

# MILTON KEYNES HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

## Annual General Meeting Wednesday 25th September 2019, 7.30pm Milton Keynes Museum - Granary Tea Room

### PRESENT

Bill Griffiths (President)	Milton Keynes Museum
Robert Excell (Chair)	Individual Member
David Muston (Vice Chair)	Calverton Records Project
Dianne Sutton (Exec)	Bradwell Parish Heritage Group
Alan Cooper (Exec IT Officer)	New Bradwell Heritage Group
Jennifer Cooper	New Bradwell Heritage Group
Charlotte Hall (ActingTreas.)	Woughton Heritage Group
Cheryl Butler (Exec)	Deanshanger Village Heritage Society
Mike Wittle	St Mary's Church, Bletchley
Shane Downer	MKC Senior Heritage Officer
Kathy Dentith	Newport Pagnell Historical Society
Barbara Evelyn	Newport Pagnell Historical Society
Catherine McIntyre (Exec)	MK City Discovery Centre
Aggie O'Hara	CMK Libraries – Local Studies
Richard Meredith	Individual Member
Chris Stapleton	North Crawley Historical Society
Michael Held	Two Villages Archive Trust
John Brand	North Crawley Historical Society
John Gosling	Yardley Gobion
Roger Emery	Wolverton & district AHS
Ian Mitchie	Individual Member, Public Arts Trust
J David Morgan	CLASP
Bill & Brenda Andrews	National Badminton Museum
Neil Morgan	MK Wargames Society

### APOLOGIES

John Brand	North Crawley Historical Society
Ian Mitchie	Individual Member, Public Arts Trust
Brian Giggins	Towcester & District Local History Society
Roly Doggett	Bletchley Archaeological & Historical Society
Athina Beckett	Buckingham Canal Society
Neil Lowden	MK Museum Society
Anna McEvoy (Exec)	Stowe House Preservation Trust
John Clarke	Woburn Heritage Centre
Helene Hill	Buckingham Old Gaol
Vivian Blyth	Road Local History Society
Amanda Molcher	Cowper & Newton Museum
Sue Crabbe	Bletchley Archaeological & Historical Society
Nick Crank	MK Council Conservation Officer
Peter Barnes	Simpson Historical Society
Mike Gosling	Individual Member, Great Linford

Item		Action
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1.0

### **Welcome & Introduction**

Robert welcomed all to the meeting. Thanked Bill for providing the venue and Charlotte for organising the refreshments. The Agenda for the evening was outlined

2.1

### **Guest Speaker: Bill Griffiths – Milton Keynes Museum Developments Update**

Museum has recently importantly acquired a concrete K3 telephone kiosk, one of only 5 known to exist in the country. A Red Bull F1 car on loan and a driverless POD Car are now both on display in the foyer of the new galleries.

Fundraising continues for the fit out of the two new galleries. The modern gallery is being used for temporary exhibitions to assist in assessing the popularity and operational developments for a possible additional service in the future. HERSTORY was the inaugural exhibition, to be followed by a textiles exhibition opening in November, which looks at modern and historical elements of cloth manufacture, it includes loans from Royal School of Needlework, Hampton Court and local modern examples. A sport exhibition is planned for next year to celebrate Milton Keynes- A 2020 European City of Sport

Ancient History Gallery – currently half the space has been allotted for use as an education area to open in two weeks time and in the other half work has started on consolidating a Bancroft Roman villa room floor mosaic which will be used in the new display. Outline Designs for the new displays (shown on screen) are progressing, a flowplan, case design and ways of what and how much work can be built in-house is currently being assessed

A Museum Nature Trail has been developed and extended around the site in collaboration with The Parks Trust

Its projected that the Modern MK Gallery should open in 2022

2.2

### **Guest Speaker: Shane Downer, MK Council Senior Heritage Officer - Heritage Update**

MKC supports grassroots heritage across the borough and wider area. MKHA and its members are an integral part of the Council's heritage strategy, belying the old adage 'MK doesn't have any heritage'. The Council recognises and thanks MKHA for its role in organising the very successful Festival of History events and supporting Discover Milton Keynes events, which show the diverse nature of heritage in MK. Shane thanked MKHA members for their role and continued support for Heritage Open Days. MK has been placed on the national Heritage Map as one of the longest running and best supported areas. 150 events were held over 10 days this year.

Heritage has played a strategic part in the major cultural city event 'A Festival of Creative Urban Living' (AFCUL) that's opening tomorrow (26<sup>th</sup> Sept – 13<sup>th</sup> Oct 2019). Its theme is the Built, Unbuilt and Unbuildable; it has a programme of free events music, exhibits, workshops, performances and much more. Curated by the experimental architectural practice Raumlaborberlin, and set along Midsummer Boulevard. Please visit, there's something for everyone. Free event newspapers were available to take at the meeting

MKC/MKHA Grant – MKC has invited the Exec to apply for a continuation of grant funding. To be used by members to assist with their events and activities.

