

**MILTON KEYNES
HERITAGE ASSOCIATION**

**MINUTES OF MKHA VIRTUAL MEMBERS MEETING
Wednesday 25th November 2020**

PRESENT

Robert Excell (Chair)	Individual Member
Dave Muston (Vice Chair)	Calverton Records Project
Mike Wittle (Hon. Sec.)	St Mary's Church, Bletchley
Charlotte Hall (Treasurer)	Woughton Heritage Group
Alan Cooper (IT Officer)	New Bradwell Heritage
Jennifer Cooper (Social Media Officer)	New Bradwell Heritage
Neil Loudon (Exec)	Milton Keynes Museum Society
Anna Mc Evoy (Exec)	Stowe House Preservation Trust
Barbara Evelyn	Newport Pagnell Historical Society
Kathy Dentith	Newport Pagnell Historical Society
Peter Sear	Newport Pagnell Historical Society
Tom Jones	Olney Archilological Society
Brian Giggins	Towcester & District Local History Society & Towcester Historic Survey
Jonathan Ingram	- Ditto -
Sue Ingram	- Ditto -
Dianne Sutton	Bradwell Parish Heritage Group
Aggie Canning	MK Central Library
Angela Turner	NT Association
Brian Baldwin	Individual member
Norma Baldwin	Individual member

APOLOGIES

Cheryl Butler (Exec)	Deanshanger Village Heritage Society
Catherine McIntyre (Exec)	MK City Discovery Centre
Chris Stapleton	North Crawley Historical Society
Alistair Inglis	Road Local History Society
Chris Nelson	Newport Pagnell Historical Society

Item	Matters Discussed	Action
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1.0

Welcome

The Chair, Robert, welcomed all to the meeting.

2.0

Armchair Heritage - Things to do at home

Neil Loudon & Brian Giggins shared their experiences. Neil took us through the following topics:-

- Key Benefits (*slide 4*);
- Research, Writing & Cataloguing (*slide 5*); and
- On-line Activities with heritage connections (*slide 6*)

The following comments / suggestions came up as part of a wider discussion:-

- Perspective audience and their needs;
- Researching and how groups can undertake this from home on-line;
- British Newspaper Archive's and their benefits to groups (£25 per person for 3 months membership);
- National Archive's such as the British Library (40,000 OS Maps are currently available free of charge to look at);
- Historic England, National Ancestry Archive;
- Business Archives;
- Grey Literature (York) and Archiological digs not in journals; and
- Ariel pictures that can be obtained from Cambridge University Ariel Films .

Alongside the above the use of facebook and photographs that can be sourced particularly from older generations. Newport Pagnell have an old faces Facebook page.

Hunting around on-line can produce a lot of material so why not do this whilst we cannot hold meetings in person or open historical places of interest.

Slide 6 suggestions:-

- Updating and refreshing webpages;
- On-line meetings – Zoom, Webex, Skype, Teams;
- Set up heritage discussion groups on-line – heritage topics;
- Set up recorded webinars (meet the 'expert');
- Arrange training sessions for group member;
- Maintain engagement with your members – quizzes and competition;
- Share heritage photographs and stories;
- Prepare heritage events and activities for post-lockdown; and
- Connections with wider world – local, regional, national, global.

3.0

Making full use of MKHA Newsletter

Alan explained the background to the newsletter and how it can be used by members especially over this difficult period.

The newsletter is currently being issued fortnightly very other Monday please bear this in mind when forwarding suggestions for inclusion. It is there for members to use. Circulation has become much wider which has enhanced the profile of the newsletter.

Alan encouraged members to provide topics and adverts for events.

4.0

Holding Meetings on ZOOM (*slide 8*)

Anna indicated that MKHA had purchased a zoom account for one year and that MKHA is keen that member groups make use of it for online lectures, displays etc

If you are interested then please email her on amcevoy@stowe.co.uk with the date and time of your meeting and she will set it up and send login-in details. Groups should be able to log on without Anna. if you want to use the host settings Anna is happy to show Groups how to do this.

If Groups have PowerPoint presentations, images, or breakout rooms then Anna can hand over the host settings to someone in the group before the meeting begins.

Anna is happy to provide whatever training Groups / members require.

<p>5.0</p>	<p><u>Members Experiences on ZOOM</u></p> <p>A number of members contributed to this section of the meeting:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Angela Turner (NT) & Kathy Dentith (NPHS) commented on control of speakers and perimeters when administrating a Zoom meeting. Angela asked if there was a data base of speakers willing to do talks on-line; • Tom Jones (OAS) indicated that Olney tended to get around 50 members of their group attending on-line (out of a membership of 65 or so). One lesson they have learnt is not to give 'speakers' control of Zoom as well as speaking as this can cause issues. Tom also indicated that it was best to obtain permission from attendees before recording a meeting on Zoom. Tom recommended looking at Olney's past speakers list which might be helpful to other groups when looking for a speaker who is willing to an on-line talk. Bidford-upon-Avon Archillogical Society was mentioned; • Brian Giggins (THS) indicated that Towester continued to meet on-line and had organised a winter season of on-line talks; • Jonathan Ingram (THS) indicated that use of Zoom had to their surprise resulted in an increase of 'subs' with new members joining the group (often from a distance) to attend the meetings on-line. Many of these new members were in a younger age bracket; • It was noted that 'Eventbright' can be used as an independent platform enabling people to join a zoom meeting. This enabled groups to charge as well; • Groups will need to arrange with their Bank(s) for electronic transfer of costs / charges. It was noted that MKHA had arranged with their Bank easily to put such a system in place; and • Tom Jones indicated that speakers costs varied from £120 for a Professor, £60 for local speakers and £20 for those who were not making a living out of such talks. <p><i>NB: The above is not a definitive list or account of all conversations / comments made at the meeting.</i></p>	
<p>6.0</p>	<p><u>Welfare Issues</u></p> <p>Robert Excell indicated that keeping in touch with member by telephone was a good idea.</p>	
<p>7.0</p>	<p><u>Members Reports</u></p> <p>Stowe House - Anna indicated that Stowe continued with the restoration of the State Drawing Room ceiling during Lockdown (<i>see slide 11</i>) and had been able to open the house to the public in a limited way in August and October. They are looking to be one of the few houses to be open over the Christmas period. For those looking for something to do or to see the unusual new ceiling in particular. The restoration of the State Dining Room ceiling begins in January 2021. www.Stowehouse.org. There'll be scaffolding ceiling tours.</p>	
<p>8.0</p>	<p><u>A.o.B</u></p>	
<p>8.1</p>	<p>MKHA Financial Update</p> <p>1) MKHA balance of bank accounts at this time = £28,807.20 2) this figure includes : £3,700 Grant from the Community Foundation re: MKHA Archive project. (MKHA have paid out £800 of this to date) ; 3) it includes the first part of the MKC funding (£1,000 paid with £1,465 to come) which will be used to support our groups under our activities and objects.</p> <p>MKHA will only be charging website hosting fees (<i>dropping membership fees</i>) for members for 2020/2021 for existing membership at 31/08/20 to help support our members during this time. MKHA will write to groups over the next month or so.</p>	<p>EXEC</p>

<p>8.2</p> <p>8.3</p> <p>9.0</p>	<p>Central MK Library</p> <p>Aggie Canning indicated that the library has been closed over past months due to COVID19 but on-line resources are still available such as any ancestry materials which can be obtained free of charge. A click and collect service is also available which can be used for local study resources as well.</p> <p>Virtual Speakers</p> <p>This link may be useful if you are seeking a speaker for an on-line meeting:http://www.diannemanning.co.uk/category/virtual-talks/</p> <p><u>Date of next MKHA Virtual Members Meeting</u></p> <p>It was agreed that MKHA Exec would discuss a date for March 2021 and let members know the date in the New Year.</p> <p><i>NOTE: THE MEETING WAS RECORDED TOGETHER WITH SLIDE SHOW</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">MEETING CLOSED</p> <p>Signed</p> <p>Date</p> <p>Robert Excell Chair, MKHA</p>	<p>EXEC</p>
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