

2016 Chairman's report

I would like to welcome you all to the 2016 Civic Society AGM,.

I am delighted that Orlando can be with us this evening, and I would also like to welcome our guests who are here to receive awards after the formal AGM business.

My thanks also to all the committee members who, as usual have helped enormously; without their efforts we could not continue. In particular, my thanks to Melanie our Secretary and Martin, who after a year in post I must stop referring to as our "new" Treasurer!.

I would also like to record special thanks to Dave Baxter, who has meticulously digitised items from the Chris Mahoney papers, so the Society has copies, and Canon Donald Gray, who has done the calligraphy for us for the Awards.

Two committee members are retiring from the committee this year; Gil Darby and Peter Stevens, who has been involved in so many projects on behalf of the Society. Both will be missed from committee meetings, though of course we hope they will continue to come to our talks and outings. In fact, we are not letting Gil escape that quickly, she will be talking at our November 17th meeting and I hope to see you all there.

We have a new committee member joining us; Paddy Jelen has agreed to come on to the committee, and we are delighted to welcome her.

As always, we have monitored and commented on planning applications in the Conservation Area. We continue to work with SDKC's Conservation Officer with the aim of preserving the essential Stamford, while still encouraging its prosperity.

Socially, we had a good year; events included talks by Lionel Wall on English Church from the Romans to the Reformation. the Front of House Manager of John Clare's Cottage, David Dykes on the Life of John Clare. and Professor Alan Short on architecture. The annual members' meeting was held in April.

A summer visit to St Leonard's Priory has turned into a regular event; this year it was in July, with some live music and a chance to look at some of the artist Karen Neale's work. We also launched the Society's note cards, based on Karen's designs; they are for sale tonight along with some other publications and also a book by the Friends of Stamford Hospital, who we are delighted to welcome.

Other summer outings were a private visit to Browne's Hospital, Apthorpe Palace and Octavia Hill's birthplace in Wisbech.

The Urban Group, who concern themselves with issues around Stamford and are now part of the Civic Society have been busy as usual

I'll cover the 2017 program under item 9 of tonight's agenda.

January will see the publication of our third Annual Review; Carol and Jocelyn have been working extremely hard to put this together and I think it is going to be as good as (better than?) issues 1 & 2.

My final thanks are as usual to all our members, for all your support throughout the year. As usual, after the Awards, we will be serving a glass or so of wine, and I hope you will stay on for that.

Presentations to Peter & Gill followed.

Gwyneth Gibbs October 2016

AWARDS

This year our winners are as wide-ranging as ever, and the town is made even better by their hard work and creative contributions.

Renovation and conversion

Andrew Beeson: for renovating Cobblestone Yard.

Restoration and embellishment of shop facade

Cllr John Dawson: for carrying out renovations to the shopfront of Dawson's of Stamford in Red Lion Square and erecting a 1.9m gilded statue of Mercury on the top of the premises, facing down High Street.

Enhancing Stamford's green spaces

The Rotary Clubs of Stamford: for bulb planting in many places around the town.

Mr & Mrs John Spooner, volunteers from the congregation of St George's Church: for creating a beautifully planted garden around the Church.

Special award

Peter Heyes - lifetime award for gardening services over very many years.

Stamford Civic Society

Receipts and Payments Account for the Year Ended 31st July 2016

2014-15

Income General Funds

1,745	Subscriptions	1,685
1,433	Donations	100
516	Tax Refund on Gift Aid	547
211	Interest	144
108	Books Sold	35
1,504	(Talks	474
	(Events	513
2,000	Grant for Bastion Project	0
	Greetings Cards	80
	Trip to Wedgwood Museum, later cancelled	333

7,517

3,910

Restricted Funds

428	Urban Group:	
	Grant from Lincs. CC towards Town Bridge Lights	1,050
	Donation	100
		<u>1,150</u>
146	Built Heritage Fund	0

1,150

8,091 Total Income

5,060

Expenditure General Funds

823	Admin costs (inc. Newsletters & Website)	560
226	Meetings & AGM Costs	295
744	Annual Review	577
320	Civic Voice	310
3,476	Projects	1,128
245	Insurance	266
1,508	(Talks - Room Hire, Speaker Fees, Refreshments	356
	(Events	598
	Greetings Cards	976
210	Sundries	120
	Trip to Wedgwood Museum, refunds & coach deposit	383