MK 2050 Futures Commission – Heritage is part of Culture Life Big Project 6 and AFCUL is the first of the major events of this project. Heritage will also play a role in Big Project 5 Renaissance of the City Centre. Public Spaces areas of MK University build (Big project 2) and in the Big Project 1 Oxford-Cambridge arc heritage informs, influences and makes MK's development understood.

Demonstrating that MK Heritage is and should be an influence on modern and any new growth of the city.

#### Capital Development Projects:

Bradwell Abbey - MKC has committed a £600 thousand investment in the site which will enable MK City Discovery Centre to enact its business plan that includes highlighting the Abbey's medieval history.

Great Linford - MK Council in partnership with Arts centre, Parks Trust and Church developing the parklands area and Alms Houses

MK Museum – MKC continues supporting Museum developments and plans

Westbury Arts Centre – working on plans to ensure Elizabethan House remains in public ownership  
MK City Archive – Aiming to open phase 1 next year as a trial assisting in forming the plans for phase 2.  
European City of Sport 2020 – part of the bid includes a major culture and heritage programme of events, including a major exhibition and activity event working with MK Museum  
Cowper & Newton Museum – 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (2022) major international heritage event in MK being planned

Dianne Sutton raised a query about the current status of the Local Heritage List, as a couple of the nominated for listing have already been part of planning developments and an opportunity for heritage input had been missed.

Shane replied it's being led by Simon Peart, MKC Senior Conservation Officer and MKHA will have place a on the Committee. Taking longer than hoped, but Simon is visiting all the proposed sites and features. MKC Forum is assisting in checking all the backgrounds of each of the proposals. It's hoped that by November 2019 the shortlist of the first 50 from the submitted 250 items will start to be discussed.

The Chair thanked both speakers for their informative updates on heritage in Milton Keynes

### **Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting**

**3.0** Minutes from the last AGM held 26<sup>th</sup> September 2018 were approved

Proposed: Dianne Sutton, Bradwell Parish Heritage Group and Seconded :Michael Held Two Villages Archive Trust

### **Matters Arising**

**3.1** None raised

### **Chairman's Report 2018-2019, Robert Excell**

**4.0** Membership stands at 70 organisations and 5 Individual Members

3 Association Main Member meetings were held: 28<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at St Mary's Church, Bletchley, 27<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at North Crawley and 27<sup>th</sup> June at Buckingham Old Gaol. Thanks to all the hosts were expressed.

The Exec Committee met 10 times and thanks to all those who hosted the various members who hosted these at their homes.

**4.1** **Heritage Open Days** was the highlight of the year. 150 events held over 10 days, thank you to all those participants for their tremendous support and to Living Archive MK for coordinating the event. Thanks also to Alan Cooper (MKHA IT Officer) for once again building and managing the website. The MK event began 14 years ago with 15 events and has now grown to become one of the places with the most activities an achievement we should all be proud of. MHA is grateful to MK Council for its funding; however they get a lot for the relatively small amount given.

**4.2** **The second Festival of History** was staged at Campbell Park in June 2019, a successful event although the poor weather deterred some visitors. The Risk Assessment procedure caused extra work this year but documentation can prove helpful in forming the basis for member's future events. The event's publicity and some other issues need to be addressed and improved should the event be repeated. MKHA is grateful for the support funding received from MK Community Foundation and offers it thanks to Noël James, MKCDC, and members of the Organising Committee for their hard work in bring the event to fruition.

**4.3** **New Town Heritage Register** MKHA has expressed concerns over the slow progress of the project, we understand that background work is continuing on the nominated listings, but has been disappointed that the advisory committee (that will include a MKHA representative) has yet to be convened.

### **MKC & Grants**

**4.4** MK Council Grant received for 2018-2019 was £3465. MKHA Grant criteria and conditions and

application forms are available on the MKHA website and we encourage members to apply.

Maximum grant amount available £750

Recent grants given include

MKHA member group	Grant	Purpose of grant
CMK Library	£500	Branded Bags for children – ‘heritage seekers’
St Mary’s Church, Bletchley	£613.50	Costs towards digitising archive material
Buckingham Canal Society	£300	Reprint of walking trail leaflet

#### **ARCHMK: Proposed HLF Application**

- 4.5** This is a project to help members manage their own archive material and make it more available for users. Neil Loudon & Anna McEvoy have been working hard to produce HLF funding application. Need Member groups to consider signing up and Letters of Support are also to be required. Complimentary steps are being made to provide an archive presence in Central Milton Keynes by MKC and partners. Members are urged to support these developments making archives more publicly accessible.

#### **MKHA Services**

- 4.6** MKHA loan equipment including a projector and loudspeaker for member’s use.  
Information leaflets including Care and storage of paper, artefacts and photographs available on request  
Speakers List – Alan Cooper IT Officer has an e-list of member’s speakers past talks  
Newsletter – Thanks to Alan for his considerable work on the MKHA website an invaluable tool for highlighting a variety of heritage events. As part of the MK Community Foundation grant MKHA has had bookmarks printed advertising the Newsletter link, sign up to [www.mkheritage.org.uk/email-newsletter](http://www.mkheritage.org.uk/email-newsletter). Please pass the info on to your members  
Training – Please let us know of any training courses you would like MKHA to arrange for you and your members

#### **MKHA Website**

- 4.7** Member development Wednesday morning sessions continue at MK Museum LA Training Hut. Thanks to our hosts. Several groups are using the facility but others are welcome. It’s a forum for working on your group website and a good source for help and sharing ideas. Alan Cooper is working on transferring members sites to the new host provider. Some have been completed including old archived sites and other groups who are not undertaking the work will be contacted in due time.

