

## **BETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL**

### **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2015**

**MINUTES** of the **BETCHWORTH ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** held on **MONDAY 20th April 2015**, in the Geoffrey Browne Room of the Betchworth Village war Memorial Hall at 7:45pm.

#### **1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME**

The Chairman (Julie Hardy) welcomed everyone to the Meeting and particularly the invited guests. The total attendance amounted to 35 people.

#### **2. RESPONSE BY MVDC CHAIRMAN**

Councillor Emile Aboud did not attend.

#### **3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Andrea Brown (Betchworth United Charities), Alison Higgins (Betchworth & Buckland Children's Nursery), Catriona Martin (Family Activities Betchworth & Buckland), Vanessa Sadler (Buckland Betchworth Choral Society), Bernard Hawkins, Sheena Boyce and Nigel Husband (both Buckland Parish Council) and Councillor Martin Higgins and John Foreman, the Footpaths Officer

#### **4. SURREY POLICE REPORT**

Inspector Richard Hamlin reported that Betchworth is in a very low crime area but we must remain vigilant. He reviewed the crimes reported over the past year. Of the 221 calls 46 required only administration, 27 were generated by police (i.e., called in from roadside etc), 27 were related to highway disruption. 13 were related to road traffic incidents and a further 13 related to road traffic offences (including speeding). There were 12 suspicious incidents.

He reassured the meeting stating that there were no sexual offences, only 1 house burglary but 10 non-house burglaries (i.e., sheds, garages etc). There had been 1 crime of domestic violence and only one other violent crime. There had been 20 thefts.

#### **5. PRESENTATION by PAUL RITCHIE**

Paul Ritchie, Community Engagement Officer for the Surrey Wildlife Trust gave an interesting presentation describing the varied work that the Surrey Wildlife Trust carries out on their own properties and on behalf of other landowners. Work in Surrey revolves around delivering ecological services, conservation (river seach and restoration), land management, education and communities. Surrey Wildlife Trust also manages the Surrey Biological records and advises councils on planning applications. A key phrase of his talk was: Living Landscapes – a strategy for achieving a coherent and resilient ecological network within Surrey for future generations.

#### **6. MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2014**

Copies of the minutes had been circulated prior to the meeting. They were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

## **7. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Julie Hardy gave the following report:

Having been a parish councillor for 10 years, I became Chairman in May of last year. Ian Wilson has done a sterling job in this post for many years for which we all thank him, and I hope to live up to his exacting standards.

I am very lucky to be well supported as Chairman by our wonderful clerk, Jacquie Sims, and also 6 hardworking councillors; Ian Wilson, Martin Higgins, Andrew Taylor, Charmain Stow, Richard Savill and Ian Docwra. Ian Docwra was co-opted onto the council last summer and has a particular interest in the Barley Mow storage yard. A huge thank you to Jacquie, and also to all the councillors for giving up their valuable time for the good of our village. We will not be having an election for the Parish Council this year as all our seats were uncontested.

Of course, we also have the amazing John Foreman as our footpath officer, who, as well as looking after our footpaths, mends stiles, reports fly tipping, and organised the village litter pick last Saturday where 20 bags of litter were picked up. A big thank you to John.

The past year has been busy and eventful on the Parish council.

We studied 36 planning applications with expert advice from Martin and Richard, and commented on them where appropriate.

We represented Betchworth parishioners at a meeting about the Brockham skate park, and will continue to monitor the situation there.

We responded to consultation documents about Gatwick airport expansion and we hosted a well-attended public meeting in this hall.

We joined nearly a thousand other people at a Gatwick expansion protest meeting held in Crawley.

We continued to support GACC; Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign, and also Plane Wrong in their efforts to re-instate changed flight paths.

Closer to home, we have at last completed the Jubilee Pavilion in the burial ground. Do go and have a look and sit and contemplate the view. Thanks are due here to Rick Norman who laid the foundations.

