



The Chepstow Society

Notes from the Executive and History Event meeting on 11th January 2023, at the Drill Hall.

Present: Guy Hamilton, Keith James, Sallie James, Angela Middleditch, Patrick Gale, Marion Huckle, David Nicholls, Annie Rainsbury, Jackie Neal and John Burrows

Apologies: Geoff Sumner, Rebecca Tyson, Simon Maddison and Nicky Bailey

Before the meeting started Guy briefed members about the death of Henry Hodges and stressed the request by his family that it is not to be circulated generally for the time being. Members offered their memories of Henry both personal and related to the work that he did for the society and Chepstow. There then followed a minute silence.

1. Guy then opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. The notes from the meeting held at the Drill Hall on 30th November 2022 had been circulated and were agreed.

2. Matters Arising

Guy reported that he, Keith and Annie (representing the Museum) attended a meeting organised by the Town Council to encourage coordination between organisations in Chepstow. Guy added that another meeting has been arranged for Wednesday 18th January, unfortunately this is the same day as the Society's monthly meeting, but he would attend prior to the Society's meeting.

3. Treasurer's report

David had circulated the accounts. There were no questions and the accounts were agreed.

There was a discussion about the excursions account, currently held at Barclays. The signatories will need to be changed to allow Patrick to use the account.

Action: Keith will contact Barclays to arrange transfer forms

Guy suggested that as we were discussing the excursions that Patrick updated the meeting about the planned visit to Worcester (item 10 on the agenda). Patrick explained that he has designed a booking form to circulate to members and that it just needs a few details added. He continued by giving the committee the dates for future excursions. 6th June Wales Botanical Gardens, Carmarthen, and in September a heritage railway trip to Broadway.

Action: Sallie will add the account and contact details.

Action: David will check who the Trustees are – to be discussed at the next meeting.

4. Membership Secretary's report: Nothing to report.

5. Speakers and future monthly meetings

Sallie reported that the programme for the 2023 was more or less complete, there were just a few speakers that she needed confirmation from.

Sallie said that Nick Thomas-Symonds MP has been contacted re February's talk on the NHS. There was some concern that there could be some last minute parliamentary business that could prevent him attending. John Burrows offered to give an impromptu talk if necessary. Guy thanked him.

Keith suggested that Tidenham Quarry would make an interesting talk and he volunteered to visit the site. Guy also mentioned that the Friends of Newport Transporter Bridge had expressed an interest in speaking.

Action: Sallie will forward the programme to Guy

Keith to contact Tidenham Quarry

Guy to forward details on the Transporter Bridge to Sallie

Keith updated the committee on the arrangements for the Society's Lunch. He reported that it is now full and there is a waiting list. He said that he was delighted that Tim Ryan is giving the after lunch talk and he asked the committee to agree to pay for Tim's meal. All were in agreement.

Action : Keith asked Guy to include details of the lunch in his next newsletter to members.

6. History Event

- Wales Night out: Nicky has been booked Novello and Son for Thursday 18th May. The Shakespeare Ladies club was not available, but will be arranged for another meeting. Action: Nicky
- Wednesday 17th: Films: River Severn + one other (Ivanhoe?). Tim Ryan had also offered a talk or slideshow. The Society's AGM would take place at the start of the evening. - Action: Keith
- Re-enactment groups: details were awaited from Cadw re Rebecca's Norman group.
- Gwent County History Association AGM - Action: Guy to check arrangements
- Stalls, Saturday: Action: Keith will design and send a booking form to groups who have expressed an interest in attending, see attached list.
- Walks: Guy reported that he and Keith had a meeting with Annabel Dance from the Friends of St Mary's church, who is keen to include walks around the church and churchyard. Action: Guy
- Publicity: It was suggested that this be done by a sub- group.

Action: Marion, Jackie and Guy to meet on 1st February to discuss ideas at the next History Event meeting.

- Oral History Project: There was a lot of discussion how best to approach this. It was suggested that the use of photographs would be a good starting point to encourage townspeople to talk about their memories. Action: Annie, Nicky, Guy, John

It was discussed to plan a walking tour of Chepstow pubs, and agreed that it could be offered as part of the History Event of the Summer Walks. Action: Guy, David and Keith to investigate.

7/8/9 Deferred until next meeting

11 Civic and amenities. Guy told the Committee that the Local Development Plan was on display at the Board School on 12th January.

12/13 Deferred until next meeting

14/15/16 AOB – nothing to report

17. Dates for next meeting: History Event 1st February at the Drill Hall and executive meeting on 8th March at the Beaufort Hotel. Action Sallie to book venues.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm