

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Dudley Castle held on
Thursday 26th April 2018 at 7.30pm in the Undercroft of Dudley Castle.**

There were twenty-two members present and the meeting was quorate.

Chairman, Graham Griffiths welcomed everyone to the meeting.

- 1. Apologies:** Ian Austin, Ann & Gerry Lewis, Jon Harcourt, Joan Tyson, Judith & Ian Morton.
- 2. Minutes:** Of the last AGM had been circulated. It was proposed by Greta Howell and seconded by Michael Moore and carried unanimously, that they be confirmed as a true record of that meeting.
- 3. Matters Arising:** There were no matters arising.
- 4. Reports:**
 - 4a. Chairman's Report:** Graham reported on meetings with Derek Grove and his extended team, and Jayne Pilkington of Dudley MB that he and Patrick had attended. An HLF bid is to be made for about £5M with work to be carried out in two phases. Priority is to be given to the maintenance of the Castle. Further plans to cover such items as the development of the building within the kitchen area of a dedicated "Archaeological Finds" exhibition, a high-level walkway platform to allow access to the solar and chapel, but with the added benefit of giving support to the Sharrington range frontages which are currently free-standing.
We have offered a little of our money to help with the funding of the writing-up of the archaeological findings following the 1989 excavations, which is still to be completed, as well as help with the funding of an audio-visual aids system explaining the castle's past.
Work is also planned to open the area over the triple gate and Grey Lady Tea Room.
It is hoped to open archaeological excavations to a couple of outside archaeological societies who have expressed an interest in performing this work.
 - 4b. Secretary's Report:** The secretary added a little to the Chairman's report by mentioning the pre-opening "opening" of the museum to which members of the Friends had been invited. Our comments / recommendations were appreciated by the museum staff.
He also informed the meeting of various works carried out in response to a survey of the castle fabric carried out by Purcells demonstrating the Zoo's commitment towards maintaining the Castle in good repair.
 - 4c. Treasurer:** Accounts had been circulated showing a healthy balance. The accounts had been examined by Robert Evans and were presented by Lynette.
 - 4d. Membership Secretary:** We have 44 paid-up members. Gill reported that average attendance at meetings were 14-20 and asked that more members support our talks.
 - 4e. Outings:** Pam Hazlehurst reported that we had had 3 coach outings during the year, all of which covered their costs plus a small profit.
We had returned to the Lodge for Christmas dinner.
Future:
 - Saturday 28th April our outing to Liverpool and the Terracotta Army display.
 - Newark on Trent visit on 23rd June visiting a church and Civil War Centre.
 - Pam still hopes to drum up support for a Cabinet War Rooms visit later in the year.
 - Chatsworth is a possible venue for November.

4f. Speakers: David Robinson outlined the speakers he had planned for the rest of 2018 – 19 season.

5. Election of Officers:

The Committee was named as follows:

Chairman:	Graham Griffiths
Vice-Chairman:	Greta Howell
Treasurer:	Lynette Willetts
Membership Secretary:	Gill Griffiths
Secretary:	Patrick McGraghan
Outing Organiser:	Pam Hazlehurst
Speaker Organiser:	David Robinson

The Chairman called for nominations from the floor. None were received.

It was proposed by Graham Beckley that the officers be re-elected. The motion was seconded by Michael Moore and Bob Aston. The officers were elected unanimously en bloc.

Additional members of the committee were proposed by Patrick McGraghan and seconded by David Robinson and elected:

Joan Tyson, Joyce Murray, Marilyn Crowther, Bob Aston and Mary McGraghan. Robert Evans was re-elected Auditor.

6. AOB

- **The St George's Day** event was declared a success, and thanks were proposed to the Guild for their efforts.
- **Graham** reminded everyone about the Summer Social in the Castle on 26th July and asked for nominations for invitees and / or entertainment for the evening.
- **Doug Davies** asked that the website be kept up to date. Graham agreed until Gill pointed out that Graham had very little time to commit to the website and asked if anyone else would be willing to take on the role of web-master / controller. Doug also asked if Ramparts could be added to the website.
- **Graham** felt that the audio-visual presentations, when operative, would help bring the Castle to life and asked Doug to help him with the work as Doug had produced documentary films in the Castle in the past.
- It was thought we might advertise among our members for a website technician.

Graham thanked everyone for coming to the AGM and invited all to attend next year's AGM to be held on Thursday 25th April 2019.

He closed the meeting at **8.35pm**.