We are still having problems with leaks in the water supply for the allotments; fixed for the time being by Ian and John. We removed the rubbish dump at the edge of the allotments and repaired the fence in order to stop people leaving their rubbish there.

We carried out various other repairs to fencing and posts, and invited the WI to plant a tree on the Goulburn Green to replace one that had fallen.

We have installed a fingerpost at Parr's Corner so that visitors can find the church and the village shop.

We repaired part of the church path with a grant from Helyn Clack and SCC, thank you Helyn.

We decided to implement a village wide email group so that we could ask for opinions on village projects and also give out information. This has been quite slow, and if you are not already signed up and wish to be, please fill in your details at the back.

There are always issues that seem unsolvable, and ours is the school parking. We have had talks with all concerned parties, but there is still unacceptable parking in the village at school drop off and pick up times. We will keep working on this until we have an acceptable solution.

At the last APM, we were asked to look into the possibility of a play area for small children on the Goulburn Green. Well this has re-opened a can of worms, with strong objections from people who live closest to the green. We would like to canvas opinion from the whole village, and are hoping to do this through the village wide email group as well as a petition board at the Post Office, until we have a fair representation of the people who live in the village.

Pebble Hill was, of course, closed for 4 months for essential water pipe replacement, and will be closed for a week in May too. After that we hope the road will be resurfaced and traffic calming measures put in place to remind people that they are entering a village and not a race.

We hope to put on a Heartstart course in June, possibly in this room. Heartstart courses teach CPR and other emergency lifesaving skills in a couple of hours and they are free to attend.

#### **8. ADDRESS BY SIR PAUL BERESFORD**

Sir Paul Beresford spoke about the concerns for the area: the future of Epsom hospital; the risks to the green belt and Gatwick Airport – both the increased aircraft noise and the possible expansion. He urged everyone to continue to fight to resist expansion at Gatwick and to actively support the Heathrow options.

#### **9. BETCHWORTH PARISH ACCOUNTS 2013/14**

The draft accounts were displayed. Jacquie Sims briefly reviewed income and expenditure over the past year.

#### **10. BETCHWORTH UNITED CHARITIES**

The Clerk read a report from the Trustees.

During 2014, the Trustees of Betchworth United Charities continued the various benevolent activities as approved by the Charity Commission. The assistance consists mainly of making grants of money or providing appropriate items, services or facilities to residents of Betchworth and Brockham who are elderly, in need or suffering hardship or distress. Small grants are also awarded for educational purposes.

The majority of the BUC's income comes from The Henry Smith Charity. It requires that only the equivalent of one year's grant (currently £12,075) can be held in reserve. I am pleased to announce that The Henry Smith Charity has agreed our grant for 2014 to the sum of £12,075.00.

The only other assets of BUC are the result of several small ancient bequests held in an investment account.

The Trustees met three times during 2014 to review cases of need in the Parishes of Betchworth and Brockham.

Figures can be found in the accounts and cover grants for specific cases of need and helped to make the life of severely disabled, terminally ill, and elderly parishioners more comfortable or enjoyable. Christmas gift vouchers and birthday cards for residents of Broome Park and Old Wall Cottage were given. Local beneficiaries of around 35 people received payments in June and December.

The Trustees look forward to continuing their work in the coming year. Further information about Betchworth United Charities along with contact details can be found on the village websites.

## **11. REPORTS FROM VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS**

Representatives of the following local organizations gave verbal reports.

### **Barley Mow Residents Association.**

Gill Sperrin, Secretary of BMCRA gave the following report:

It has now been over a year since the entrance to the lorry yard that was shared with the Barley Mow Court entrance was closed. Although we are still awaiting the planting of shrubs to mask the old entrance, and a new fence and shrubs separating the yard from Barley Mow Court, which was agreed by the Moores (yard owners), the closure of the entrance and the Moores' management of the yard has made a huge difference to our lives. It is much quieter, there is less air and light pollution, and the Old Reigate Road is much safer too. This was a long time coming but, thanks to Bernard Hawkins, Helen Clack, Maurice and Valerie Homewood, and Betchworth Parish Council for their continued support for our cause over the years, we finally got there!

