

Mere Historical Society AGM – *DRAFT* Minutes 08.04.2025

Minutes of the AGM held on Tuesday 8th April 2025 in the Grove Building

Present: Chair (Peter Landymore), Committee Members: Graham Avory, David Bett, Simon Edkins, Derek Fisher, Hamish Bell (*Acting Secretary*), plus approximately 55 members

1 Apologies: Diane Ellis, John Borough and Caroline Cook.

2 Minutes of the AGM of 2nd April 2024 had been published on the Mere Historical Society website at www.merehistoricalsociety.org.uk. These were unanimously approved by those present and signed by the Chair.

3 Matters Arising: None

4 Reports to the AGM:

4.1 Chair's Report (Peter Landymore): (*The full report will be published on the Society's website*)

The Chair welcomed the members and was pleased to report that membership has held up well and remains at almost 100. He was delighted to note (*to applause*) that Joan Sutton was 93 and that this was her 40th year of membership.

An outline of other key points is as follows:

- The Chair again expressed his thanks to Simon Edkins for his work as Membership Secretary and his willingness to take on the management and improvement of the website, while implementing a significant step up in the quality of communications with members.
- Equally important has been David Bett's work as Programme Secretary in arranging the very high quality of talks over the last year but he will be retiring at the end of next year.
- The financial position, which Derek Fisher will outline shortly for the last time as he has now stepped down as Treasurer, remains sound. Derek has been a Committee Member for many years, not only as Treasurer but also as Membership Secretary and as Archivist, during which he safeguarded, rationalised, and successfully transferred the Archive to the care of the Mere Museum. The Chair expressed his gratitude on behalf of the Society.
- A new Secretary and Treasurer will both be needed for 2026-7
- The Chair appealed for members to volunteer to join the Committee. This would be without the need to fulfil a specific role in the first instance. He urged people to contact members of the Committee if interested.
- The Chair concluded by noting that the Society had flourished for over fifty years and thanked the Members for their continued support in keeping the Society in such vigorous good health.

4.2 Treasurer's Report (Derek Fisher): (*The full report will be published on the Society's website*)

- The Treasurer's Report and Final Accounts for the Year ending 2024 were displayed on the screen with hard copies also available. A copy can be viewed on the Mere Historical Society website at www.merehistoricalsociety.org.uk. Thanks to Judy Bickerstaff for once again checking the Accounts.
 - The Treasurer reported there were slightly fewer members this year but their subscriptions, and visitors' fees, still brought in just over £1100, so covering annual running costs.
 - As one of the main users of the Grove Building and the technical equipment, it was thought appropriate to make a contribution of £2000 to the cost of the Grove Building Audio Visual Project.
 - The Museum area storing the Archive was flooded last year. An amount of £250 towards cost of repairs was allocated but thanks to Clive Hazzard and Ron Heesom, only £52.70 was expended!
- The Accounts were unanimously accepted by the meeting.

5 Election of Committee: No new nominations have been received. The current Committee members, with the exception of Derek Fisher, are willing to continue. The Chair asked for the current members to be re-elected en bloc. This was agreed unanimously. Proposer: Adrienne Howell; Seconder: Mary Wilson.

6 Membership Fee: The Chair said the Membership Fee had remained at £10 for many years and while finances were currently strong, increased venue hire costs and lecturers' fees raised the real possibility of running out of funds within a couple of years. A proposal to raise the annual membership fee from £10 to £15pa with the visitor fee to increase from £3 to £5, with effect from April 2026, was made by Peter Button and seconded by Jean East. It was carried overwhelmingly with one against.

7 AOB: There was no further business.

Signed as a true record:

Date: