

MILTON KEYNES HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF MKHA MEMBERS MEETING Thursday 28th November 2018 at St Mary's Church Bletchley 7.00pm for 7.30pm

PRESENT

Robert Excell (Chair)	Individual Member
Dave Muston (Vice Chair)	Calverton Records Project
Dianne Sutton (Exec) (Hon. Sec.)	Bradwell Parish Heritage Group
Cheryl Butler (Minutes)	Post Vacant
Charlotte Hall (Treasurer)	Deanshanger Village Heritage Society
Alan Cooper (IT Officer)	Woughton Heritage Group
Jennifer Cooper (Social Media Officer)	New Bradwell Heritage Group
Catherine McIntyre (Exec)	New Bradwell Heritage Group
Tony Kesten	MK City Discovery Centre
John Clarke	CLASP
Roly Doggett	Woburn Heritage Centre
Chris Stapleton	Bletchley Archaeological & Historical Society
Alastair Inglis	North Crawley Historical Society
Chris Hillyard	Road Local History Society
Peter Mawby	Road Local History Society
Vivian Blyth	Road Local History Society
Athina Beckett	Road Local History Society
Kathy Dentith	Buckingham Canal Society
Barbara Evelyn	Newport Pagnell Historical Society
Mike Wittle	Newport Pagnell Historical Society
Rev David McDougal	St Mary's Church, Bletchley
Deborah Snook	St Mary's Church, Bletchley
Steve Snook	St Mary's Church, Bletchley
Peter Barnes	St Mary's Church, Bletchley
Ian Michie	Simpson Historical Society
Lynne Cairns	Individual Member & MK Public Arts Trust
Helene Hill	Heritage MK
Kay Meadows	Buckingham Old Gaol
Brian Giggins	Buckingham Old Gaol
Aggie O'hara	Towcester & District Local History Society & Towcester Historic Survey
Athina Beckett	MK Libraries – Local Studies
	Buckingham Canal Society

APOLOGIES

Bill Griffiths (Hon President)	Milton Keynes Museum
Anna Mc Evoy (Exec)	Stowe House Preservation Trust
Neil Loudon (Exec)	Milton Keynes Museum Society
Diane Kesterton	Bow Brickhill Society
Shane Downer	Milton Keynes Council – Senior Heritage Development Officer
Michael Held	Two Villages Archive Trust
Nikkii Beales	Greek Orthodox Community

Item	Matters Discussed	Action
1.0	<p>Welcome Rev David McDougal welcomed everyone on behalf of St Mary's Church and gave a short history of his relationship with the church and its recent restoration work.</p>	
2.0	<p>Robert Excell welcomed all to the meeting thanked the Rev McDougal and Mike Wittle of St Mary's for providing a splendid host venue, Robert then outlined the agenda, thanking Dave for providing the media screen content for the meeting. He introduced this evening's speaker Ian Michie, Chair, MK Public Arts Trust</p>	
3.0	<p>Minutes of the Last Meeting Minutes from the last meeting 25th June at Stowe House were approved.</p>	
4.0	<p>Speaker – Ian Michie, Chair, MK Public Arts Trust Experiencing some technical equipment difficulties (software incompatibility) Ian gave an interesting and informative talk on the work of the MK Public Arts Trust. Showing the diverse nature and high quality of public art in Milton Keynes and outlining the work of the Trust in recording and safeguarding them.</p> <p>The Trust is currently working on Robert Hooke Project in collaboration with the Royal Society now based at Chicheley Hall. Hooke designed Willen Church and the project aims to raise his profile and his MK links internationally and locally, It is also intended to create a Robert Hooke Innovation Park with sculptures that would bring to life his work.</p> <p>Centre MK Art Trail, Gyosei Art Trail and ROCLA Art Trails have been created and Ian is available for presentations and guided walks by appointment. IanMichie@yahoo.co.uk For further information about the Trust www.PublicArtsTrust.org.uk</p> <p>Robert Excell thanked Ian for his illuminating presentation about the Trust and his forbearance with the technical equipment difficulties</p>	
5.0	<p>MKC Senior Heritage Development Officer's Report – Shane Downer in absentia</p>	
5.1	<p>MK Museum Expansion MK Museum met their first milestone fundraising target reaching £325,000. The Museum is now awaiting results of the SEMLEP Local Growth Fund decision on their £1.4m grant bid. With MK Council supporting to complete the galleries by 2020.</p>	
5.2	<p>Bradwell Abbey MK Council and MK City discovery Centre are working with Historic England to access Heritage at Risk funding to repair the Pilgrim Chapel. Work on the rest of the site has been programmed and work should be completed later in 2019</p>	
5.3	<p>Bradwell Windmill MK Museum and MK Council have agreed the 2019 Maintenance Plan and is being delivered to the millwrights</p>	
5.4	<p>Capital Programme 2019 MK Arts Centre – site work and re development of the site Central Library and City Archive Phase 1 – trialling a 2 year pilot archive service The two projects funding plans are being finalised and will go forward to MKC Cabinet for approval February 2019. MKHA is a stakeholder and potential partner in the City Archive.</p>	
5.5	<p>International Programme New Town focussed 'Design City' projects are continuing building a network of cities that can share learning and support the growth of MK whilst recognising the unique heritage value input into the 20560 Futures Plan and the Creative and Cultural City agenda. This includes a Housing Design Conference (May) at MK Gallery and the Festival of Creative Urban Living experiment with Raumlabour architects in September 2019</p>	
5.6	<p>MKC Grant to MKHA Grant funding for 2019/20 ids agreed as Year 3 of the three year funding commitment from MKC. Robert thanked Shane on behalf of Members for the continued support</p>	