Three houses have been sold in Barley Mow Court in the past year and the sales have been much easier since the improvements to the yard. Of course,

anyone moving into the area can see that the yard is there, so if they perceive there may be a problem, they have the choice.

In the meantime, we continue to ask for the Parish Council's support in requesting maintenance of the green fence that separates the Old Barley Mow Pub site from the Old Reigate Road, as it is still an eyesore.

### **Betchworth Archives**

Karen Wilson gave the following report:

The Betchworth Village Archivists, Jane le Cluse, Diana North and I, continue our regular work at the Archives. We are in the Hamilton Room every Tuesday in summer and every other Tuesday during the winter months. Cataloguing the original documents in the collection is now largely complete and work has now started on cataloguing new documents. Work continues on indexing the newspaper articles and cataloguing the photographs; well over a thousand photographs have been catalogued and there are several hundred more to do.

We held another very successful exhibition last November which commemorated the First World War with particular reference to Betchworth. It was held in the Village War Memorial Hall and James Day joined us with photographs and information from his e-book 'A Buckland Memorial'. We displayed information about the men of Betchworth who fought and died as well as those who were wounded or taken prisoner of war. Alongside this were displays of life in Betchworth during the war and Ian Wilson prepared a map to show where the men had lived, a display about war memorials, with particular reference to our own memorial and information about this War Memorial Hall. We had a constant stream of visitors over the two days that the exhibition was open and we were very gratified by the keen interest shown by all who came.

We wish to record our thanks to the Hamilton Room Trust for their continuing support for all our activities; last year the Trust funded a new computer and they continue to fund the materials we need for archiving documents and photographs, as well as funding the costs of our exhibitions. Grateful thanks also to the Parish Council for funding the printing costs of the 'Remembered' booklet; we sold 85 copies and there are a few left if anyone would like to buy one. Our thanks also go to the Betchworth Village War Memorial Hall Trust for generously waiving the hire fees for the exhibition.

We are preparing for our next exhibition which will be held in the Hamilton Room on Saturday 31st October and Sunday 1st November this year. The theme is Betchworth at the time of Agincourt, 1415. We will be displaying fascinating information about life in medieval Betchworth as well as referencing Agincourt itself. All are welcome!

### **Betchworth & Buckland Children's Nursery**

The Clerk read the following report from Alison Higgins, chair Nursery Management Committee:

Having had a couple of years where the number of children in the Nursery has fluctuated, we have now had a year when the Nursery has been full on most days. This, together with the introduction of a couple of afternoon sessions for our pre-school children has led to a period of stability.

Our Nursery Manager, Denise van Rijn, moved to Angmering during the year which led to a recruitment process resulting in the appointment of Mandy Creasey as our new Nursery Supervisor with Sarah Pogson as her Deputy. We are, however, pleased to retain the services of Denise in an advisory capacity thus being able to draw on her wealth of knowledge and experience.

Topics covered during the year included the books of Jez Alborough; food and people who help us. We are fortunate that being a village nursery surrounded by beautiful countryside we are able to take advantage of fine days for village walks and for local trips, such as our now annual trip to Home Farm to see newborn calves and to watch our local farmer operating the baler in the field outside. We also visited Graham Williams in his carpentry shop during the year.

We are grateful to the North Downs School for inviting our children to watch their Nativity rehearsal and would also like to thank Kate Capper who visits regularly to read to the children and who invited us to the Church at Easter and Christmas for seasonal stories.

Finally we should like to thank the Parish Council and the villagers for their continued support and interest in our activities.

#### **Betchworth & Buckland Society**

Trevor Cooke addressed the meeting but no report was received.

