

THE ICKLETON SOCIETY

Minutes of the thirty sixth Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 10 May 2017 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present: Rachel Radford (Chairman), John Fowler (Treasurer), Madelaine Smith (Secretary), Clare Driver, Andrew Sheppard, Fiona Rose, Sue Fowler, Gerry Birch, Francis Bird, Jocelyn Flitton, Judy Marshall, Terry Sadler, Roy Smith, Dawn Bradley, Neil McKillen, Lewis Duke, Jenny Duke, Suzi Lober, John Holt For talk : David Lilley.

1. **Welcome.** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the thirty sixth AGM of the Society.
2. **Apologies.** Apologies for absence were received from Lawrence Wragg.
3. **Minutes of the thirty fifth Annual General Meeting.** Clare Driver proposed that the minutes be adopted as correct. Roy Smith seconded and there were no objections. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.
4. **Chairman's Report.** We've had another successful year.

On the social side, we had 2 talks, one at the AGM and another in November – something which has become a normal pattern in the last few years. At last year's AGM Derek (aka Mick) Bristow gave one of his very entertaining talks about his early life in Ickleton and in November Fiona Rose treated us to a talk about the Arts and Crafts Movement and William Morris in particular and links with Cambridge. Very kindly, neither of them charged us for their services and we had the added bonus of being able to do some early Christmas shopping as Fiona brought some of her Arts and Crafts gifts to sell.

Thanks to reasonable weather, we also had what's become the usual 2 walks. On the May Day Bank Holiday 2016 up Coploe Hill, across the fields to Valance Farm for a picnic and then back through the field below the baulks. Thanks are due to our local farmers – it's always a treat to walk on the higher ground and get the views we can't normally see. Our New Year's Day walk was followed by mulled wine, homemade soup, scones and bread kindly donated by members for which many thanks. This year we've given the May Day walk a rest in favour of a summer outing to The Manor at Hemingford Grey. Both the manor and its garden are a real treat and we've negotiated a bargain ticket price so if you haven't signed up yet do see Fiona this evening or as soon as you can.

Our 'special' events this year were the return of Ickleton Past & Present when we set up displays from the archives, showed some of the videos of village events donated by Pam Fearn, Martin and Penny Woodhead and Dick Wombwell, and had a number of short talks; Saffron Screen's Pop Up Cinema with a showing of Florence Foster Jenkins; and the Ickleton Ceilidh with the Cambridge University Ceilidh Band. All were very well attended – there were even some Cambridge University Ceilidh Band groupies at the ceilidh by all accounts! The Pop Up cinema and ceilidh have contributed to our very healthy bank balance, about which John will report shortly.

We also put out archive displays at the fete and Open Gardens and thanks to Clare Driver for organising another litter pick in March. Thanks too to Jenny and Lewis Duke for an Open Day at the old Methodist Chapel to show its conversion to a home.

The planning and development situation has become more and more worrying as the year has gone on. I'm sure you've been following reports in Icene on the various development threats so I won't put a damper on the evening by dwelling on them. However all of them – the North Uttlesford Garden Village, the Agri-Tech Hub, the expansion of the Wellcome Genome Campus and the motorway service station – are expected to come to a head this year. Our local Parish Councils are doing what

they can to protect the environment of our villages, we've let our District and County Councillors know the strength of feeling here and, in due course, we'll respond to Uttlesford's next consultation and planning applications on behalf of the Society. We'll keep you informed as things progress and hope as many people as possible will also respond; also if there's anything more we could all do in the way of campaigning.

The archive continues to grow and we're very grateful to those people who brought along photos and other items to donate or for us to copy at our various events and in between. We continued to research Ickleton Priory with the help of more geophysical surveys at Abbey Farm by the Archaeological Rheesearch group. They did eventually find the footings of some walls and a possible small building. Of course the footings could be to do with the Priory or just some old farm building but, with help from Lewis, we're looking to see if a dig might be possible at some point in the future though we might have to apply for a grant to fund it. We suspect that Jenny and Lewis' house lies on top of the remains of the Priory and, sadly, they don't seem to want their floors dug up to find out what's there!

We're very grateful for help we're getting at the moment from some volunteers. A friend of Madelaine's from Saffron Screen is editing some of the videos so we can produce a DVD; as part of his Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award, Matt Owen is doing online research looking for more old newspaper articles about the village to expand the Chronicle; and Lavinia Barker is analysing the 1911 census and plotting where people lived in the village at that time (not easy as there were no house numbers).

Our WW1 project is continuing with the aim of publishing a book about Ickleton people who we've discovered served in the forces during that war or contributed in other ways such as working at the Norman Hall Red Cross Hospital. The project seems to grow and grow as Glynis Hammond and myself continue with the research. Thanks must also go to our speaker Helen Harwood who, when she last came to talk to us, set us off researching the Red Cross Hospital about which we now know so much more.

We have made an offer to the Parish Council for the Society to take over the telephone box when it's eventually decommissioned. We know there have been other suggestions for its use but we think our offer to use it to display old photographs and other information about the village is a good one and we'd keep the box maintained and tidy. It would take some money to repair it and fit it out but we have funds available.

Finally I'd like to thank the Committee for all their contributions during the year. Rosie Macdonald recently resigned due to pressures on her time and I thank her for her contribution to the Society. In addition to people I've already mentioned, John Fowler has continued to look after our finances, Madelaine, as our Secretary has the unenviable task of writing up minutes and correspondence but also always helps with filing archive items and organising our events, and Andrew does sterling work looking after the website. And thank you to all our members for continuing to support the Society.

5. Treasurer's Report. A copy of the accounts for the year to 31 March 2017 was provided. John Fowler explained the main items in the accounts and reported that they had been audited by Ken Worthing. This year our income exceeded our expenditure and we ended the year with funds of £1,474.27 so we are in a satisfactory position. Adoption of the accounts was proposed by Francis Bird, seconded by Neil McKillen and agreed by the meeting.

6. Members' Questions. In response to a question from a member concerning the number of different development proposals affecting our village and our approach to this, the Chairman of the Parish Council responded that local parish councils and our County Councillor were liaising and an overview encompassing all the developments would be taken. Our chairman said that we would need to be ready to respond quickly as a Society and as individuals when applications begin.

7. Election of Officers and Committee. There were no more nominations and :
Chairman – Rachel Radford had been proposed and seconded and was elected unopposed.

John Fowler and Madelaine Smith had been nominated and seconded and were prepared to stand as Treasurer and Secretary respectively. Andrew Shepperd, Clare Driver, Fiona Rose and Glynis Hammond had been nominated and seconded and were prepared to stand as members of the Committee. There were no other nominations and the meeting agreed that they be appointed en bloc.

The Chairman thanked Rosie Macdonald, who had unfortunately had to retire from the committee due to other pressures, for all the contribution she had made to the Society.

8. Election of the Hon. Auditor. Ken Worthing was thanked for auditing the accounts and confirmed that he was happy to continue as auditor. Judy Marshall proposed and Jocelyn Flitton seconded that Ken Worthing continue as auditor.

9. Any Other Business. A member expressed a hope that we would organise another wine-tasting, as this is a very popular event.

Guest Speaker

The business of the evening being concluded, refreshments were served, followed by an excellent talk by Helen Harwood entitled 'Country Lives'.