<p>6.0</p> <p>6.2</p> <p>7.0</p> <p>7.1</p> <p>7.2</p> <p>8.0</p> <p>8.1</p>	<p>Treasurer's Report Robert introduced MKHA new Treasurer Charlotte Hall. Charlotte, from Woughton Heritage Group, thanked her predecessor Dianne for the handover and for all her hard work as a successful Treasurer for the Association and made a thank you gift to Dianne on behalf of the Membership. Charlotte asked for forbearance as she learns the ropes. Charlotte's Contact details: mkhatreasurer@gmail.com MK Heritage Maps are available through her and can offer a small income resource for members when selling them at member's own events.</p> <p>Treasurer's Account £14,481.31 Business Bank Instant: £3,432.81 Long Term Deposit £5,149.49</p> <p>Grants – Dianne gave an update in Neil's absence Members' Grants £250 - £750 Grants are available through applications there are some qualifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grants apply to those members outside of MK unitary as well as within • Must be a member for at least 18mths • No grant will be offered within 18mths for a repeat grant – with possible exceptions for special events, e.g. HODs <p>If you need assistance contact any Exec Member or contact: mkhabuckspoint.org Forms are downloadable from the MKHA website. Applications must meet the Grant criteria (laid down to be compatible with MKC's own criteria)</p> <p><u>Update on Most recent Grant awards</u> 1 ring-fenced <i>Conflict to Cosmopolis</i> is outstanding awaiting completion by the end of 2018. <u>North Crawley History Group</u>– Chris Stapleton presented a copy to MKHA of the Commemorative book of the village's WW1 soldiers</p> <p><u>Bow Brickhill</u> – reprint of existing leaflet (£37.50) <u>Road Local History Society</u> (£750) - Phase 1 part-funding costs of model construction & Phase 2: Transport Red Plaque installation costs <u>CMK Library</u> – £500 Branded Goodie Bag for Ichthyosaur project</p> <p>MKHA News New Members Towcester Historic Survey - aim to record every old building in Towcester</p> <p>Recent Heritage Events Heritage Open Days September 2018 Thanks to all those who participated, visitors numbers approximately standing at 19,000 to 80 events held over the two weekends</p> <p>For 2019, organisers The National Trust, have instigated HODs events to be held nationally over two weekends and for the week in between</p> <p>The 2018 Great War commemoration events Christ the Cornerstone Church & Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies hosted had low attendance but MKHA was represented Many Members had hosted or been present at lots of community events with large numbers of visitors attending the events and Church Services</p> <p>Archaeology Day 2018 Held again at Christ the Cornerstone Church, CMK. Some MKHA members had stalls at the event which was attended by mainly interested parties with some interesting talks about past Archaeological work in MK</p> <p>Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies History Fair This was mainly attended by groups from the South of the County, Robert attended on behalf of MKHA</p> <p>Archives Day @ CMK Library Exhibitions staged in the Event Space and Discover MK space on the first floor Disappointing attendance figures but the Event Space was used to hold interesting talks about the Development of MK</p>	<p>ALL</p>
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<p>9.0 9.1</p>	<p>MKHA Connections Newsletter</p>
	<p>Members are reminded to get signed up for the Newsletter circulated every Monday, just sign up through the link from the MKHA website Thanks to Alan for the varied content and updates and if any member has an event remember to let him know and he will add it to the next issue: mkha@buckspoint.org.uk</p>
<p>9.2</p>	<p>MKHA Facebook Page Jennifer Cooper has established a Facebook presence with a MKHA Group so to promote your events please send info to mkha@buckspoint.org.uk</p>
<p>9.3</p>	<p>MKHA Website – Alan reported This time next year all sites and databases will be moved to our new hosting company which is already hosting the MKHA Wordpress sites of a number of Members. This involves A. Members migrating their sites to Wordpress B. MKHA moving member’s websites. In addition MKHA will be responsible for moving all the Community Heritage Digital Archive databases to the new host and creating a public archive of all the website content for which there is no longer an owner responsible for its maintenance, We will be contacting members who haven’t already made as decision over the next few months as to which option A or B they would like to adopt</p>
<p>9.3.1</p>	<p><u>Securing the Website</u> MKHA will be purchasing a security (SSL) certificate for the new website. Security certificates allow secure connections from a web server to a browser – shown by the padlock or green bar in the browser and the https address, The use of SL certificates protects sensitive information such as credit card information, usernames, passwords etc. it also improves Google rankings and enhances user trust. HTTPS is especially important over insecure networks such as public WI-FI access points. Certification will incur extra work and additional costs. This will provide not just security but a backup of the site covering all Members sites. MKHA Exec Committee has agreed to absorb the additional cost this year but will result in a small rise of £5; therefore from November 2019 webhosting costs to Members will be £25 per annum.</p>
<p>10.0</p>	<p>Festival of History 2019 Following the success of the Campbell Park event in 2017, Heritage MK agreed to stage another for the weekend of 15th-16th June 2019. A steering group, led by MK City Discovery centre, has been set up and MKHA have representation. MKHA member feedback from the last event was passed to the Steering group and will be acted upon. There are proposals for additional activities in the amphitheatre area this time will include more Re-enactor activities and food outlets. Along with a printed programme, signage around the whole site and joint announcements and programming between the various arenas</p>
<p>10.1</p>	<p><u>MKHA Workshops</u> A workshop for all interested parties will be held in the new year. MKHA Exec has agreed to offer ‘special grants’ of up to £80 toward pull-up banners, printed leaflets, exhibition display materials, activity event or costume hire costs for participants. Please remember to think about offering free family friendly activities and not make your stand just a book sales outlet. An opportunity to promote your group to a much wider family ‘shopping audience’ and raise the awareness of local heritage in a fun way. Please let the Exec know if you want to take part.</p>
<p>11.0 11.1</p>	<p>ARCH-MK: Safeguarding the archives UPDATE Workshop held in October gave a background and insight to the project and the groups discussed the types of archive material held by local groups and what was required to protect them for the future. 10 different groups were represented at the workshop Outcome: Group requirements from the proposed project were established from discussions included:</p>