#### **Betchworth Decorative and Fine Arts Society**

The following report was received too late to be read at the meeting but is included for completeness as a post-meeting item:

We have just under three hundred members and space for about four more. We meet at Betchworth Village Memorial Hall every month for a lecture on different aspects of the arts. We recently used the piano in the hall for our Special Interest Day, which was on Painting inspired by Music and Music Inspired by Paintings. Today we had a lecture on Diaghilev and the Ballet Russes. Our lectures are of a very high standard and we pay between £300 and £400 for an hour's talk, but membership of our society costs only £30 a year, which is very reasonable for having ten excellent lectures. We find Betchworth Village Memorial Hall an excellent venue for our society. We also organise tours usually lasting five days alternating between home and abroad. This April the tour was to Magical Analucia and last May we went to Yorkshire. We hold a tour reunion evening a few months after the tour and have a convivial meal in the Hamilton Room and show photos taken by

members of the tour. As well as the annual tour we take parties by coach for visits to places of interest about once a month, with an annual visit to a Glyndbourne opera.

Ian Caldwell, Chairman

### **Betchworth Operatic and Dramatic Society (BODS)**

Pam Patch gave the following report:

It has been a busy year for BODS. Last May we presented two plays, one an Agatha Christie thriller, the second a comedy. Rehearsals for our November production, "The Beggar's Opera" by John Gay began shortly afterwards, and the cast worked extremely hard to give this eighteenth century work its full authenticity, with the expert knowledge of director Alison Cooper. It was very well received, not least by the National Operatic and Dramatic Association's representative who began his report by saying "John Gay would have stood, as I did, to applaud this incredible production of his Beggar's Opera with a fitting standing ovation". This was praise indeed from the NODA rep, as he's generally called and we hope to make this November's production of Gilbert and Sullivan's well known opera "The Yeomen of the Guard" equally as memorable.

Social events have included after show parties and a talents night and there is always a welcoming atmosphere on show nights from our front of house staff, while the backstage team make all the special props and effects necessary for the success of the production. There is always room for new members and helpers to join this friendly group, on or off stage.

Rehearsals are in full swing for this year's May show, directed by Gini King, a revue called "Connections" which includes well known numbers from musicals, some modern songs and a comedy thriller. It promises to be a good evening's light entertainment on the 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> May. We hope to see you in the audience.

### **Betchworth Parish Crockery**

Councillor Julie Hardy gave the following report:

In the last year, the hire of crockery and cutlery has only raised £95 for church funds. However, I have noticed that bookings seem to be increasing this year. Perhaps there is more interest now in the slightly retro look of the pale blue! For anyone needing crockery, cutlery, tablecloths, runners, candle holders and tea light holders; my details are on the Betchworth Parish website, or the back of the Parish magazine.

### **Betchworth Parish Magazine**

No report received.

### **Betchworth Village War Memorial Hall**

Jean Hurman gave the following report:

This has been another successful year with revenue up on 2013. We still appear to be very popular with Mums for their children's parties and we have picked up extra revenue through the fire at Reigate Rugby club. I am pleased to say we still have our delightful booking of The Mulberry Club and our children's dance classes. We have not had any serious complaints from our long standing regulars which is very rewarding. The hall continues to be well used and we have already a substantial number of bookings for this year and some for 2016/2017.

Last year has seen its problems with the building and surrounding areas: After having one Poplar tree fall down we had the second one checked and it was decided to remove the Poplar before it fell down and this was done in August. August was a busy month we also had the collapsed drain at the back of the hall replaced as far as the kitchen and the drain from the front end to the road had been lined hopefully avoiding the blockages we have suffered in recent years.

The resurfacing of the car park to avoid the muddy corner behind the hall was also been done.

### **Brockham Green Horticultural Society**

Rosemary Buckle gave the following report:

My name is Rosemary Buckle and I am Chairman of Brockham, Betchworth and Buckland Horticultural Society.

We have a membership of 236, 36 of whom reside in Betchworth, therefore, if any of you here, this evening, who are not members and would like to join I have some application forms to hand.

We usually hold two shows each year, but owing to a change in the Show secretary, we are holding only one, the Autumn Show, in 2015. In 2016 we hope to hold both shows. The Summer Show is held in Brockham Church Room with extra exhibition space in a marquee on the village green and the Autumn Show is in Betchworth Village Hall.

Our other activities include the talks that we have earlier in the year. This year we have had Andy Jackman giving a talk on his farming activities, Terry Dunk who brought his poultry and this evening there is Glyn Sharratt from Gatton Park. These talks are open to members and non-members alike.

In addition we had a display of the Society's archive material at the Victorian Fair and Picnic in Brockham.

We have an annual plant stall at Brockham House, Middle St Brockham. This year it will be held on Saturday 9 May.

Betchworth members are active, in fact one, a resident in Barley Mow Court is opening her garden to members on 15 June. I hope you will support us.

## **Buckland & Betchworth Choral Society**

Margaret Miller read out the following report:

Our 2014/2015 has been yet another busy one and in many ways a year of transition and consolidation.

Our rehearsals started at the beginning of September in the Hall of the United Reform Church in Reigate, as we started work on the programme for the Leith Hill Musical Festival and our Christmas concert. During the course of the term, we learned it would be possible to relocate our Wednesday evening rehearsals from Reigate to the Village Hall. So in January, we were delighted once more to become an integral part of the community life of the two villages. We have already regained members we lost as a result of our enforced move to Reigate and we hope to attract many more next season.

Our Christmas concert took place in St Mark's church in Reigate, where we performed a number of Christmas items, including Sir Philip Ledger's, ***This Holy Child***, and traditional carols for choir and congregation. As is our practice, the concert was in aid of charity. This year we chose St Catherine's Hospice. Nick Owen, the BBC newsreader spoke passionately about the charity and his words must have inspired everybody's generosity as we raised £466.

In the New Year, our thoughts turned to the music for the Leith Hill Music Festival. It being a very special year with Brian Kay celebrating 20 years as Festival Director, we had the privilege of being one of the choirs who learned, competed and performed the celebratory Commission by Bob Chilcott, ***Dances of Time***.

In the competition, we were delighted that in our second year of the challenge of competing against Division 1's larger choirs, we were able to be able to firmly consolidate our position and well represent the singing traditions of the two villages. We took second place overall in the main completion, behind Holmbury St Mary, coming second in every class and were awarded the Silver Hen once more. Also we won the ensemble class again and for the first time in Ben Woodward's tenure as conductor, we won the open class. We now set our sights on closing ground on Holmbury.

Our summer singing will be yet another challenge preparing for a joint concert of the Fairfield Halls with the Sussex Festival choir to sing Mahler 2 Symphony, rarely performed because of the forces required to pull it off.

All in all BBCS is in really good shape, but would love to see more Buckland & Betchworth people within our ranks

## **Family Activities for Betchworth & Buckland (FABB formerly Children's Holiday Activities)**

The Clerk read the following report from Catriona Martin:

Our committee numbers have dwindled in the last year, with Louise Targett also stepping down as chairperson last September. Catriona Martin has now taken over and galvanized a group of 8 mums (mostly new to the area) to join the committee, so we are looking forward to some new ideas.

Last summer we held three events: a return trip and picnic at The Discovery Walk at Priory Farm, an afternoon of football coaching (thanks to Reigate

Pilgrims for letting us use the cricket pitch behind the Red Lion and to coach Peter Augstine) and also, a favourite amongst mums and children: a sell-out trip to the Dorking Fire Station.

We have just organized a very successful Easter Egg Hunt on Reigate Heath, attended by nearly 20 children despite near hurricane conditions and a fun afternoon here in The Betchworth Village Memorial Hall with party games and a selection of spring crafts.

