



CHILTERN DISTRICT WELSH SOCIETY

Minutes of the 14th Annual General Meeting held on Friday 9th May 2014

Present: 58 Members attended **Apologies:** 56 received

Minutes: Minutes of the 2013 AGM had been circulated to all members. After approval, proposed by Mrs Jean Owen and seconded by Dr David Payne, they were signed by the Chairman, Jonathan Pegler.

Chairman's Report: Jonathan welcomed everyone to the meeting. He had enjoyed his first year as Chairman and thanked the Committee for their support and also Bill Jones for building a relationship with the local Press which had resulted in excellent coverage of the Society and its activities. He reviewed briefly the events which had taken place since the 2013 AGM, all of which had been thoroughly enjoyed. A visit to Highgrove had been arranged by Anne Thomas; Colin & Di Thomas had kindly hosted the Summer Lunch, the turnout for which had been lower this year perhaps due to the heatwave at the time; The Golf Day organized by the Brittons and Chris Thomas went with a swing, with the Broomby's to the fore at the prize-giving; The Cardiff trip, a new style excursion, had been very enjoyable thanks to the participants and in response to popular demand a similar trip to Swansea would follow for 2015; David Powell had organized an excursion to the ever entertaining Magic Circle. Bill & Sue Jones hosted a popular Xmas Drinks do; The Quiz Evening was well attended. The recent St David's Day Dinner had been particularly fine, with first class entertainment from the Soprano Rhiannon Llewellyn. Gerrards Cross Golf Club had catered well and thanks went to Gwyn & Jean Owen for their help. The recent outing to the Mill at Sonning had been enjoyable despite mishaps on the way due to an accident on the M40.

Jonathan thanked all who had played a part in organizing events, including the ladies of the Society who provided table decorations. He also thanked those who had been picked upon to do a write-up of events. He warned other members that if they had not done this yet their time would come! He thanked Ann Tennant for her catering during the year and again for tonight in particular.

Jonathan then summarized the upcoming events. These were the Walk and pub lunch at Hedgerley the next Saturday; Summer Lunch hosted by Gwyn & Jean Owen; a London Walk; Golf Day again at Oaklands Park GC; He outlined plans for the Swansea trip on 12th-18th September and asked those interested to contact him directly; The Festival of Male Voice Choirs at the Royal Albert Hall; Xmas Drinks would be hosted by Colin & Di Thomas. A new event was proposed to be added to the programme in October or November featuring Professor Tony Curtis, a poet and Academic who is a Dylan Thomas specialist. The members gave a positive response to the proposal. Another Noson Siarad (Welsh speaking evening meeting) had also been arranged.

Membership Secretary's Report: Ann Lawrence reported that ten new members had joined. She welcomed the new members present, Steve & Zina Adams, Anne Gourd, Barrie & Anne Reece, David & Eeva Powell. Total membership would be 120 if everybody renewed.

Treasurer's Report: Graham Beavan presented the Accounts to March 2014, which had been sent to all members and were available on each table. He explained that late payments received after year end had since turned the St David's Day deficit into a profit, and similarly reduced the deficit on the Mill at Sonning event. Members were reminded that the Society year runs from April 1st and subscriptions are due by that date. Most members now pay subscriptions by Standing Order, which he encourages all members to do. The Chairman thanked Graham and asked the meeting to accept the Accounts. Proposed: Gwyn Owen; Seconded: Anne Thomas. Carried unanimously.

Election of Officers and Committee Members: There being no other nominations the Committee was re-elected en-bloc with the Chairman and Officers continuing in their roles for a further year. Proposed: Ralph Broomby; Seconded: Bob Ford. Carried unanimously.

AOB: 1. Bill Jones thanked contributors for the positive event reports that he had submitted to the Bucks Advertiser. 2. Thanks to Mike Stythe, the Secretary of State for Wales, David Jones MP had agreed to be our speaker at the next Year's St David's Day Dinner. 3. Mike Stythe put forward a proposal for a trip to Anglesey with walks along the Wales Coast path along the Menai Straits. There was positive interest expressed and this would be considered for inclusion in the 2015 programme. The formal business being completed the members then enjoyed a delicious buffet supper produced by Ann Tennant and entertainment from Glenys Groves.

Gwyndaf John. 11th May 2014