	<p>Support and help in cataloguing to a professional standard but not too onerous Professional advice on storage Central purchasing source & funding for storage materials Training and development of skills through professional assistance Making the collections more publicly accessible through exhibitions and websites</p>	
12.0	<p>Member Reports <i>Remember images tell the story of your event/activity much better. Please send to Dave prior to the next meeting: david@ davidmustondesign.co.uk</i></p>	
12.1	<p>CLASP-Tony Kesten Images from a very interesting 4-day trip to Roman & Medieval sites in South Wales. Winter activities (cleaning objects) are underway at Whitehall site Upper Nether Heyford. Forthcoming- Trip to leather works in Northampton</p>	
12.2	<p>Buckinghamshire Canal Society – Athina Beckett Images of the Society’s ongoing restoration/construction work at Cosgrove Bridge of the Buckingham Arm of the Grand Union Canal. Work is being overseen by structural engineer of The Canal & River Trust and funds obtained from the materials but all labour is through the efforts of volunteers</p>	
12.3	<p>Calverton Records Project – Dave Muston Guided walks for HODs the morning had 7 bookings but ended up with 20 people and 40 attended for the afternoon tour. There was an accompanying exhibition in the Church. CRP has created a walking trail with map available on line via the website</p>	
12.4	<p>Buckingham Old Gaol – Helene Hill HODS event had 286 visitors and The Friends group raised funds through the sale of refreshments, The Prisoners exhibition tells 4 stories from different inmates and was created from research undertaken by a committee member. A town Ghost Walk in October raised £300 and a craft fair had 400 visitors in November.</p>	
12.5	<p>Road Local History Society – Alastair Inglis HODs: Society held events across two weekends celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the opening of the Roade Cutting. Exhibition about the history of the work and the social history of the village accompanied by a model made by members and staff and pupils from Elizabeth Woodville Schools (Roade and Deanshanger). The Unveiling of the cuttings award of a red transport plaque was held – plaque located on the road bridge 100 volunteers assisted in running the 2 weekend events Alastair acknowledged with thanks the MKHA grant along with money from a Northamptonshire Community Grant</p>	
12.6	<p>Woburn Heritage Centre – John Clarke Closed for the winter now. Past year visitor numbers were down but donations up due in part to staging guided walks around the town. Clock has been repaired £7.5k with new winding mechanism and a digital link installed for maintaining accuracy. Funds raised through villagers and interested parties. Losing members now down to 18 members Accreditation application will be resubmitted in November 2019 Woburn will be unable to attend Festival of History as the weekend clashes with the towns Open Gardens and Scarecrow festival</p>	
12.7	<p>Woughton Heritage Group – Charlotte Hall Armistice event held 11.11.18. Promotional history snippet cards were distributed to all village households; this resulted in good attendance of 150. Bell ringers tolled the bells in <i>Armistice Doubles</i> for 1¼ hours. Julian Hunt’s talk on ‘How Woughton Kept its Green’ attracted over 70 people Archaeological survey of The Green’s lumps and bumps has proven that Woughton was at one time a densely populated area</p>	
12.8	<p>Towcester Historical Society - Brian Giggins Publication of Booklet produced on WW1 Military Camp at Towcester</p>	

