

TOWNELEY HALL SOCIETY

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD MONDAY 15TH MAY 2006

There were 31 members present

Apologies were received from Mr G Burrows, Mr & Mrs Dawes and Mr & Mrs Woolnough,

Irene Birchenough told the meeting the Rita Halsall was in hospital.

Minutes of the last AGM were distributed and taken as read.

R Walsh confirmed that the Founder members of the Society had been identified and a list circulated to Committee members. This list was also included in the new website currently under development.

The Minutes were accepted. Prop: Miss Corner, Sec: A Hall

Secretary's Report

R Walsh told the meeting that the Society was able to take up more opportunities to help with fund-raising at events linked to the Hall. The organised visits had proved to be a winner and more will be on offer in the coming year. The Secretary said how much she had enjoyed working with John Hagan as Treasurer and was pleased that he had agreed to stay as a Committee member and to be our Webmaster. She expressed thanks to S Bourne, K Darwen and the staff at Towneley Hall for their unstinting support. Working together as a team continued to bring great benefits with hopefully more to come.

The report was accepted. Prop: S Thompson who thanked the Secretary for her dedication.

Treasurer's Report. Copies of the accounts were circulated and J Hagan gave his report itemising the funds raised and how they had been spent through the year.

The hall collection box brought in an income of nearly £1154. The main Social Events have produced a net profit of nearly £1700. He particularly thanked Colin & Cynthia Sanderson and Ken Darwen who had raised a total profit of over £6500 on the Bar. Having registered the Society for Gift Aid, the Treasurer had received a cheque for £312.51 from the Inland Revenue. At present membership stands at 82 including 8 life members. 24 new members have been welcomed.

The accounts were accepted. Prop: Miss Corner who expressed thanks to the Treasurer for his diligence.

A Vote of Thanks was expressed to Geoffrey Burrows in his absence for acting as Independent Examiner and Mrs Burrows confirmed that he had indicated a willingness to undertake this duty again for the coming year.

Chairman's Remarks. T Mitchell was pleased that the Society was continuing to adapt to the challenge of the new commercialism which Towneley Hall had to face and thanked members for their support. A discussion under Any Other Business would address the falling attendance at meetings and the unfortunately cancellation of the Spring Event, which had never happened before.

The Chairman thanked the Secretary, Treasurer, Committee members and everyone for their support.

President's Remarks. C Sanderson thanked the Chairman, Committee members and Hall staff for their work throughout the year. The team involved in the bar service at events and particularly at the recent celebrity wedding at the Hall were thanked for their support.

Curator's Report. S Bourne congratulated the Society on the revenue raised and thanked members for their financial and moral support. The charge imposed upon visitors from outside the Borough had been implemented without the anticipated difficulties, and the impact on visitor numbers had been negligible. The Heritage Lottery Bid was continuing to bring changes to the Park, mostly beneficial, and the Society will be kept informed of these at all times. Issues with the new school building appear to be resolved and the project is to go ahead. S Bourne thanked the Society for agreeing funding for several new projects including £2/3000 for the Natural History Gallery, £10,000 for lighting in the Long Gallery and Kitchen, an additional glass washer and a mobile chiller cabinet plus the purchase of one or two wheelchairs. To comply with H & S regulations, 2 new flags for the Hall are to be purchased.

With regard to the £5000 residue from the Ashcroft legacy, shown in the accounts, the Curator stated in response to a question from Miss Corner that at present she simply did not have the time to scour sale rooms for a suitable artefact.

S Bourne thanked Colin & Cynthia Sanderson and their team for volunteers for their work with the bar at Social events and weddings held at the Hall. A floral gift was presented to Cynthia.

Election of Officers. T Mitchell was sorry to announce that Frank Rushworth had resigned from the Committee after many years valued service. As no nominations had been received, the Officers and Committee will remain with the exception of the position of Treasurer which will be taken up by Peter Woodhead, a new member. John Hagan will

remain on the Committee. T Mitchell was pleased to inform the meeting that Gordon Thompson had volunteered to act as joint Speaker Secretary alongside himself, and work would start right away on the new programme. All suggestions would be very welcome.

Any Other Business. The Chairman expressed concern about falling attendance at meetings and suggested several reasons for this. The response from the floor indicated that a combination of possibilities could be the cause. It was agreed to ensure that the lighting from the Car Park to the Hall be switched on as members were arriving and departing. The cancellation of the Spring Event was a huge blow and will be closely examined by the Committee prior to 2007.