

The Chairman's Message

I am glad to have this opportunity to wish all our members a Happy New Year! I hope that we shall have another enjoyable year of activities, working together to care for Malvern. (You can find details of forthcoming Society activities elsewhere in this newsletter.)

Executive Committee

This newsletter also gives me the chance to explain some of the work which has been going on since the new Executive Committee was elected at our AGM in early November 2013. Actually, the membership of the new Executive

New roles

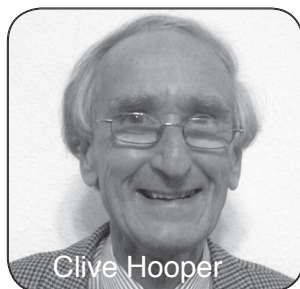
With the departure of Roger and Greville, we have seen a number of changes in roles, particularly among the officers. Having taken over as Chairman, my position as Secretary has been filled by Valerie Gilmer, who will also continue to be heavily involved doing sterling work with Iain MacLeod and the rest of his team in producing our programme of activities. Andrew Huntley has now become our Treasurer, having previously been Membership Secretary — a job which Philip Robinson is now energetically undertaking.

group, calling it the Programme Sub-Committee, so that Iain MacLeod's team will now not only do the planning of the programme of activities, but also oversee all the associated administrative tasks relating to this.

New logo

The new Editorial Sub-Committee has taken on its work with much enthusiasm, and as a result, we already have a new Society logo, designed for us by one of the members of the team, John Roslington. You can see it at the top of this newsletter, and it will feature on all our future publications and letterheads. We hope you like it.

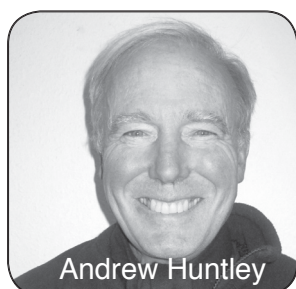
The Executive Committee has also endorsed the other recommendations which it has recently received from the group, and one of these relates to the production of our newsletters. More details of this are given overleaf.



Clive Hooper



Valerie Gilmer



Andrew Huntley

Committee is not very different from the old one. It is, though, a little smaller as we lost the services of Roger Sutton, Greville Megson and Mark Young. As you know, Roger had been our distinguished Chairman for the last five years and has now become one of our Vice-Presidents: he and Greville, who had been our very efficient Treasurer for many years, will be difficult acts to follow, but they are both pledged to continue supporting the Society, and I am sure we shall still see very much of them. Mark has found — with his various commitments — difficulties in attending some of our committee meetings, but he will continue his work with promoting and developing the Society's twinning links with Mariánské Lázně outside the Executive Committee.

New Sub-Committees

We have also appointed a third Vice-Chairman which is allowed for in our constitution: John Dixon takes on this with a brief to chair our newly-formed Editorial Sub-Committee which will look after all matters relating to communication with members and the wider community. John has been on the Executive Committee for many years, having been my predecessor for five of those as Secretary, during which one of his responsibilities was to look after our annual building award scheme, and he will continue to carry out that work with support from other members of the Award Committee. In addition to setting up this new Editorial Sub-Committee, we have also extended the role of the programme planning

Volunteering

I have every confidence that, supported by my fellow officers and by an able and energetic Executive Committee, we shall be able to carry the Society forward successfully. However, we are always looking out for anyone wishing to serve on the Executive Committee, or short of that, simply to volunteer to carry out some of the many tasks which are required to make the Society run smoothly. We hope to be able to spell these out in more detail over the coming months. Please do not hesitate to approach any one of us if you think you might be interested in helping: I think you will find it worthwhile and rewarding.

With all good wishes,
Clive Hooper.

The Newsletter

The Executive Committee has been giving some thought to the future format of our newsletter. We are proposing the following changes:

- It should be quarterly rather than monthly (March – June – September – October/November (Annual Report and AGM)).
- In character it should be more like a short journal, rather than a newsletter, containing short articles on local issues (particularly planning issues), and society activities, with contributions from members.
- It should be sent out by e-mail. Paper copies will be provided for members without email.

If you have an e-mail address and have not yet informed the Membership Secretary, Philip Robinson, it would be much appreciated if you could do so, in order to save the effort and cost of delivery and postage.

The first edition of the 'new' newsletter will be March 2014.

Forthcoming Society Activities

The Membership Card for 2014 which accompanies this newsletter gives details of the Executive Committee and also gives a summary of the Society's activities — monthly talks, excursions, local visits and monthly walks. A new set of booking forms has also been included.

Talk

Our first Friday talk, on 10 January 2014, will be given on the great 17th century Birmingham mansion Aston Hall, by Martin Ellis, who it is hoped will lead a tour of the house when our first excursion takes

Worcestershire Historic Environment Record (HER)

A group of volunteers led by Louisa Davidson, who is co-ordinating the project and studying part-time for an MA in Architecture & Conservation, has been photographing buildings in Malvern that appear on the first edition OS Map of 1885 and are still standing today. (About two thousand in Malvern!) The group is then writing a brief architectural description of the building for the HER/Hive Archive. If you would like to get involved and are a Civic Society member with a basic knowledge and interest in architecture/mapping, have access to a digital camera and have basic computer skills, please ring Louisa for where and when to meet, on 01684 568322 or email rockdavidson@googlemail.com.

place there on 23 April. Combined with this, will be a tour of the brand-new Library of Birmingham. We recommend you book early for this as it is likely to be popular and it is limited to 45 places.

Visit

The first local visit will be to Severn Services recycling facility on Wednesday 26 March.

Walk

Saturday 15th March 2014

Meeting point: The Marlbank Inn, Marlbank Rd, Welland, Malvern, WR13 6NA, where lunch may be ordered. Contact Meg Everett.

Start time: 10am. The walk will be approximately 7 km (Four and a bit miles!) long.

The planned route will skirt the northern edge of Castlemoreton Common, ascend gently to pass Underhills Farm and Little Malvern Court and Priory, drop down to Upper Welland and then go around the outside of St Wulstan's Nature Reserve past Wood Farm and back to the Marlbank Inn for lunch. The path across some of the fields may be damp and/or muddy.

Malvern Civic Award, 2014

Each year since 1994 the Civic Society has made an award for any new or renovated building in the Malvern area. A small Award Committee is always on the look-out for buildings which add something special to the local built environment in design, construction and craftsmanship. Last year's winner was the magnificent renovation of Tudor House in Wells Road.

The criteria for nomination by Society members or by the general public are simple:

- The building must be in Malvern or the surrounding area
- Work must have been completed within the previous calendar year (up to 31 December 2013)
- Nominations must be made to John Dixon (by telephone most easily) by 31 March 2014.

Our committee will then visit each nomination, make a decision and present a plaque to the winner in Civic Week.

Please start making your nominations.



Civic Week 12-19 July 2014

The theme for 2014 is 'Edwardian Malvern' highlighting Edwardian architecture and people of that time such as Elgar, Troyte Griffiths, Sir Edwin Lutyens, the music hall entertainer Vesta Tilley, to name but a few. There will be talks, walks and visits to places of interest, readings from contemporary books and fascinating displays. Planning is still in an early stage, but we will keep you updated.