



Newsletter No. 55

December 2013

AGM

The annual general meeting of the Society was held on 4th September 2013. The following provides a summary of the meeting:

- *The Chairman presented her report which had been circulated with the September Newsletter.*
- *The Treasurer presented the annual accounts for 2012/2013 and these were approved by the meeting*
- *Viv Rowe was elected as Chairman for the 2013/2014 year, having been proposed by George Hood and seconded by Martin Weiler. In agreeing to serve as Chairman, Viv indicated that this would be her last year as Chairman.*
- *Terry Bound was elected as Secretary for the 2013/2014 year, having been proposed by Margaret Wannell and seconded by Barbara Farrell.*
- *Jonathan Wright was elected as Treasurer for the 2013/2014 year, having been proposed by Vivienne Rowe and seconded by Hilda Mitchelmore.*
- *Sally Kernick agreed to take on the role of Newsletter Editor for the 2013/2014 year.*
- *Hilda Mitchelmore agreed to take on the role of Talks Organizer for the 2013/2014 year.*
- *Jonathan Wright agreed to take on the role of Webmaster for the 2013/2014 year.*
- *It was agreed that the annual subscription for the 2013/2014 year will be £10, and the admission fee for a guest will be £3.*
- *It was agreed that the Society would have three meetings with speakers each year, plus the AGM in September. The Chairman suggested December 11th, March 19th (since changed to 18th), June 11th and September 10th as dates for these meetings, depending on the availability of a meeting room.*
- *It was agreed that for the 2013/2014 year the Talks Organizer will have a budget of £120 for the cost of speakers.*
- *It was agreed that the St. Loyes pub sign rescued by Den Perrin should be offered to the Exeter Museum.*

Centenary Exhibition - November 1st / 2nd 2013

After several months of preparation and lots of meetings, we finally set the exhibition up on 31st October in St Michael's School hall. I don't remember us ever giving the event a proper title - just 'exhibition'. The most difficult bit was sorting out the various display boards which came in a variety of shapes and sizes. That done, then to arrange the enormous amount of information which had been researched, refined and made 'user friendly' for the audience (that involved a lot of laminating). The arranging of all our information, artifacts and publications went surprisingly well and was done by Thursday afternoon, then left to await the big day on Friday when the crowds (we hoped) would turn up.

Well, they did turn up; not crowds to start with but a steady stream of visitors all keen to find out about their local history and in some cases grandparents, great-grandparents etc. Our Lord Mayor came on Friday afternoon and stayed a good while. Alan Doley's film shows were very well appreciated, with lots of input from the audience. I had not seen so many watching so intently since I was last at The Picture House. There was the same attention to the material on display boards and tables. People were sitting reading; discussing with obvious interest and enjoyment. It made all the hard work worthwhile to have such an appreciative audience. We got more people in the afternoon, after the normal lunchtime lull, sold a lot of tea and coffee and went home very contented after the last visitors trailed out just after 4pm.

Saturday was even better - we had people waiting to come in before 10am and the crowds continued all day. It was good to see children amongst the visitors - they were particularly interested in the old money and artifacts. It is difficult to estimate the actual numbers for the two days - best guesses are around 700 people, possibly more. The visitors' book bears this out, as there were scores of really nice comments. Our local MP, Ben Bradshaw, made a quick visit on Saturday afternoon and was impressed both by the exhibition itself and the number of visitors. As for us, the 1913 Committee and helpers, we were very happy. Vivienne, our chairman, said "It was very professional" and had "exceeded our expectations". Margaret said "There was a lot of good work by the organisers and lots of information available; very well attended with very complimentary feedback." She was also surprised by the vast amount of information we couldn't include due to lack of space. Den Perrin said he had had "a wonderful day".

For myself, I like the comment from eight year old Kaitlin (2nd Exeter Cubs). She said "I think the event was 9 out of 10 because local history is important and I like to know about where I live. The best thing was being taught about old money and how lucky I am to have the things I have."

I met a woman some days later, who asked "Would you do it again? I didn't

have time to read everything." Perhaps we should do just that. Oh, and maybe as Kaitlin also said, have "more things for kids" and also include all that other information that Margaret mentioned. This one was hard work but also great fun; it was a really good 'community event'. Good to see people chatting, meeting friends and neighbours. That is what local history is all about. B.E.F.

Upcoming History Society Events:

Wednesday 11th December - Rifford Room, 7:30pm
Peter Galt will give a talk entitled "Freemasonry Past and Present"

Tuesday 18th March - Rifford Room, 7:30pm
Lawrence Hunt will be talking about 'Whimsical Buildings'

Members' Evening - Date TBC

At the Annual General Meeting in September it was suggested that at one of the meetings during the coming year, possibly the next Annual General Meeting, instead of an outside speaker, members could talk about subjects which they thought would be of general interest. These could be areas they have been investigating or they have just happened to come across, and would be able to talk about for 10 - 15 minutes.

If you have a subject that you could talk about in this way will please let Hilda Mitchelmore know (Tel. 01392 279104).

Non History Society Events:

As the new editor of this newsletter, I would like to include details of any events in the area which might interest members of the History Society, for example exhibitions or talks.

If you know of any events that you think members might appreciate, please email me and I will include them in this section.

Newsletter by email

If you are willing to receive future newsletters by email will you please email me to let me know. This will help us to reduce the cost of producing and distributing the newsletter. You may also use the same email address to send me items for inclusion in the newsletter.

Future Suggestions for Newsletters

I would appreciate suggestions and feedback from members. Please let me know your thoughts on the following ideas (I will be at the next meeting, or you

can email me):

- Would anyone appreciate a 'Did you know?' section in the newsletter, in which members contributed interesting facts about the area? While some of the original members of the society might know all there is to know about our area, newer or prospective members might find such facts very interesting.

- Would it be beneficial to send a copy of the newsletter to local community areas, for example doctors surgeries, churches or businesses? If so, do you have any suggestions?

- Finally, and most importantly, please do pass me any information that you have discovered through your own research or interest, so that I can include it in the newsletter. I don't mind typing up information if you prefer to hand-write it, or you can email me.

2013/2014 Subscriptions

If you have not paid your subscription for the 2013/2014 year will you please complete form below and return it to Jonathan Wright, 21 Thorn Close, Exeter EX1 3HW.

Heavitree Local History Society

The current charge for membership of the Society, as agreed at the AGM in 2013, is £10 per annum, renewable at the date of the AGM.

If you wish to continue your membership or join the Society, please complete the details below and return, with a cheque for £10 made payable to the Heavitree Local History Society, to: Mr J Wright, 21 Thorn Close, Exeter, EX1 3HW.

Title:

Forename:

Surname:

Address:

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Postcode:

Phone:

Email:

Please tick if you are happy to receive the newsletter by email rather than post.

Signature:

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