

Witham Friary History Society Trustee meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 14/10/2024 in The Seymour Arms

Present: Geoff Shepard (GS) Chair, Chris Featherstone (CF) (Events Organiser) Roy Featherstone (RF) (Secretary), Mike Gorman (MG) (Treasurer), Marcia Scott, David Heath (DH) Anne Howard (AH) Caz Netherton (CN) George Pritchard.(GP)

Apologies - None

1. Welcome and Introductions.

GS took the chair and welcomed everyone.

2. Declarations of Interest.

None declared.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting.

It was agreed that the minutes of the previous meeting were an accurate record apart from the fact that CN and DH had been omitted from the list of attendees . This will be amended.

4. Matters Arising.

CF noted that she had been attempting to find a speaker on "Quarries" but had been unsuccessful so far in identifying a suitable candidate.

5. Chairman's Report.

GS thanked all for their continued hard work .
Attendance at meetings has been good with an increase in attendees from outside the village. We had 2 talks from MG and DH which had been very well received .The proposed trip to Glastonbury Museum of Rural Life had been cancelled owing to communications problems with the museum.
GS gave thanks to MG and MS for organising the Quizzes
Thanks also to MG for donating his fees for presentations to other organisations.
Thanks to all involved in fundraising including those who donate to the raffles.

6. Treasurer's Report.

We should have a healthy balance of £900 in the current account next year owing to a number of factors:

We only had to pay for one speaker. Four speakers gave their time for no charge.

The "Famous Brits and quizzes raised a considerable sum.

Many thanks to Hugo and Gilly for donating the profit from their garage sale (£142)

Thanks also to George and Margaret for their donation of wine!

Thanks also to Max Milligan, "Rich" from "More Wine" and Hunting Raven for prizes for the "Famous Brits"

Thanks also to David Heath for donations from his booklet "Who did we think we were?"

See attached report for detailed breakdown of income and expenditure.

7.0 Election of Chairman

8.0 Election of Treasurer
9.0 Election of Secretary
10. Election of Events Organiser

The committee was unanimously re- elected “en bloc”

Proposed – DH

Seconded – AH

11.0 Programme for 2025 – 2026

CF has begun the programme for next year and so far has one confirmed speaker :
Iain Messider, whose presentation is entitled “ The Life and Times of a Kenspeckle Man.
Peter Forbes Lees 1898 -1968”

Various suggestions were discussed for further speakers

MG has agreed to give a talk on “The Black Death”

David Heath has not yet agreed on a topic.

12.0 Suggested Events

12.1 Agricultural Bygones

There was discussion around a suggested event centred on old agricultural items and machinery to be held in the yard of the Seymour Arms and the field opposite. It was agreed in principle with a suggested date of May 17th 2025.

It was decided to form a working party to explore the possibilities.

Working party : MS, MG, RF, GS, CF.

12.2 Visit to Beckford Tower

The proposed date for the visit to Beckford Tower was set at Wednesday 11th
June 2025

13. Any Other Business

A vote of thanks was given to CF, MG and CN for their work on sorting out the papers donated by Michael Mc Garvie.

14. 0 Dates of future Trustee Meetings.

Jan 13th 2025

April 7th 2025

July 7th 2025

The meeting closed at 7.15 pm.