We'd like to thank a number of local organisations : The Betchworth Parish Council for its' on-going support, the Betchworth and Buckland Children's Nursery for the loan of sports equipment (they have also loaned us the school field in the past for outdoor games) and the Village Hall for their help and support.

Although we continue to try to cover costs by asking for a small contribution per child for each event, it is very hard to predict attendance, despite advertising and requests for 'booking' in advance. For our crafts too, we are competing with a number of professional venues such as Denbies and Harsfield Manor but we have a number of mums keen to try some new ideas and keep the children's imaginations stretched (thanks to Katherine Burgess and some of our new recruits).

The future is looking very exciting ; we are about to hold a planning meeting to discuss some new ideas for the summer (e.g. felt making) and possibly some trips to new venues such as Ladyland Farm near Horley. With more young families moving to the two villages, we intend to focus more on recruiting and welcoming new mums to our network and refocusing our Christmas activities around previous celebrations with things like a Father Christmas walk , Christmas party and carol singing with a mind to bringing the family community together during holiday times.

### **Goulbourn Cup Tennis Tournament**

Eiluned Slot gave the following report after acknowledging the essential role of the Parish Magazine in publicizing the tournament:

If you still have your September 2014 Parish Magazine, you will find a splendid write-up and lots of colourful photos of the Tournament, all put together by Julia Arrowsmith. It is so good that it makes this report unnecessary.

However, the Tournament continues to flourish and includes many players and non-players from the village. We had three new young entries - most exciting - and are hoping for more this year. Brockham Park generously allowed us to use their tennis courts. As these are adjacent to one another, it helped to make the day very sociable.

Wimbledon has moved its fortnight. We cannot compete with them, so we have now settled on the third week in July for our Tournament.

Please encourage your neighbours, young and old, to dust off their racquets and join in. We can never have too many players.

### **Mulberry Bush Music**

Councillor Julie Hardy gave the following report:

Sarah Pearson and I have been running Mulberry Bush Music for 4 years. We meet on Tuesday mornings in the Geoffrey Brown room of the village hall where we have an increasing number of toddlers and their carers come to sing and play instruments.

We have carefully chosen themes such as 'Moving', 'Time and Weather' and 'Colours and Numbers' and the songs and rhymes fit the themes. A busy and noisy hour seems to be enjoyed by all!

### **North Downs School**

No report received

### **Pebblecoombe Women's Institute.**

Margaret Miller gave the following report:

Pebblecoombe WI like a lot of organisations continues from one year to the next, can it really be a year since I stood here, telling you of our activities in 2013. 2014 slipped past without any major events. We enjoyed cheese and wine, an annual dinner at the Red Lion, a barbecue with Gordon & Rhona, and a special Christmas party. Well, that covers the eating part. Teas on the Green comes later. We have welcomed some new members, and sadly, are losing touch with others as age and infirmity take their toll.

Our visiting speakers have covered local subjects as varied as Policing in Surrey and items at Dorking Museum. We learnt of the 1<sup>st</sup> World War poets, and some notable women who challenged the judicial system. We heard of tools being sent to African countries and of the secret knitters who have decorated the Dorking cockerel. Outings took us to Amberley Outdoor museum where we saw the old engines used in Betchworth Quarry and also to the Christmas decorated Garden Centre in Esher.

Our Christmas party celebrated 45 years of Pebblecoombe WI which should have been in January this year, however our meeting would have been on New Year's Day, so we had the cake early.

This leads me on to major celebrations for the WI this year 2015. The first Women's Institutes founded in the UK were in Wales in 1915. Betchworth WI was the first in Surrey, this was formed in December 1916. We are therefore celebrating **100 years of WI in UK**, and **99 years of the WI in Betchworth** at Pebblecoombe WI Teas on the Green on Sunday afternoon 14<sup>th</sup> June. There will be exhibitions of both WIs, Betchworth and Pebblecoombe, at this event and we invite all villagers to come and join us then. There will be details in the magazine to remind you.

### **Poland House**

No report received.

