

**AGM and Members Meeting – 7.00pm Thursday 25th September
2024 - Granary Tea Room, Milton Keynes Museum**

Present:

Bill Griffiths - Director MK Museum for tour of new gallery (6.30pm)

Shane Downer - MKCC for first item only

David Muston - Calverton and MKHA Chair

Neil Loudon - MKM and MKHA Vice Chair

Stuart MacFarlane - WFA

Ann McIntyre - WFA

Dianne Sutton - MK Forum and Bradwell Parish Heritage

Peter Baldwin - Bradwell

John Gosling - Great Linford

Brian Baldwin - MKNTA and Woughton

Chas Leslie - Bradwell Silver Band

Paul Cox - Woburn Sands Collection and MKCDC

Catherine McIntyre - MKCDC

Brian Giggins - TDCHS and Historic Town Survey

Athina Beckett - Bucks Canal Society

Anitra Bull - Deanshanger Village Heritage Society

Jennie Dott - Deanshanger Village Heritage Society

Lynda Limbert - Deanshanger Village Heritage Society

Charlotte Hall - Woughton and MKHA

Roly Doggett - Bletchley

Jean Pielle - Bletchley

Alan Cooper - New Bradwell and MKHA

Jennifer Cooper - New Bradwell

Liz Revell - Sherington Historical Society

Dave Revell - Sherington Historical Society

The meeting began with a conducted tour by Bill Griffiths of the New Gallery showing the ichthyosaur, Bronze Age and Roman periods. David thanked Bill for the tour and museum hospitality.

After refreshments David opened the meeting and was pleased to see an excellent turn out.

1.A presentation was given by Shane Downer regarding the proposed move of the Buckinghamshire Archives to High Wycombe and MKCC proposals for an archive in MK. This was still under active discussion at MKCC, and he emphasised the sensitivity of the situation, and also that he was aware of the concerns that had been expressed. He acknowledged the work of MKHA in identifying and safeguarding archives that were held by MKHA and locally, through ARCHMK and other initiatives, and that he expected further consultation in early 2025 regarding archive provision in MK. Shane highlighted various facilities and planned trials to improve the access to archives.

The ensuing discussion identified the need to cover all archives, including historical material and not just MKDC period development of MK, material that related to non-Bucks archives (Northamptonshire and Bedfordshire), and also the risks of separation of different types of archive and collections.

A proposed new collocated archive in Central MKM was being planned, and would need to cover secure storage and public access to paper, digital, film and recordings. MKHA would support such an initiative and would use the ARCHMK project as an to secure engagement.

Shane confirmed that he needed to build the business case for the local archive, in terms of its level of usage, but said that MKCC priorities were in assisting MKM in developing the story of MK, and in contemporary collecting, as well as the archive.

He also said that Bucks Archives and MKCC were open to organising a workshop for MKHA Members early in 2025 for members (including those who could not make the AGM) to have further input into future service delivery.

David thanked Shane who left the meeting.

AGM 2024 (included in accompanying presentation)

1. Apologies received

Peter Barnes	Simpson and Ashland
Sarah Jenkins	Turvey History Society
Rachel Fleet	LAMK (Report)
Margaret Smith	Roade Local History Society (Report)
Tim Skelton	MK Forum and MKHA
Anna McEvoy	Stowe House and MKHA
Paul Heaton	Newport Pagnell
Steve Bacon	CLASP
Chris Stapleton	North Crawley

2, Approval of AGM minutes of 28th September 2023

Electronic copies had been provided before the meeting and these were agreed by the members present as true and accurate record. Accepted Brian Giggins and seconded Charlotte Hall.

3. Matters Arising

None that were not covered by the rest of the agenda.

4. Chair's Report 2023-24

David Muston delivered the report, via the presentation.

5. Treasurer's Report 2022-23

Charlotte Hall presented a Summary Statement of Account and emphasised that there were a number of delayed invoices for website hosting. The overall financial position was good, but she encouraged the need to take up the opportunities for grants. There were no questions.

5.1 Grants to Members:

Charlotte and David summarised the position on grants with the outcomes of complete projects featured in the presentation. Charlotte reported that there were two positive enquiries to which she had provided grant application forms but emphasised that it would be good to see more coming forward.

6. Election of Officers/Executive Committee

No nominations had been received for any Executive Committee positions prior to the meeting and as all current officers and members of the Executive Committee were prepared to stand again, they were re-elected enbloc. Accepted by Dianne Sutton and seconded by Brian Giggins. David encouraged any members to come forward to trial a committee role, and that they could be co-opted pending next year's AGM.

7. Approval of MKHA's updated Constitution and Policy Documents

Neil explained that there no changes to policy documents. He ran through proposed changes to the Constitution which was accepted by Paul Cox and seconded by Brian Giggins and approved by the meeting.

Neil also explained the new operational Risk Register document which did not require a formal vote.

Future of Heritage Report

Neil explained the background to the workshop and subsequent report, to support the future viability of MKHA and its membership post-Covid. He particularly encouraged members to download and read the report and undertake a Skills Audit. He also explained what the Executive Committee were taking forward as an Action Plan. The workshop had been convened to support the MKHA membership and hoped that they would take up the recommendations.

Arch MK 2024 Report

David reported that all sessions in this 2024 round have now been completed and qualifying attendees were now receiving their conservation materials. David described the intention to split the Copyright and Digitisation subject area into two sessions making 6 in all, and that we are looking for members wishing to undertake a further round in 2025

Robert Excell Memorial Heritage Annual Award

The first annual awards had been presented at the June Members Meeting and it was proposed that this would become a regular event in our yearly calendar.

The brief and associated submission form were being rewritten and would be made available to download from the main MKHA website.

The Excell Timeline Project

David repeated the animated presentation of the brief for those who had not seen it at the June meeting and emphasised that it was something that all groups could consider submitting to. Also, that there was no limit to the number of submissions that could be made and that all would be considered for the £50 prizes. Fuller details would be appearing on the MKHA main website.

Heritage Open Days – Initial debriefing

Rachel Fleet had provided initial top picture results for what is looking like a record attendance with a number of very appreciative visitor book comments recorded.

She had stressed that only 50% of the feedback forms had been received so far and urged group organisers to make the returns as soon as possible so that a full report could be circulated.

Members Reports

Reports were given by:

Stuart McFarlane for MK Western Front Association

Jennifer Cooper for New Bradwell Heritage

Katherine McIntyre for MK City Discovery Centre

Dianne Sutton for Milton Keynes Forum

John Gosling for Great Linford Manor Park (John also gave details of archive purchases made with the prize money awarded as joint first place winner of the 2023 Excell Memorial Heritage Annual Award)

Meeting closed at 9.25pm

David again thanked MKM for providing the venue and wished everyone a safe journey home.

Post meeting note:

Additional reports had been received from:

Athena Beckett – Buckingham Canal Society

Margaret Smith– Roade History Group

These reports had been appended to the circulation copy of the presentation.