7,552

5,568

Restricted Funds

949	Urban Group:	
	Barker Signs - Telephone Kiosk near The George	240
	Town Bridge Lights	1,050
		<u>1,290</u>
16,380	Built Heritage Fund: Town Bridge Lights	500

1,790

24,881 Total Expenditure

7,358

Stamford Civic Society

Balance Sheet at 31st July 2016

2014-15			
	Balances at 1st August 2015:		
8,992	General Funds	8,957	
	Restricted Funds:		
3,109	Urban Group	2,588	
18,423	Built Heritage Fund	2,189	
<u>21,532</u>		<u>4,777</u>	
<u>30,524</u>			13,734
7,517	General Funds Income	3,910	
	Add: Stock acquired (Greetings Cards)	700	
7,552	Less: Expenditure	5,568	
<u>(35)</u>		<u>(958)</u>	
574	Restricted Funds Income	1,150	
17,329	Less: Expenditure	1,790	
<u>(16,755)</u>		<u>(640)</u>	(1,598)
<u>13,734</u>			<u>12,136</u>
Balances at 31st July 2016:			
8,957	General Funds	6,752	
0	Stock	700	
	Debtor (HMRC re Gift Aid)	547	
		<u>7,999</u>	
	Restricted Funds:		
2,588	Urban Group	2,448	
2,189	Built Heritage Fund	1,689	
<u>4,777</u>		<u>4,137</u>	
<u>13,734</u>			<u>12,136</u>

Treasurer's Report

The accounts show a deficit on the General Account and this is largely the result of investing in a very attractive range of Greetings Cards, most of which remain to be sold over the coming months. We have also supported the Urban Group's initiative in the refurbishment of the lights on the Town Bridge, renewed three of the information boards in the town, planted spring bulbs at the Bastion, and sponsored Karen Neale's exhibition at the Arts Centre. Other costs were incurred at the Members' meeting at Browne's Hospital in April, and at St. Leonard's Priory in July, partly offset by generous donations. The talks and visits were also enjoyed by those members who supported them.

The finances of the Society remain strong with adequate reserves.

Martin Lander
10/07/2016

STAMFORD CIVIC SOCIETY

MINUTES of the Society's Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 15th October 2015 in the Court Room of Stamford Town Hall.

Members Attending:

Mr R Barry, Mr & Mrs I Broughton, Mrs E Biggs, Mr W Bunney, Mr C Cadman, Dr J Chatterton, Mrs P Dale, Mr P Eastwood, Mr & Mrs K Ellis, Mr R Fuggle, Mr & Mrs J Gibbs, Canon D Gray, Mr M Grimes, Mr & Mrs G Hopkinson, Mr J Hopson, Mrs C Humm, Mrs J Hunter, Ms P Jelen, Mr M Johnson, Mr D Lankester, Mr & Mrs M Lander, Mr J Lessey, Mr & Mrs P Loft, Mr & Mrs J Mason, Mr & Mrs K Mayer, Mr G McFarlane, Ms C Meads, Mrs G Meers, Mr & Mrs J Pattinson, Mrs R Quantrill, Mr & Mrs M Rowley, Mrs P Sharp, Dr N Sheehan, Mrs M Smith, Mr & Mrs M Sockett, Mr & Mrs T Springett, Mr P Stevens, Mr & Mrs G Thompson, Mr & Mrs B Toulson.

1. Welcome

In the absence of the Society's President, Mr Rock, who had been unable to attend this year because of work commitments, Mrs Gibbs welcomed everyone to the AGM and thanked Mr Jon Culverhouse for agreeing at short notice to talk to members following the AGM.

