

ISLE OF WIGHT NATURAL HISTORY & ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

General Secretary
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THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the SOCIETY will be held on
Saturday 3rd October 2020 (postponed from Saturday 28th March)
at 2 pm at THE WEDDING BARN, HASELEY MANOR, ARRETON.

N.B. written reports can be found immediately following the Agenda. There will be opportunities for contributors to add verbally to their reports and for members to ask questions.

AGENDA

- 1 Apologies for absence
2. Remembrance of members who died during the last year
- 3 Minutes of the last AGM – March 2019
- 4 Matters arising
5. President's address
6. Secretary's Report
7. Treasurer's Report
- 8.. Other reports (see below)
9. Vote of thanks to retiring officers and members of Council
10. Election of Officers
11. AOB at the discretion of the President. (Items for AOB should be submitted to the Secretary before the start of the meeting)

REPORTS

General Secretary's Report
Treasurer's Report
Librarian's Report
Wight Nature Fund Report

General Secretary's Report

This year has been busy in preparation for our Centenary year and we are extremely grateful to Tina Whitmore who has been ably assisting us and getting messages out on social media. The success of the centenary event at Caffè Isola in November was due in large part to the groundwork that Tina put in.

We are now able to produce an all colour Bulletin twice a year. We have some issues regarding colour reproduction but I hope the new colourful Bulletin is appreciated. Our publications are very much dependent upon the contributions from members and I hope that individuals will continue to submit interesting articles and snippets for inclusion.

Over the last year we have sent out two electronic 'Recording Now' newsletters. If you have not received these and wish to do so, please let one of the officers know your current email address or email iwnhas@btconnect.com

We have acquired Society logo embroidered clothing and these have been distributed to members who have requested them. It is possible to have more produced if there is a demand.

Colin Pope, General Secretary, Jan. 2020

Treasurer's Report

Included with this mail distribution is a copy of the Accounts for 2019.

Listed below are some additional comments:

Income: We received a legacy of £5,000 from J Howden and two £500 donations to the archaeology section towards the projects undertaken by the group.

The main increase in subscriptions is from Gift Aid.

Expenditure: The Down to the Coast project (iWatchWildlife on the Accounts) has now come to an end but a claim for the remaining money spent will appear on the Accounts for December 2020. The iWatchWildlife initiative will continue but funded in another way.

The Society agreed to fund £13,983 for a new piece of gradiometer equipment for the archaeology section to replace the existing machine which was defective, and its value is being written off over 5 years hence the increase in depreciation.

Our total funds amount to £147,514. Some of this will be spent over the year for our centenary celebrations with the main event being the conference in April.

Important Announcement:

I shall be resigning as Treasurer of the Society. I took over from John Edmunds in 1992 when the total funds of the Society were £12,000. In 2004 we received a large donation of £100,000 from the estate of Dorothy and Oliver Frazer which enabled the Society to expand its activities. We took on our own office and improved our half yearly newsletter, The Bulletin. It is now time for me to hand over to someone new and I would encourage you to think about whether you can spare a little time to take on the role. I am happy to provide any support needed in the first instance and would like to think someone will come forward within the next 12 months. I shall, in any case, finish at the next AGM (2021).

Jackie Hart, Honorary Treasurer, Jan 2020

Librarian's Report

There have been several new acquisitions including more field guides. We now receive the annual proceedings of the Societe Jersiaise. This is a reciprocal arrangement similar to that we have with Dorset, Wiltshire, Hampshire and Glasgow, The Societe covers a similar range of interests to ours.

Helen Jackson, Library Administrator, Jan 2020

Wight Nature fund report for IWNHAS AGM 2020.

Thanks to a generous legacy, WNF was able to send a donation towards the purchase of Parsonage Farm & Hill Heath, & donate a viewing platform at Moreton Marsh. Steve Egerton-Read resigned from the WNF committee to oversee the reintroduction of the Sea Eagles, & Emma Hunt, the H&IWWT Wetlands Officer, was welcomed at the October meeting.

Alverstone Mead: Volunteers carried out routine maintenance, repairing seats & fences, clearing ditches, removing Himalayan Balsam & Ragwort. Reptile monitoring produced results, & Brian Such has now been trained to carry on with surveys. Cameras are moved around & have captured barn owls, herons, buzzards, badger, fox & water voles (which still enjoy using the little floating rafts). Warden Terry Guilford has captured some amazing footage. The workshop produced nest boxes & squirrel feeders, which sold well at the Wolverton Fair. Many visitors come regularly to see the squirrels. We ask visitors to park in the village rather than Burnt House Lane. The kissing gate in Alverstone Road, in memory of Brian Evans, will be replaced, & a tree will be planted in Youngwoods Copse in Brian's memory, thanks to Jill Green, who contacted Brian's widow for her approval.

Copse Mead: Bob Edney has organised the cutting of hedges & mowing of the meadow, & visited some of the residents to discuss concerns with their boundary hedges. An annual donation comes in for maintenance of the seat, which Bob oversees.

Mill Copse: Our thanks go to Bob for dealing with antisocial behaviour, which resulted in the hide being closed for the Christmas period. The paths have been kept clear, & overhanging branches & a fallen tree dealt with.

Pelham Woods: Maurice Fletcher continues to work voluntarily, & Maggie Nelmes meets with him regularly to discuss management. They are currently monitoring ash dieback. The steps will be replaced when weather permits.

Youngwoods Copse: Rodney & Yvonne Harris again hosted a delightful walk & tea in May. Last spring was especially good for the display of bluebells & anemones which have filled the clearings created by fallen trees.

Members were saddened to hear of the death of Ron Smith, one of our earliest supporters, without whose help we would not have acquired Mill Copse, & Nick Chandler, who was warden of Mill Copse for many years.

Mary Edmunds.