## **St Michael's Church/PCC**

The following report was given by Graham Williams, Churchwarden:

The last year has been somewhat quieter, now all the building work and the new organ has been completed. We have had some wonderful concerts, one with Thomas Trotter playing the Tickell organ, and then, before he retired up to Suffolk, Martin Ellis from St. Martins in Dorking, gave us a wonderful organ recital. Recently we were entertained by Sutton High School showing us once again, what talented music students they are. The Flower Festival was a great success due to extraordinary work and artistry. Friends of old and new, came up with some very funny and clever ideas.

This week, we have been given the go ahead by the DAC, to finally complete the glass screen over the new vestry. That's the good news! But we are still trying to raise funds to install a new toilet in what was the old choir vestry

A substantial amount of stone repairs were completed during the year, to fulfil the requirements of the Quinquennial Report. Inevitably it was the section marked "Do it or else!". The building will always need constant repairs, mainly because of the Reigate stone.

Rector Carol went off to Merstham and Gatton, for eighteen months, to try and sort out their problems. Dealing with several organisations at once will have been a massive challenge and we wish her well in the last few months.

In the meantime, we have been blessed with the arrival of Rev. Kate Capper, who was working at Horley. During her training to be ordained, she spent some time at St. Michaels, so we already knew what a lovely person she is. When Carol comes back in September, Kate will be moving on to a new life elsewhere. She will be missed by us all.

Next month, on the 9th May, at 7.30pm we are holding a concert, performed by Crispian Steele-Perkins and Ian Le Grice, playing music for trumpet and organ. Both very well known in their own field.

At last we have a new surface on the path running along the south side of the church. It's been a long time coming but a big thank you to those who made it happen.

To finish, a very big thank you to Betchworth parish council for all their hard work to make Betchworth the lovely village that it is.

## **The Hamilton Room**

Gordon Hill gave the following report:

I seem to be the Tail-End Charlie on the list of reports. I won't take long to sing my song.

Karen has already given her Archives report. Generally speaking, the Betchworth Archives are how to spend the money, and the Hamilton Room

are how we earn enough to keep us on an even keel. I am happy to report that the Hamilton Room continues to be solvent and still thriving.

The Hamilton Room is the most important building in Betchworth, because it houses the only toilet available to worried Brides, concerned Grooms, associated congregations, Sunday churchgoers, etc., and there would be many a worried face without this facility .

Our super band of volunteers....all workers, no decorations, continue to support our successful and attractive Meeting Room in the centre of Betchworth,. Our thanks go to them in assisting with the successful management of both the Hamilton Room and the Meg Ryan Room.

Those people who book the Room are highly thought of by us, for the way they respect the room, leave it clean and tidy, adhere to the one or two regulations we have and most importantly enjoy using the room. Our Bookings last year maintained a good level, and our finances were satisfactory.

It may well be that in the long run we look for sponsors or associations....perhaps a 'Friends of the Meg Ryan Room' with an annual contribution, but that is not immediate, possibly in due course.

We now go into our 25<sup>th</sup> year, and it is remarkable that the committee is almost unchanged in those 25 years. Obviously this will alter, and no doubt we will be looking for offers of help in due course

## **12. ADDRESS BY SURREY COUNTY COUNCILLOR HELYN CLACK**

Councillor Clack thanked the Parish Council for inviting her to speak at the meeting and acknowledged the successful team working achieved through the highways forum. She outlined the role of the new Surrey CC Streetworks team in planning utility associated road works and gave an update on Project Horizon.

She then spoke about the achievements in Betchworth over the past year, including the 'very moving' WWI exhibition. She noted the 'good' Ofsted status of the school and praised its wonderful reception facilities and she hoped that more commuters would use the new commuter bus.

She concluded by telling the meeting about the very important Magna Carter celebrations at Runnymede on June 14/15.

## **13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

Councillor Ian Wilson thanked the Chairman for all her hard work over the past year.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9:36pm.