

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SANDWICH LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY HELD AT THE JURY ROOM SANDWICH GUILDHALL

7.30 PM THURSDAY 9TH JANUARY 2025

PRESENT: Mr John Hennessy (Chairman), Cllr Paul Carter (The Right Worshipful Mayor of Sandwich, (President ex officio) and Vice Chairman), Chris Hagerty (Hon Treasurer), Robert Pay (Lecture Sec./programme director, Mike Vaile (acting Hon Sec.), Mike Elmes (Tours Sec.), Danielle Carter (Membership Sec.), existing Committee members and 45 Society members and guests.

- 1. Welcome by the President:** The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting; he was particularly glad to thank the Chairman for his strong and enduring leadership of the Society. In his role as Mayor, Cllr. Carter was so pleased to support the Society and its significant part in ensuring the history of Sandwich was enhanced and made more widely known.
- 2. Apologies:** Paul and Sue Graeme, Bob and Sue Ward, Roger Loukes, Tony Trice.
- 3. Minutes of the previous AGM on 11th Jan. 2024:** Copies had been previously circulated by the Chairman. They were approved by the meeting and duly signed and dated by the Chairman.
- 4. Matters Arising:** There were no comments.
- 5. Chairman's Report:** John Hennessy began his farewell report by thanking Paul Harris of the Co-op and Hercules Wine for their support for the meeting. Particularly he wanted to thank the late Bob Fielder and Sue Fielder for their amazing generosity in building and hosting SLHS website for so many years. (The new website is nearly ready thanks to Paul Carter and Robert Pay.). (Please see also the **attachment** to these minutes for John Hennessy's full report for the year 2024).
- 6. Hon. Treasurer's Report:** Chris Hagerty also presented his last report after seven years in office. Once again, the accounts showing a healthy balance. The I&E Report is **attached** to these minutes. There were no questions.
- 7. Lecture Secretary's Report:** Robert Pay gave his first report; the first half of the season had gone very well with full attendances. Unfortunately, there are some changes to the printed programme for February to May. Excellent replacements have been engaged, these are:
February 13th, Richborough- The Secret Port in WW1, by Dr Martin Watts.

March 13th, Sir Roger Manwood and the Strangers of Elizabethan England by Professor Alan Stewart.

April 10th, Historic Graffiti in Medieval Buildings in Sandwich by Wayne Perkins.

May 22nd is confirmed as the joint meeting with The Arts Society, Sandwich to commemorate the 250th birthday of JMW Turner.

- 8. Tours Organiser's Report:** Mike Elmes reported that there had been 56 tours in 2024 for 557 people. In the autumn we had the annual and very popular Junior School tour for 60 students plus their responsible adults (free of course). We have ten active guides with a new guide joining us shortly. There will always be a welcome for more to join. Please do offer to Mike – full training is on tap. The fees charged had enhanced the Society's funds by more than £2,500.

9. Election of Officers

Chairman, as John Hennessy did not wish to stand again, Mike Vaile proposed Paul Carter, seconded by Andy Ellison, and approved by acclamation.

Vice Chairman, Robert Pay, proposed by Paul Carter, seconded by Dawn Baxter- Philipps and approved unanimously.

Hon. Treasurer: Danielle Carter was proposed by John Hennessy, seconded by Cally Vaile, and approved by all.

Lecture Secretary: Robert Pay was proposed by John Hennessy, seconded by Carol Adlam, and approved by the meeting:

Tours Organiser: Mike Elmes was proposed by John Hennessy, seconded by Paul Carter, and approved nem. con..

Hon. Secretary (temporary): Mike Vaile was proposed by Paul Carter, seconded by Dianna Hagerty, and not opposed by the meeting.

Committee Members: Dawn Baxter- Philipps was proposed by Paul Carter, seconded by Mike Vaile, and approved by all. Then the existing Committee , including the above officers, David Budge, Andy Ellison, Roger Loukes, Steve Young were re-elected en bloc.

- 10. Any other relevant Business:** Cllr. Mark Moorhouse spoke about the Sandwich, Honfleur Twinning Association. There will be a visit to Honfleur in June which nicely coincides with the 1000th anniversary Of Honfleur's 'incorporation'. There will be a visit to the Bayeux tapestry. Those interested in joining were advised to contact Mark, _his details are on The STC web site.

- 11. The Next AGM:** will be on the second Thursday of January 2025

With formal business finished, we enjoyed two excellent short talks: David Budge on the extraordinary engineering career of Guy Maunsell and the building and survival of the Thames Estuary Forts. This was followed by Paul Skelton presenting his

amazing research on the pubs of East Kent, including some nefarious activities in Sandwich pubs.

Finally, there were presentations and tributes to both long-standing officers of SLHS, John Hennessy and Chris Haggerty.

With the serving of delicious 'nibbles' and drinks, opportunities to continue the thanks and to chat more generally continued for some time.