



BERKSHIRE LOCAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION
Registered Charity 1097355
President: Joan Dils

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The 45th Annual General Meeting of the Berkshire Local History Association

Saturday, 25th March 2023
Marcham Village Hall

Those present: Joan Dils (President), Ted Collins (Vice President), David Cliffe (Chairman), Jo Alexander-Jones (Secretary), David Lewis (Treasurer), Ann Smith, Margaret Simons (committee members), and fifty-six other members.

Apologies: John Chapman, Dave Osborne and Jonathan Brown

1. Welcome by President Joan Dils, who thanked those attending and especially the members of the Marcham Society for their hospitality. She also noted with regret the passing of Elias Kupfermann, a long-standing member of the Association's Committee.
2. The 44th AGM minutes had been circulated to members in advance. The minutes were proposed by Vicki Chesterman and seconded by Margaret Simons.
3. There were no matters arising.
4. The report from the Treasurer had been provided to members in advance. David Lewis summarised the year; subscriptions at £1,518 are £113 lower than previously, but remain sufficient to cover the Association's running costs and no increase in the subscription rate is proposed for the foreseeable future. The Association's expenses at £1,792 were £639 greater than in 2021, owing to the delayed billing of the newsletter's printing costs and in 2022 an AGM was held costing £175, but there was no in-person AGM in 2021. Postage costs continue to increase and in 2022 they amounted to £354, owing to both higher postage rates and some buying forward of stamps, to lock-in postage rates in advance of a price increase. In total, expenses exceeded subscription income in 2022 by £274, but interest rates have started to increase, off-setting this outflow of funds by £20. The Association's unrestricted reserves remain sufficient to cover its continuing operations, standing at £4,972. The Association's restricted reserves, available to members to support either research activities or publication costs, stand at £3,239. One grant was made from these funds to support a publication made by the Berkshire Record Society, amounting to £913, of which £355 was repaid by the year end. The Association has total cash reserves of £8,211, held in the Charities Aid Foundation bank.

Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Catherine Sampson and seconded by Jo Alexander-Jones and unanimously accepted by the meeting.

5. Journal Editor's report had been provided to members in advance and was summarised. A request for more input to Berkshire Old and New was made.
6. Newsletter Editor's report had been provided to members in advance and was summarised.
7. Membership Secretary's report had been provided to members in advance and was summarised. Hurley History Society were welcomed as new members.
8. Web designer's report had been provided to members in advance and was summarised. Members were encouraged to submit their group's events and speaker details.
9. Chairman's report had been provided to members in advance and was summarised. The Association's partaking in the Berkshire Heritage Fair was highlighted, along with a further call for group's to provide information to the website, newsletter and journal. An early notice of planned events was given, including a series of guided walks, a film show and a community archives session. Mention was also given to the death of Elias Kupfermann and his role documenting Berkshire's history.
10. Election of the President: Joan Dils was proposed by Ted Collins, seconded by Vicki Chesterman and elected by the meeting.
11. Election of the Vice-President: Ted Collins was proposed by Ann Smith, seconded by David Lewis and elected by the meeting.
12. Election of Officers: David Cliffe as Chairman, Jo Alexander-Jones as Secretary and David Lewis as Treasurer was proposed by Sue Ellis, seconded by Catherine Sampson and elected by the meeting.
13. Election of Members of the Executive Committee: Jonathan Brown, John Chapman, Dave Osborne, Margaret Simons and Ann Smith were proposed by Peter Delaney, seconded by Catherine Sampson and elected by the meeting.
14. Election of the Honorary Examiner of Accounts: Clive Burgess was proposed as auditor by David Lewis, seconded by Sue Ellis and elected by the meeting.
15. Any Other Business: David Cliffe thanked the Marcham Society for their hospitality. He also informed the meeting that the next AGM was planned for 23rd March 2024 in Wargrave hosted by the Wargrave Local History Society.

Following the meeting, the Marcham Society gave an interesting talk on the history of the village and surrounding area, and after lunch they hosted a walk around the village to visit local buildings of interest.