

## **Wirksworth Civic and History Society Annual General Meeting 2005**

The Society's Annual General Meeting for 2005 was held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2005 in the Function Room of the "Hope & Anchor", starting at 7.30 p.m.

There were 16 members present. Apologies for absence were received from P Barfield, A Brawn, M Dowdell, U Gratton, K Gregory, J Payne, M Ratcliffe, G & M Vaughan and A & V Whitley.

### **Merit Certificate to Peak House**

The Society's Merit Certificate was presented to Phil and Barbara Howstan in recognition of the restoration and renovation work carried out by them on Peak House, St. John's Street, Wirksworth.

### **Thirty Years' Service – Thank you Tony**

A presentation was also made to Tony Briggs on the occasion of his retirement from office with the Society after thirty years' service as Hon. Treasurer.

Society member B Rosindell photographed both presentations. The pictures, with supporting copy, have been sent to four publications circulating in the area.

### **Chairman's Report**

Chairman Tim Dowdell gave a comprehensive overview of the year's activities both within the Society and in co-operation with other groups, such as Ecclesbourne Valley Railway Association and New Opportunities Wirksworth (NOW).

Copies of the recently published town map and guide, produced by a NOW subgroup containing Civic Society members, were distributed to those present at the meeting. This town map and guide carries an advertisement for the Heritage Centre, paid for by the Society.

Over the last year, the Society has raised its profile with County and District Councils, chiefly in connection with making observations about the desirability, or otherwise, of various planning applications around the town. The District Council has consequently undertaken to carry out a survey of the state of the town's retail premises during the present financial year.

It was pointed out that membership of the Society during the current year was about three times higher than it had been in former years. As a consequence, the Society's profile and status has risen. Nevertheless, bearing in mind the ambitious nature of some of the Society's projects, its annual income is very modest.

Tim Dowdell suggested that it would help the Society maintain contacts with its members if the following year's subscription were raised from £5 to £6 a head. He stressed that even in a year such as the current one, when membership support had been so readily given, it nevertheless cost almost half the Society's annual income just to put on the monthly programme of talks and events. The proposal to increase subscriptions was unanimously supported.

### **Treasurer's Report**

In spite of a considerably enhanced membership, during 2004 expenditure was about £18 higher than the year's income. Fortunately, surpluses carried forward from previous years left a healthy final balance.

The Society also holds a considerable sum in a Sculpture Account, which is to be devoted to some future deserving arts-orientated project.

### **Election of Officers**

Tim Dowdell and Tony Briggs did not offer themselves for re-election to the committee.

A new Chair, C Pidgeon, was elected.

Ken Acons was re-elected.

The Hon. Secretary Graham Barfield was re-elected.

Andy Link and Ian Dare, co-opted to the committee some months back, were formally elected.

A new post, that of Minute Secretary, was created and kindly accepted by J Pidgeon.

Despite pressing appeals, there were unfortunately no nominations for the post of Hon. Treasurer to replace the retiring Tony Briggs. For the moment, Tony Briggs has passed over his records to the Hon. Secretary who will temporarily assume the role until a more experienced volunteer can be found.

**Please can anyone interested in taking the Hon. Treasurer position contact one of the committee members. Thank you. We need you!**

### **New Website for the Society**

IT Secretary, Andy Link, spoke briefly on his progress setting up the Society's website [www.wirksworth-civic-society.org](http://www.wirksworth-civic-society.org). He distributed to members present hard copy impressions of the website's opening page.

## **Town Monitors**

Ian Dare explained the intention to monitor the condition of the town, its buildings and streets, and general appearance, and asked for two or three helpers to assist in carrying out this assignment on a regular basis. In this way, local authorities can be made aware of any remedial work that needs to be carried out.

## **Wirksworth Arts Festival 2005**

Dr E Rutherford explained the various activities he is planning in order to support this year's Arts Festival.

**The next committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2005, at 7.30pm, Wirksworth Heritage Centre.**