

LTVAS AGM Autumn 2021
Forty-Eighth ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

to be held on Monday November 8th 2021 at 7.15pm

We held a brief general meeting on-line on 29th April to accept the accounts and elect the committee. This meeting will be a full AGM.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of April 29th General Meeting
3. Chairman's and Officers' Reports
4. Presentation of Audited Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2021
5. Appointment of Auditors
6. Election of Committee. The current members of the committee who are willing to stand again:
Karen Anderson, Barbara Burbridge, Stephen Cooper, Mary Harris, Colin Moretti, Jane Powell, Terry Proctor, Jennifer Wilsdon, Roger Leech, and Sybil Warner. Other nominations or volunteers would be welcome. (Note A below)
Jean Brent is leaving the committee but is willing to continue her role as liaison with the Romsey Advertiser
7. Any other relevant business (see Note B below)

*Note A: Committee is to be elected at the AGM. Nominations, in writing or by email, should be sent in advance to the Chairman, Mary Harris, Pump Cottage, Rudd Lane, Upper Timsbury, SO51 0NU.
email maryharris@pumpcottage.me.uk*

Note B: Further Motions should be submitted in writing in advance to the Chairman, as above. Also, it would help if the Chairman was given prior notice of any other items.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING HELD 29TH APRIL 2021

**Romsey Local History Society AGM held on Thursday 29th April 2021
7.30pm on Zoom.**

1. Minutes of 2019 AGM, circulated to all members in advance of the meeting. Acceptance proposed by *Phoebe Merrick*, seconded by *Roger Harris*, accepted by the meeting nem con.

2. *Chairman's* and Officers' Reports were circulated to all members in advance of the meeting. Acceptance of reports proposed by *Tricia Silver-Warner*, seconded by *Roger Harris*, accepted by the meeting nem con.

3. Presentation of Audited Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2020, circulated to all members in advance of the meeting. The accounts cover 12 months, only 6 months of which were affected by Covid 19 restrictions. The loss of income from talks, walks and book sales was largely outweighed by the reduction in expenses for room hire. Mary Harris expressed her thanks to Janet Cairney for continuing to act as Treasurer for the interim but reminded members that we do need to find a replacement treasurer. Anyone interested should contact the committee.

Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by *John Tilley*, seconded by *Phoebe Merrick*, accepted by the meeting nem con.

5. Appointment of Auditor

David Bryant proposed by *Janet Cairney*, seconded by *Mary Harris*, accepted by the meeting nem con.

6. *Election of Committee*

Re-election of committee members:

Karen Anderson, Jean Brent, Barbara Burbridge, Stephen Cooper, Mary Harris, Colin Moretti, Jane Powell, Terry Proctor, Jennifer Wilsdon

Proposed by *John Tilley*, seconded by *Tricia Silver-Warner*.

accepted by the meeting nem con.

New members:

Professor Roger Leech Proposed by *Roy Romsey*, seconded by *Mary Harris*, accepted by the meeting nem con.

Sybil Warner Proposed by *Mary Harris*, seconded by *Phoebe Merrick*, accepted by the meeting nem con.

7. Any Other Business

Barbara Burbridge expressed the committee's sadness over the deaths during the last year of two long term committee members, Nancy Kelly and Brenda Langdon.

The AGM closed at 7.45pm

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT For APRIL - OCTOBER 2021

As a result of returning to an Autumn date for our AGM I only have 6 months to report on, but actually quite a lot has happened. We held a brief General Meeting on 29th April to accept the 2019-20 accounts and elect the committee until Autumn. We have been very glad of the support of our two new committee members, Roger Leech and Sybil Warner. The General Meeting was followed by a very interesting explanation of the Tithe Commutation Act and the records it

created, given by Colin Moretti. Our last lecture using Zoom was our only major Zoom failure when we lost the connection to Stephen Whelan part way through his talk on King Alfred. We are still hoping he will be able to give us the full talk at some time in the future. The weekly chats on Zoom on Monday mornings have continued throughout the Spring and Summer concentrating mostly on discussion of the streets and buildings in central Romsey. We must thank Phoebe Merrick, Barbara Burbridge, and Charles Burnett for sharing their research on the town and Roger Leech for sharing his current work. This has generated a lot of enthusiasm and Roger Leech has agreed to co-ordinate a Streets and Buildings survey and has written a separate report on this - see below. The Zoom chat meetings have proved very popular with some members and we propose to continue them once a month on the third Thursday of the month from October 21st 11am. The topics to be discussed will depend on the interests of those attending, whether they wish to continue discussions on central Romsey buildings or perhaps discuss the topics of the lectures given at the physical meetings which some of them may be unable to attend. We would welcome the opinions of members especially those who cannot attend physical meetings as to what they would like these Zoom chats to involve.

The discussions on the buildings of central Romsey enabled the Society to produce 35 posters about the "Shops and Shopkeepers of Romsey" which were displayed in the relevant shop windows during Romsey Festival fortnight. We must thank the shopkeepers who were generally very keen and willing to take part and many of the shops have chosen to keep the posters on display. Also during the Festival, committee members ran guided walks round the centre of the town. Since these took place before the lifting of Covid restrictions, numbers were limited but most were fully booked and participants enjoyed them. This reminds us that there is a need for general guided walks around the town for visitors and newcomers as well as more specialist walks for our members.

While we have not been able to meet physically a number of members asked for a repeat of the 'Reading Old Handwriting' course which was devised by Phoebe and Barbara some years ago. This proved possible to run on Zoom, co-ordinated by Mary and the 5 participants have made great progress.

We felt we had to cancel the usual Summer walks because we had no way to limit numbers, but since August we have returned to physical meetings in the Town Hall. The first was a slide show on Crampmoor and the Straight Mile given by Phoebe which attracted 42 people. This gave us the confidence that people were ready to return to physical meetings, so the full Autumn programme is planned to take place using Town Hall meetings. More recent meetings have included a fascinating talk by Barbara Burbridge on the Home Front 1914-20 Illustrated by material hoarded in the Tylee, Mortimer and Attlee offices, one talk on the Voyage of the Mayflower and another more local topic on John Kneller, Crimean Veteran. For the rest of the year we will continue to use the large Council Chamber to allow people to spread out as much as they wish, despite the fact that the audio system in that room is not as reliable as the one in the Court Room. The Autumn

programme is available on the website and is included in this report along with the programme for the first half of 2021.

Phoebe has continued her work developing our catalogue of resources, and she and Colin Moretti have updated the basement computers so that they are ready for people to work on at our open workshops which started on 4th October. We will transfer to the computers the information presented and discussed at our Zoom chat meetings as well as making the original resources available.

Phoebe has also been continuing her reading and extracting information from the wartime copies of the Romsey Advertiser. She has offered us two talks using this material in next year's programme.

The RAO DS research group has completed the review recording all references to RAO DS and the Plaza Theatre given in the Romsey Advertiser. Plans to continue with recording the reminiscences of RAO DS members are still on hold because of unease about physically interviewing elderly and perhaps vulnerable people.

Work on finding a way to make available to the public the findings and discussions of the Saxon project are still ongoing. A Zoom meeting to discuss this was held on October 7th and we hope that we can get this material available either on our website or by some other means. With the re-opening of the museum store at Chilcomb house several members met Frank Green, the Test Valley Archaeologist in the 1980s and 90s, there to try and find suitable samples of archaeological material to have dated by the Carbon 14 method. This is essential to further our understanding of the Saxon period in Romsey. Moreover, we are hoping that further work can be done on the GPR survey done in the Abbey to try to understand the buildings which preceded the present church. We also intend to try and get more information on the dating of the timbers found in the Fishlake. The proposed Domesday Book publication is nearing completion.

We will hold a normal AGM on 8th November when we need to elect a new committee. We are in need of new members willing to share some of the organisation of the Society. We are in particular need of a treasurer, someone to help with the IT, and a programme organiser. However, if you would like to join the committee but don't feel able to take on a specific task yet you will still be welcome.

Mary Harris

TREASURER'S REPORT

The expenditure for the year to 31 August shown in the accounts understates the Society's costs because two cheques were not presented by the cut off date, those for the basement rent and the Zoom subscription, which together come to £1,345. Even adding those in however, income for this very strange year was more than the Society's outgoings, with no room hire to pay for. Membership subscriptions kept up well, everyone hoping I am sure

for normal times to come back again, and book sales too did well, perhaps for lock-down reading. Janet Cairney

A NEW DOMESDAY SURVEY OF ROMSEY

It is not every year that a local history society comes across a set of previously unexamined maps and lists of all the properties in its area of interest. Since last February the Monday group of the Romsey Local History Society has been making good use of the records for Romsey resulting from the survey of land values carried out as a result of the 'People's Budget' of 1909 and the ensuing Finance Act of 1909-1910. As Phoebe's talk on Monday 6th September showed, these records provide a highly detailed property-by-property picture of Romsey on the eve of the Great War, a wonderful resource for local and family historians alike.

The records of the valuation include maps, field books and valuation books. The last, also known as 'Domesday books', were the first major record created by the Valuation Office at the start of the survey. They are distinct from the field books, which were the final record compiled after the survey was completed, and which usually contain more information. These records are to be found in two places. The maps and field books are stored at the National Archives in London, from where I purchased my own digital copies of the maps in 2006. The bound Domesday Book covering Romsey and other parts of Hampshire is in the Hampshire Archives at Winchester.

I first became aware of the value of these records for tracing historic property ownership and boundaries in my research for a book on the houses of Bristol. There the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society has in place a long-running project aiming to transcribe and analyse for Bristol and Gloucestershire the survey of land values carried out as a result of the budget of 1909. The Society is ensuring that the database of Gloucestershire properties, their occupiers and owners that is resulting from the project is available online and kept maintained, while data for Bristol is gradually being added to the site, at <https://www.bgas.org.uk/projects/the-lloyd-george-1909-survey>. Members may like to look at this website and consider what could be done for Romsey.

