Treasurer's report.

Details of the draft accounts were shown on the screen and had been available on the website. Bob Cherry reported that the finances are still in good shape. There is currently £ 3,023.05 in the METRO Business Account.

The main expenses are the cost of lecturers and hire of the hall for the meetings, offset principally by income in the form of fees from members and visitors.

Christ Church have indicated that there will be an increase of £5 per hour for next season due to increased heating costs, possibly offset by a 10% frequent hirer discount.

It has been agreed by the Committee the membership fee will remain unchanged at £25 for full season, £14 for the Spring season and visitors £6.

He thanked Sheila Pendray Banton for agreeing to be our new independent examiner, following the recent passing of Richard Shore.

Once finalised and verified, the accounts will be available on line at end by the end of the financial year.

The approval of accounts were proposed by Geoff Hunt, seconded by Gordon Porter, and unanimously approved by the members.

5 Reports

Membership.

Yvonne Walker reported that membership has remained stable since the change to Thursday meetings with 64 full members and 6 spring members, with a slight reduction in visitors to 56. Bad weather appears to have affected attendance.

Programme

Richard gave a brief list of the speakers and topics that he hoped would be engaged for the next season. These included:

Explorer Benedict Allen on exploring; ecologist Sam Thomas on Rewilding; Michael Withers on Mediaeval and renaissance instruments; Adam West or Piers Gough on Architecture at CZWG; the Wandle Industrial Museum on the Surrey Iron Railway; a talk on either Madagascar or the Five 'Stans of the Silk Road; Roger Packham from the Bourne Society on the Society (the largest local history group in Britain); David Allen on The Weird and Wonderful World of the Law; Linda Driffield on Kenley Aerodrome.

Other ideas for either speakers or subjects were welcomed.

6 Election of officers and committee members

Bob Cherry, Dawn Gibbons, Karl Harbour, Georgina Inwards, Dave Murray, Sarah Thomas, Richard and Yvonne Walker were all willing to serve for another year; and were re-elected unanimously by a show of hands.

7 Appointment of Independent Examiner

Member Shelia Pendray Banton has agreed to undertake this task and was duly appointed and thanked.

Proposed by Simon Little by Geoff Hunt and unanimously agreed by a show of hands.

8 Questions from the members.

A number of members spoke about good techniques for holding the roving microphone.

Mr Speed and Sarah Thomas thanked the Chairman and the committee for their work.

The meeting closed at. 7:55