2. Apologies for Absence

Mr O Rock (President), Mrs I Bacon, Mr & Mrs D Baxter, Mr K Blyth, Mrs C Camp, Mr P Dale, Mr & Mrs J Davies, Mr & Mrs D Ellis, Mr E Gilman, Mrs A Hall, Miss J Kent, Mr D Lambert, Mrs B Meadows, Mrs M Mitchell, Mr & Mrs D Nicol, Mr & Mrs T Padmore, Ms P Pettit, Mrs G Parsley, Dr & Mrs G Rowlands, Mrs M Sims, Mr & Mrs H Smith, Mrs C Stanier, Mr & Mrs E Stanley, Mr P Stean, Major & Mrs D Stockman, Miss A Sutherland, Mr & Mrs DB Thomas, Mr & Mrs M Thompson, Mrs W Wheeler, Mr & Mrs M Williams.

3. Minutes & Matters Arising from the 2014 Annual General Meeting

The Minutes of the 2014 AGM were passed as read. There were no Matters Arising.

4. Chairman's Report

Mrs Gibbs thanked all the Committee for their help and in particular the Officers. Two committee members were retiring at this meeting: Mr M Grimes, who had been Treasurer for fifteen years; and Mr R Barry, who had been on the committee for ten years and had recently been a major player in the Sundial Project. Both were then presented with a framed print.

The major planning issue of the year had been the proposed Kier development on the south side of Kettering Road. There was currently a second application with SKDC. The Society continued to work with SKDC's Conservation Officer with the aim of preserving the essential Stamford, while still encouraging its prosperity.

Socially, it had been another successful year, with interesting talks and tours and the Members' Meeting, now an annual event in the spring.

The Sundial Project had been completed and signed off by the Heritage Lottery Fund. Recently, its activities had included the publication of "The Stones of Stamford" and the Creative Writing competition for local schoolchildren. It was proposed that the money left over from the Project would be used for future Heritage projects in the town.

The Urban Group, now part of the Civic Society, continued to concern themselves with issues around Stamford, and had, for instance, arranged for the phone box by the George Hotel to incorporate quotes about the town from famous visitors.

Phase one of the tidying of the land by the Bastion had been completed with the help of LCC and with financial aid from the Skells' Trust.

The Society's second Annual Review, organized by Ms C Meads and Dr J Chatterton, would be published in January 2016.

Finally, Mrs Gibbs thanked all Members for their continuing support throughout the year.

5. Treasurer's Report

Copies of the yearly Accounts and accompanying formal report, checked by examiner Mr D Nicol, had been circulated before the meeting. General payments had more or less equalled receipts, despite the expenditure on the Bastion Project, for which various donations had been received. There was £8,957 in the General Funds, which enabled the Society to keep a reasonable reserve to cover against the unexpected and to ensure that the Society could commit to activities without having first to obtain the necessary donations and grants. The Urban Group, which carried out many activities to improve the town, had a balance of £2,588. Members received the accounts of the trustees and had no questions concerning them.

6. Update on trustees' and members' liability

At the previous AGM, a member had pointed out the unlimited liability of the Society. This did not affect the members but did mean that the committee, as trustees, faced a potential risk. The Society took out, at the maximum level, the insurance for societies provided through Civic Voice. Mr Grimes explained that there was a new form of registration for charities [Charitable Incorporated Organisation] giving substantial limited liability to trustee. However, as a new constitution would have to be drawn up; and a new charity registration number would be given; and the members would have to agree to the funds and assets being transferred to the CIO; the existing committee had decided that they did not see a significant advantage in changing. This was supported by the members present.

7. Election of Chairman (Mr Grimes in the Chair)

The election of Mrs G Gibbs as Chairman had been proposed by Ms C Meads, seconded by Mr P Stean and the motion was carried by a show of hands, nem.con.

8. Election of Officers

The election of the Treasurer, Mr M Lander, had been proposed by Mr M Grimes, seconded by Mrs M Sockett, and carried by a show of hands. The election of the Secretary/Membership Secretary, Mrs M Sockett, was proposed by Mrs C Stanier, seconded by Mr P Stevens and carried by a show of hands, nem.con.

9. Election of Committee

Dr J Chatterton, Ms C Meads, Dr G Rowlands, Mr P Stevens, Mr M Sockett, Mr P Stean, Mr M Thompson and Mrs G Williams had been nominated for election to the committee (all papers with the Secretary). They were all duly elected by a show of hands, nem con.

10. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

11. A presentation by Mr J Culverhouse, Curator of Burghley House, followed the close of business.