

The Sixteenth Annual General Meeting held on 6 June 2007 in the Salisbury and South Wilts Museum Lecture Theatre

At the start of the AGM Peter Pleydell-Bouverie explained that he had a number of Awards he was able to make as High Sheriff of Wiltshire, to people who have given outstanding community service which has not been otherwise publicly recognised. He had decided to give such an Award to our Honorary Bailiff, John Beckett, as an appreciation of all he has done for the Water Meadows and the Trust.

The Award was greeted with much warm applause - it is richly deserved.

The meeting began at 2.30pm and 44 Friends were present.

The Chairman, Jennifer Bowen, welcomed everyone particularly the Very Reverend June Osborne, Dean of Salisbury, accompanied by the curate of Marlborough, and Trustee the Hon. Peter Pleydell-Bouverie, High Sheriff of Wiltshire for 2007.

Representing the Chairman of the Trust, Peter Pleydell-Bouverie thanked everyone for their continuing efforts on behalf of the meadows.

The Dean added her thanks to those expressed by the previous speaker. She then spoke of how the water meadows, as part of the greater landscape, had featured in the recently launched Cathedral Strategic Plan and explained they would also be included should World Heritage Status ever be achieved.

Peter Luton, Treasurer, circulated the accounts. Membership was up and again the sales of publications had been good. Together with the income from the various events it enabled £2,500 to be handed to the Trust this year.

In her report, Jennifer Bowen, the Friends' Chairman, outlined the activities of the past year much of which had centered on Rose Cottage which had hosted a successful Open Day and the Family Environment Event and all walks and visits start there. It now houses some excellent displays and Hadrian Cook's office. Meetings are held there including the newly formed Education Committee. Sadly the large black poplar in the garden was unsafe and had had to be pollarded and the whole area will shortly receive a 'makeover'. Thanks went to Dieter Scholz for his work on the website which had been updated and is now handled by Sarum Web Design. Hadrian Cook was thanked for his enthusiasm and professional knowledge and the committee for their continuing support and hard work. There had been some notable occasions in the past year - the Salisbury Community Choir concert, the opening of the Walton Canonry, thanks to Adam and Patricia Mills, the talk on the Double Bass by Lynne Plummer, the Festival Walk and the garden opening at Odstock Manor, thanks to Lord and Lady Marland all of which had contributed significantly to the funds. Future dates include the opening of the garden of Hemyngsby in the Close, thanks to Admiral and Mrs Gueritz, in July, and, in the autumn, a talk on Jordan and Syria by the Chairman herself and another talk by Liesbeth Langford on her WWII Experiences. The long awaited talk on Heligan by Peter Stafford will be in spring 2008. In conclusion the Friends had had a very good year and plenty of positive publicity.



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In the absence of Will Dobson the management report was added to Hadrian Cook's report and both are summarised elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Rosemary Allen and Anne Sanford were re-elected and Ian Ingrey-Counter was elected to the committee. The meeting ended at 3.30pm and tea was then served.



Photos: J. Bowen