12.8.1	<p>Historic Survey Towcester Funding obtained through Historic England and work has begun on recording the old Towcester buildings to understand its growth and development. Training on recording, measuring and creating reports on every building has been given. Final outcome is to create a Historic Environment record of the town</p>	
12.9	<p>St Mary's Church, Bletchley – Steven Snook Armistice Day Service, Cenotaph Commemoration and event attended by 800 people. A waterfall of poppies was created, refreshments with WW1 cake recipes and a book of the fallen was available (Churchyard has 4 War Commission Graves)</p> <p>Archivist from Centre Buckinghamshire Studies has produced a report on documents and books found in the Church – important social history records including local settlement and bastardy orders, some dating back to James I. A plan for work on conservation, preservation and digitising the material is underway</p>	
12.10	<p>Deanshanger Village Heritage Society – Cheryl Butler HODs: Major village exhibition 'Discover Deanshanger'. Promotional flyers delivered to every household successfully resulted in a large attendance (500+ in 5 hours) attracting a large number of family groups and residents from the newer housing developments. Accompanying the history exhibition were a number of related activities: Dressing up box with post a selfie, story-time extracts told from a residents recollections book, film presentation of a walk round the Victorian village told through archive images, create a roman pot in clay, paint with oxide pigments. The sale of refreshments books and donations raised over £250</p>	
13.0	<p>Any Other Business Living Archive MK has surplus equipment available – please see Robert Woburn Heritage Centre – has a projector and screen available for members – please see John Clarke</p>	
14.0	<p>Next Meeting – 2019 Dates for your diaries</p> <p>27th March 2019 at North Crawley Institute June 2019 - venue and date tbc September 2019 - AGM Granary Tea Room Milton Keynes Museum – date tbc Autumn 2019 – venue date etc tbc</p> <p>Further information, papers and details will be circulated nearer each meeting date via MKHA News, so please make sure you're signed up</p>	