

RH7 History Group

Chairman's Report 2020

The last time the RH7 History Group met, on Monday March 9th, there seemed to be so much to look forward to for the remainder of the year. We had four more talks lined up and the Committee and other providers were well on the way to completing their work for our exhibition; "Who Do You Think They Were – Local Lives Remembered", due to open on Sunday, 24th May. Then Covid intervened with its subsequent lockdown and social distancing limitations. We have lost three talks, so far, and the exhibition has been postponed to the end of May 2021. Hopefully, we will be able to start getting back to normal with our talk in November.

On a sad note the group has lost two stalwarts during the year: Felicity Pool and Doris Jenner. Felicity had been Honorary Secretary since 2012 and was vital to the smooth running of the Group, particularly in reminding me as to what I had forgotten to do. Her cheerfulness and eagerness to help will be greatly missed. Doris was Doris, cheery and uncomplaining despite her age and forever coming up with nuggets of information on the area's past.

You will find attached a copy of the Accounts as prepared by Mike Ellis and inspected by Mark Clayton. At the end of the year we had 103 members, down from 117 in the previous year. The Accounts show a healthy surplus of £407 mainly because we received £200 in grants towards the exhibition that was postponed and savings on speakers' fees due to the talks being cancelled. The bank balance is now a healthy £2,690 and we see no need to increase the rate of the subscription. The Committee did consider offering members a discount on membership for next year but the difficulty of doing this was pointed out as it would mean cancelling more than 70 standing orders, raising new ones for the coming year and then new ones again for the following year. Instead we are planning to hold a members only evening for the opening of the exhibition, complete with drinks and canapes. This is Mike's last set of accounts as he is standing down after 21 years as the Honorary Treasury, a role he has held since the inception of the Group. I am sure that you will want to join me in thanking him for his efforts and wise council over the years.

Normally at the AGM we elect the Group's Officers for the following year but, obviously, it is not possible to hold such elections this year. You may remember that at last year's AGM I disclosed that I had already exceeded the maximum tenure as Chairman per our Constitution but agreed to continue in the role as I had given an undertaking to lead us through the next exhibition. Given that the pandemic forced the postponement of the exhibition and made it difficult to sign up an acceptable successor, the Committee has approved my staying as Chairman for a further year. Alan Orbell temporarily undertook the role of Honorary Secretary over the last year following Felicity's illness and subsequent death. He has agreed to continue in this role for a further year after which I am willing to take over this role if the membership approves. As noted above Mike Ellis has retired as Honorary Treasury. We have yet to identify a successor due to lockdown restrictions, but I am hoping to get somebody on board next month. Sue Macdonald has agreed to continue as Talks Coordinator and Ian Jones and Margaret Ward have agreed to continue on the Committee.

I would now like to turn to the future of the Group. The membership has fallen over the last few years as has the number of members willing to serve on the Committee and as Officers of the Group. In the past the Lingfield Society and the Lingfield & District Amenity Society both closed because of the lack of volunteers to act as Officers or to be members of their Committees. I am sure that we all want to avoid the RH7 History Group suffering a similar fate. Therefore, I would like to ask members to encourage friends and acquaintances, particularly younger ones, to join the Group. I would also ask members to either volunteer to join the Committee and/or be Officers of the Group or encourage/recommend suitable individuals for these roles.

I thank you for your continued support and hope that next year we will be able to fulfil our complete programme of talks and hold our exhibition.

William Stevenson
Chairman
19th August 2020

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the RH7 History Group

Held at the Lingfield & Dormansland Community Centre

On Monday September 9th 2019

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. 27 members attended

1. Apologies for Absence; F Pool, A & G Orbell, K & A Stacey, R Russell, M & D Clayton, P Mulvey, T Stanford, D Jenner

2. Minutes of previous meeting and Matters Arising; there was a correction to the date of last year's AGM which was held on 10th September 2018. There were no other matters arising.

