



**MALVERN
CIVIC
SOCIETY**
Caring about Malvern

The 62nd Annual General Meeting of Malvern Civic Society was held at the Gryphon Room, Malvern College, on Friday 12th November at 7.00pm

The Chairman, Andrew Huntley, welcomed members to the meeting.

1. **Those present:** Andrew Huntley (Chairman), Dr John and Mary Harcup, John Dixon, Jan Scrine, Katharine Barber, Brian Palmer, Tiggy Cunningham, Richard and Kay Beach, Diana Morgan, Roger Morgan, Alan and Virginia Seddon, David Street, Eileen and Peter Clement, Michael Hodges, Clive Hooper, Alan and Jenny Cowpe, Michael Pritchard, Rachel Huntley, Stephen Goodenough, Ed Davies, Rod Garnott (26)
2. **Apologies for absence:** Felicity and David Ebsworth, Denise Preston, Mary Valpy, Walter Brooks, Roger Hall-Jones, Mary and Paul Clayburn, Brian Iles, Ann Bartlett, Peter Minett, Bob Tilley, Elizabeth Adlam, Roy Barber, Clive and Alison Rayment, Jackie Oakey, Sue Gormley, Mary Grimes, Tim and Liesbeth Gunter.
 - Minutes of the 61st Annual General Meeting held on 13th November 2020 via Zoom had been circulated. Their approval, duly proposed by Katharine Barber and seconded by Rachel Huntley, was unanimously agreed by the meeting.
4. **Matters arising:** There were no matters arising.
5. **Chairman's Report:**

One of the priorities for me as Chairman, is to leave this Society as a going concern when I step down in two years' time. Currently, the issue is that we are short of people to run the Society. We have no Secretary, no-one to replace John Dixon to organise the Civic Awards. We will need someone to act as Trips Co-ordinator because Ann Bartlett is retiring from this role and, looking forward to the end of next year, we will need a new accounts scrutineer and a new Walks co-ordinator. BUT I am enormously grateful to Jackie Oakey, who has agreed to become Treasurer because Ed Davies is stepping down after three years as Treasurer.

I want to thank John Dixon for running the Civic Award Scheme since 2014. This should NOT be taken for granted. One characteristic of John is the enormous care that he takes and this certainly applies to his organisation of the Civic Award Scheme. Under his stewardship, the award has been well organised and run with fairness and with tact and because of this, the scheme has been a most successful ambassador for the Civic Society.

I also want to thank Ann Bartlett for the smooth running of the Trips over many years and Ed Davies for watching over the funds of the Society.

6. **Treasurer's Report and approval of accounts:**

I am pleased to report that, with considerable support from our Chairman, the annual accounts have been completed. A draft copy has been circulated.

One of the key elements of these accounts is the evidence of continued loyalty of society members. Despite all the difficulties associated with the Pandemic, the MCS has received just short of £3,900 in subscriptions this year, slightly more than last year. I would also like to thank members for their patience when awaiting refunds due to Covid issues. It has also proved possible to undertake a number of projects in accordance with the aims and objectives of the Society, whilst sustaining all our standard activities. This has resulted in a reduction in cash in bank of £6,389. The projects that have been funded include:
The Dudley Brook Tree Trail in Priory Park; The Moody Art Exhibition;
The short film to record Grant Morgan's Blacksmith's Workshop in Barnards Green.
The Society still retains over £7,000 in funds earmarked for specific activities and projects.

The Treasurer invited questions from members.

Clive Hooper stated that the largest donation, from Ernie Kay, should not be used for day-to-day expenses and requested that a project(s) be done in his name.

7. **Election of Officers:**

President – Dr John Harcup, OBE

Chairman – Andrew Huntley

Vice Chair – Katharine Barber

All elected unanimously by the meeting.

Treasurer – Jackie Oakey would be co-opted at the next Executive meeting.

8. **Election of Executive Committee Members:**

The following, having been duly proposed and seconded, were elected unanimously.

Jenny Cowpe, Alan Cowpe, Ed Davies, John Dixon, Stephen Goodenough, Brian Iles, Michael Pritchard, Roger Sutton

9. **Election of Vice Presidents:**

This is an honorary position by invitation. Katharine Barber, Roger Hall-Jones and Roger Sutton agreed to continue and were approved.

10. **Appointment of Scrutineer:**

Paul Tuthill agreed to be Scrutineer for this year's accounts but will not stand again. Many thanks for his scrutiny over many years. We will need to find another Scrutineer for the future.

11. **Any other business:**

- Richard Beach requested that the names of those present be noted in the Minutes.

11. **Any other business cont'd.**

- David Street asked whether MCS was taking a position in regard to the Malvern Hills College. Roger Sutton said that the Moody Exhibition was held to raise the profile of the College. It is important that Malvern Hills District Council retain the covenant. A survey/petition has been raised by the Save the College group and has received considerable support. Harriet Baldwin, MP, is strongly in favour of its retention and has had meetings with the Minister for Education and the CEO of the Warwickshire Group, presently owners of the college. Negotiations on the bid to purchase are still ongoing. Whilst Art education has been historically significant at the college, there may be government funding for apprenticeships for local businesses, so a combination may be necessary, day and night schools. The Town Council are strongly in favour of the retention of the college. Mary Harcup said that as Ernie Kay was a patron of the arts, using some of the funds held would be relevant. The running costs of the College are considered to be approximately £90,000 pa.

The AGM passed a motion expressing strong support for the continuation of the College as an educational establishment. It was agreed the MCS would support the Save the College group, to write an open letter to the Malvern Gazette and also to the governing body of the Warwickshire Group, ESFA.

The business of the AGM ended at 7.35pm

Presentation of Civic Society Awards: John Dixon said the Awards were inaugurated in 1994, 27 years ago, by Dr John Harcup. The Award highlights new and renovated buildings, which are well designed and constructed. The judging panel look for the 'Wow' factor to add to the environment. About 120 buildings have been considered and it would appear that owners, developers and builders appreciate our interest.

Two nominations from 2020 which had not been accessible in 2020, were included in 2021, so a total of 6 candidates were considered. Dr John Harcup presented 4 Merit Awards to the following:

Gospel Place, Ranelagh Road – during the last four years Michael Hodges of Broadway Heritage Trust has renovated St Leonard's House and built the new houses in Gospel Place. Michael Hodges was present to receive his Certificate of Merit.

Montrose, Graham Road – was first built in 1844, more recently used as a hotel and had deteriorated in recent years. Extraordinary care was taken to restore the exterior and much technical innovation inside to provide great family comfort. The owner, Richard Simmonds was unable to attend due to Covid.

The Portland, Church Street – this is a major building in Great Malvern, built in the 1840s as a private house. It was enlarged to become an hotel and then used as commercial offices. The building has been developed into 12 apartments by Chris Catt of City and Suburban Limited and his team.

52 Somers Road, Malvern Link – from the road, this is a pleasant 1980s house but from Osborne Road below it can be seen that there is an impressive extension and wonderfully landscaped gardens. Rod Garnett, also representing his wife, was present to receive the certificate of Merit.

This was followed by a review of the Civic Society's Year by Andrew Huntley with a PowerPoint presentation. The meeting then ended at 8.30pm