#### **Discover Milton Keynes**

- 4.8** An exhibition programme has continued throughout the year. Programme info available online, the link available through MKHA website. If you have any ideas or want raise your profile in the space please contact us

#### **MKHA Contacts & Collaborations**

- 4.9** MKHA is a member of British Association for Local History, Arts & Heritage Alliance (A-HAMK), Community Action-MK, Bucks Archive and Heritage Network  
**MKC** : Shane has attended two Association Member meetings updating us on heritage matters and continues to meet with MKHA Officers during the year

#### **Treasurer’s Report – Charlotte Hall**

- 5.0** Audited Accounts 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018 – 31 August 2019 were tabled at the meeting and online prior to the meeting. Thanks were expressed to the auditor.  
The yearend working Accounts show a £4524.57 surplus, added to carried forward balances and bank deposits the overall balance is £25316.18. MKHA is in a stable financial position. However the future of the MKC grant award remains unknown.  
Printed copies of the accounts will be circulated to each group with subscription renewal letters

**5.1 Increase to MKHA Website Host Costs Proposal**  
Due to increased costs from providers it is proposed to raise the MKHA Website Host Fee from £20 up to £25 per annum for every group opting into the service. "This is still good value for money" said Ian Mitchie.  
Proposer: Dianne Sutton, Bradwell Parish Heritage Group  
Seconded: Jennifer Cooper, New Bradwell History Group  
Vote: No objections Result : **Carried unanimously**

**6.0 Election of Officers**  
All existing Officers and Exec Members have agreed to stand and it was agreed to nominate en bloc.

Officers:

Robert Excell	Chair	Individual Member
Dave Muston	Vice Chair	Calverton Records Project
Charlotte Hall	Treasurer	Woughton Heritage Group
Mike Wittle	Secretary	St Mary's Church, Bletchley <b>(New)</b>

Executive Committee members:

Anna McEvoy	Stowe House Preservation Trust
Alan Cooper	Website & IT Technical Officer, New Bradwell History Group
Cheryl Butler	Deanshanger Village Heritage Society
Dianne Sutton	Bradwell Parish History Group
Neil Loudon	Milton Keynes Museum Society
Catherine McIntyre	MK City Discovery Centre
Dianne Sutton	

Shane Downer, MK Council Senior Heritage Development Officer, is an advisor and Council liaison to the Committee

Officer re- election :

Proposer: Dianne Sutton Bradwell Parish Heritage Group  
Seconded: Jennifer Cooper, New Bradwell History group

**7.0 MKHA Business Plan & Policy Documents**  
As part of the business plan MKHA Policy Documents have been updated and were tabled at the meeting and distributed online prior to the meeting to be ratified by the members

1. Child Protection
2. Equal Opportunities
3. Learning

Following discussions it was agreed that policies for **Learning** and **Equal Opportunities** were **accepted**

John Brandon suggested some amendments to Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults policy. It was agreed he and MKHA Committee would rework this policy and hold an Extraordinary General Meeting prior to the start of the next Main Members meeting to offer the revised policy to the membership for ratification (19<sup>th</sup> November 2019)

**AGM CLOSED 8.55pm**

**8.0 Any Other Business**  
**8.1 Heritage Open Days – Dave Muston, MKHA Exec**  
Requested members to send any images of their events to Dave: david@davidmustondesign.co.uk  
Secklow Sounds, local radio, broadcast a promotional advertorial for the event this year

**Cross Group Collaboration - Richard Meredith, Individual member**

<p><b>8.2</b></p> <p><b>8.3</b></p> <p><b>8.4</b></p> <p><b>9.0</b></p>	<p>Richard thought the organisation offered a great opportunity for member groups to work with each other on projects</p> <p><b>St Andrews School, Great Linford – Mike Gosling, Individual Member</b> Record books of 1874 have been uncovered in school safe and may well have cross-over links with other local organisations</p> <p><b>Main Member Future Meeting Venues – Charlotte Hall, MKHA Exec</b> MKHA is looking for venues in surrounding towns and villages for future meetings, we will pay to hire village halls, meeting areas etc, ideally with wifi link but venues without also considered. If you would like to host a meeting (a chance to promote your organisation) and know of a nearby venue please let Charlotte or Exec member know.</p> <p><b>Next Members Main Meeting</b> Tuesday 19th November 2019 at Rectory Cottages, Bletchley 7.15pm for 7.30pm start. Directions, agenda and other information will be circulated prior to the event</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>MEETING CLOSED 9.10pm</b></p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">The above Minutes of the Annual General Meeting were accepted</p> <p>Signed: _____ Date: _____</p> <p>Robert Excell Chair, Milton Keynes Heritage Association</p>	