3. Chairman's Report; Bill Stevenson thanked the committee for their hard work over the past year. He congratulated Sue Macdonald for an excellent series of talks. He mentioned that sadly we have lost four of our oldest members during the past year; Michael Poffley, Janet Bateson, John Jones & Tim Pool. Michael & Janet were much loved and loyal members for most of RH7's history and will be sorely missed. During 2019 RH7 will be participating in various local events. Members were reminded that all our Factsheets are available in the Library and that relevant leaflets/events are advertised there also. We have received many donations to the archives during the year. Next year's exhibition is entitled 'Who do you think they were?' subtitled 'Local lives remembered'.

4. Treasurer's Report & Approve the Accounts; The accounts were previously circulated. The Group currently has 108 members. Our funds remain healthy and no increase in subscriptions is proposed. The year end balance was £2282.85. Mike Ellis gave notice of his intention to retire from the position of Treasurer at the end of the next financial year. He thanked Mark Clayton for Auditing the Accounts.

Adoption of the Accounts and Treasurer's Report was proposed by Ian Jones and seconded by Sue Quelch.

5. Election of Officers and Committee; I would like to reiterate the comments I made in my email circular last week. Both the RH7 History Group and the Hayward History centre are reliant on volunteers to carry out committee work, archiving duties, exhibitions etc. The work is not erroneous but without volunteers to undertake these duties the organisations would cease to exist. As you will be aware, over the last couple of years we have lost a number of the stalwarts that both organisations have relied on for many years. Therefore replacements are required. Bill Stevenson (Chairman) confirmed he was willing to stand as Chairman for a further year but under the Terms of the Constitution he will be stepping down at the end of September 2020. He was proposed by Richard Young & seconded by Margaret Ward. Mike Ellis (Treasurer) was proposed by Claire Bach and seconded by Grace

Porter. Felicity Pool (Secretary) was proposed by Richard Young and seconded by Marian Poffley. The other members of the Committee, Ian Jones, Alan Orbell, Sue Macdonald & Margaret Ward have agreed to continue and were proposed by Sue Quelch and seconded by Jackie Harrison. Rosie Schofield has reluctantly resigned due to her other commitments.

6. Mark Clayton was appointed Auditor; proposed by Bill Stevenson and seconded by Ian Jones

7. AOB: There was none

The RH7 History Group

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS for the year ending 30th June 2020

EXPENDITURE	2018	2019	2020
	£	£	£
Postage & stationery		24.50	
Speakers expenses	360.00	335.00	223.00
Room Hire; general meetings	174.00	177.00	122.00
Affiliation fees	92.00	94.00	94.00
Fact sheets	116.00	35.00	
Insurance	33.00	33.00	33.00
May/June Exhibition	860.07		
Exhibition Albums		55.55	
Projector & Display Panels	1602.69		
Sundry			5.60
Web site fee	<u>71.40</u>	<u>125.40</u>	<u>95.40</u>
	<u>3309.16</u>	<u>879.45</u>	<u>573.00</u>
INCOME			
Exhibition Sponsorship	400.00		200.00
~~~~~ Collection	164.14		
Grant for Display Panels	750.00		
Subscriptions	824.00	776.00	730.00
Visitors fees	27.50	88.00	48.00
Book Sales	4.00		
Trips			
Miscellaneous/talk	16.07	30.00	.20
Sale of fact sheets	<u>65.05</u>	<u>20.00</u>	<u>2.00</u>
	<b><u>2250.76</u></b>	<b><u>914.00</u></b>	<b><u>980.20</u></b>
Excess /<Deficit> of income	<b>&lt;<u>1058.40</u>&gt;</b>	<b><u>34.55</u></b>	<b><u>407.20</u></b>


#### BALANCE SHEET AT 30TH JUNE 2020

Balance B/F from 30/6/19	2282.85	Bal at Bank 30/6/20	2690.05
Surplus for y/e 30/6/20	<u>407.20</u>		
	<b><u>£2690.05</u></b>		<b><u>£2690.05</u></b>

Michael Ellis Treasurer 22/7/2020

I have examined the above accounts, the vouchers and balance in the bank and in my opinion they show a true statement of affairs.

Mark Clayton Examiner

 12/8/2020