



OXTON SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

7.00 p.m., 14 SEPTEMBER 2016,
WILLIAMSON ART GALLERY

Present: 59 members of the Society and representatives of local businesses attended .

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from 15 members

2. Welcome

The Chair of the Society, Rhiannon Evans, welcomed members to the AGM.

3. Minutes of the last AGM

The minutes of the last AGM, which had been previously been made available to members, were agreed.

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Chair's Report

The Chair, Rhiannon Evans, introduced the annual report, which had been made available to members. The report reminded members of the key tasks identified at the end of the 2015 report and summarised progress made in 2015-16 under the four long term strategic aims of the Society. The main highlights were:

- The emergence of an Oxton business club, which has started collaborating with the Society, for example over Secret Gardens
- The preparation of a retail action plan by Wirral Borough Council in conjunction with the Society and local businesses
- The advent of new businesses, bringing a more diverse range of services
- The continued success of the hanging baskets scheme, which was to receive an RHS 'In Bloom' award for 2016
- Improved use of social media to promote events and communicate with members
- A successful range of Oxton History events, including History Walks and the annual History Open Day
- The Secret Gardens event, the first to be held in June, which was more successful than the previous year, despite inclement weather. For 2017 the event would revert to May, to be held on 14th May
- A major membership drive, resulting in 64 new members, and an increase in membership fees, effective from August 2016, which will help the Society to remain sustainable
- Collaboration with a wide range of organizations including local churches, schools, charities and businesses, the Williamson Art Gallery, Ness Gardens, Friends of the Arno and the Oxton Artists.

Looking ahead to 2016-17, the Society has the following priorities:

- Conservation and planning – using our influence to try to secure the development of the former HSBC site, where work had been started to protect the planning permission but appeared to have stalled
- Oxton Village Centre – collaboration with the new Business Club on matters of common interest
- Financial sustainability – diversify fund raising and increase income streams
- Succession planning – ensure that the Committee attracts new members and recruit new volunteers for the main activities
- Celebrate Oxton's famous men and women – introduce a Blue Plaque scheme
- Develop a contingency plan for future Christmas Lights events, in case of adverse weather

Members approved the Annual Report.

6. Financial Report

The Treasurer, Jane Horton, introduced her annual report and the Financial Statement. She reported that the late cancellation of the Christmas Lights event had an adverse effect of the financial outturn for the year, as the bills for road closure still had to be paid. The carry forward from the 2015-2016 year was less than previously, but was still robust.

The accounts were formally adopted, and thanks expressed to the Treasurer for her work.

7. Election of Officers and Committee

It was reported that there were a maximum of 13 members on the Committee, along with 4 Officers. 10 nominations had been received for re-election as members, and 3 Officers were standing for re-election and there was 1 new nomination for Treasurer.

The AGM elected the following to serve as officers:

- Chair – Rhiannon Evans
- Vice-Chair – Jeff Willis
- Secretary – Alan Chape
- Treasurer – Griff Round

The following were elected to serve on the Committee: Steve Ferguson, Ann Fordham, Patrick Toosey, Steve Weber, Dave Barden, John Booth, Bob Knowles, Karen Freeman, Carolyn Weber, Chris Jarrey

Three vacancies remained on the Committee and the Chair invited anyone interested in joining the Committee to contact her.

Griff Round and Chris Jarrey, who were new to the Committee since the last AGM, introduced themselves to members.

8. Motions

No motions had been received for the Annual General Meeting

9. Questions from Members

One member asked about the future of the former Brimark premises in Rosemount, following the rejection of planning permission for a microbrewery and restaurant. Alan Chape and Steve Weber reported on the views that the Society had sent to Wirral Borough Council about this application relative to the character of the Conservation Area, and indicated that it would be necessary to wait and see what emerges from the market in relation to future development of the premises.

10. Oxton Design Award

It was reported that nominations had been received for the Design Award, but they did not meet the agreed criteria.

11. Outstanding Contribution to Oxton Awards

Members of the Committee introduced the nominees for the Outstanding Contribution to Oxton Awards, which were awarded to:

- Pat Williams, for her outstanding contribution to the Society and the local community. She has been a local councillor for nearly 30 years, Wirral Mayor for one year, and a member of the Oxton Society Committee since 1989. She has worked tirelessly for Oxton, making a real difference to local life, and has been a crucial liaison between the Society and the council on issues such as licensing, planning and traffic.
- Colin Farquhar, for his outstanding contribution as a shopkeeper in Oxton Village over the past 30 years. Through all the changes that have happened in the village, his Village Greens shop has remained an essential part of the village scene and community life for 20 years. He has been an enthusiastic supporter of the Society's activities, and we wish him well in his retirement.
- Wendy Nelson, for her outstanding contribution in a variety of retail outlets in the village over 29 years and her contributions to work on the history of Oxton. She has developed the 'Historical Shopkeepers of Oxton' Facebook page, gathering fascinating information about previous shopkeepers and their families, and has been a real asset to the village with her enthusiasm for local life.

12. Vote of thanks

Rhiannon Evans thanked all members for their support during the year, and the Officers and other members of the Committee. Particular thanks were expressed to Jane Horton, who is standing down as Treasurer, for her contributions in the role, and to Jenny O'Sullivan who is standing down as a Committee member.

11. Close of AGM

Rhiannon Evans thanked all members for their attendance and for their contributions to the discussions, and closed the Annual General Meeting at 7.45 p.m.