Keeping busy in the pandemic, several members of the Society have been looking at these records and have advanced our ability to make good use of them: Roy Romsey has photographed the relevant pages of the bound 'Domesday' survey and Phoebe Merrick, has undertaken the laborious task of transferring the information on these pages to a digital spreadsheet. Colin Moretti, Mary Harris, Roy Romsey and I have all been concerned with providing access to the digital records of the maps and the pages in the bound volume.

Working from the digital copies of the maps, quite a few members have been using these records for various projects: Mary Harris in leading our discussions on the Market Place, Therese Moriarty in looking at Church Lane, Sybil Warner and I in looking at Portersbridge Street (see article in the Autumn newsletter), and Phoebe in looking at the town as a whole. A new monthly group

meeting in the Town Hall will meet on the first Thursday of the month 10-12am starting on the 4th November, to document the town's buildings and streets. The valuation records will certainly be key to our research.

A further use of these records is in identifying lost rights of way, and the same maps will be used by the footpaths committee of the Romsey and District Society. This society has just agreed to augment the copies of the three maps covering the centre of Romsey with a further ten covering the surrounding countryside and villages, the areas of interest to the footpaths committee. Hopefully, these will open up new research opportunities for the group – Sherfield English, Wellow, Braishfield, Michelmersh, Timsbury, Ampfield and the other villages and hamlets around Romsey all await investigation through these records. This gives us an excellent new opportunity to work together with another society in the town.

In all these research activities it is possible that fellow members in the Society will have been unaware of the legal context in which we have been sharing the digital copies of the maps. Clause 1 of the terms attached to the digital copies from the National Archives (TNA) states that “Most public records in TNA are in Crown Copyright” and that “There are no restrictions on the use of copies for non-commercial research or private study.” There are however requirements to apply for “permission to use copies for publication (including web-site publication), exhibition or broadcast or any other purpose”.

Roger Leech

WELLOW HISTORY SOCIETY

As with many other societies this has been a very difficult year as we have not been able to meet in person due to the covid pandemic. However I am delighted to report that our society has continued to receive excellent support from our members and we have held monthly meetings using the Zoom facility.

We have received talks every month online from excellent speakers with talks on various subjects including “Saxon Southampton”, “Pandemics in Times Gone By”, and “The Last Days of Charles I”. My thanks also go to Phoebe Merrick and Mary Harris for their talks and support.

Regarding next year we are in the process of drawing up a programme of speakers with the proviso that we may be continuing to use the Zoom facility and meeting online. Whilst our village hall is now open we can only meet together when our members all feel confident that it is safe to do so. If the current situation improves we will be delighted to meet in person, but if not, we will continue meeting online. All our speakers are aware of this and are happy to join with us.

Let us all hope that 2022 brings better times for us all.

Tony Boyle

LTVAS GROUP STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT

For year ended 31st August 2021

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>2020/21</u>	<u>2019/20</u>
Subscriptions	2,452.26	2,566.80
Donations less gift aid	461.86	155.90
Gift Aid	406.53	748.20
Walks & Talks	300.00	729.70
Bank Interest	1.90	28.40
Book Sales	263.04	283.75
Book Sales - Latham	120.00	375.96
Bequests	440.02	600.00
Other income	-	7.59
<u>Total income</u>	<u>4,445.61</u>	<u>5,496.30</u>
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
Administration		
Newsletters	378.30	594.30
Stationery & Consumables	3.28	39.94
Meetings:		
Speakers	290.00	90.00
Hall rent & Sundries	-	859.00
Basement Rent	-	1,200.00
Research	34.30	41.84
Equipment and consumables	-	334.85
Website Charges	-	145.50
Internet	413.40	266.40
Subscriptions:		
Hampshire Field Club	30.00	-
Hampshire Archives Trust	20.00	20.00
BALH	75.00	75.00
Anglo Saxon Project	-	890.00
Publications	235.00	-
Catering	-	5.07
Gift Aid Distributed	-	176.91
Miscellaneous	7.74	76.70
<u>Total Expenditure</u>	<u>1,487.02</u>	<u>4,815.51</u>
Closing Deposit Account	18,906.15	18,904.25
Closing General Account	6,744.10	3,563.49
Closing Cash	77.70	80.98
Closing PayPal	566.89	787.53
Closing Balance	<u>26,294.84</u>	<u>23,336.25</u>
Opening Balance	23,336.25	Total expenditure
Total Income	<u>4,445.61</u>	Closing Balance
	<u>27,781.86</u>	<u>26,294.84</u>
		<u>27,781.86</u>

I have examined this statement and confirm it is in accordance with the books and records of the Group.



DJ Bryant FCA

5th October 2021