

Amphill and District Preservation Society

Minutes – Annual General Meeting, 6 May 2025

Jo Leary, Interim Chair – Opened the meeting and welcomed all present

Apologies - Nigel and Lynda Pollard; David Hewison; Valerie Thirkidsen; John and Julie Mower; James and Ann Gibb; Nicola Hele; Kelvin Horton and Christine Francis;

Minutes of AGM 7 May 2024 - There were no amendments and were approved.

Matters Arising - There were no matters arising.

Annual Report –Jo Leary, Interim Chair

- 2024-2025 has seen a series of six interesting and varied talks, starting off in September with an entertaining presentation on medieval medicine from 'The Two Apothecaries', be it that only one was able to attend! More recently we had a very popular talk by fellow member James Gibb who talked about the history of his home, Rosebery House.
- The Committee continues to be most grateful to John Hele, who has supported the Society with his varied programme of walks. We still have three walks left this season, in May "Secret Amphill", June "Vintage Ventures", then in July a Graveyard tour.
- A summer trip to Peacocks Auction House in July has been organised in association with Amphill Camera Club. We will be learning about the history and workings of Peacocks, followed by browsing the auction floor and taking part in a "just for fun" valuation game.
- On behalf of the Society the Committee would like to express their gratitude to Mariella Cook who has been on the committee for many years, more latterly as the Programme and Publicity Officer and who has decided to step down.
- An objective of the Society is to encourage the protection and conservation of local historical architecture and environmental heritage in and around the town of Amphill. It is the roles of Planning and Countryside Officer on the committee to inform the society of any applications which might be of conflict to our values, unfortunately for some time we have had no one to fulfil these roles. So, when the Hazel Wood Lane Development was mooted we were so grateful to Kelvin Horton who was contacted and agreed to make a representation on behalf of the Society. This planning application has recently been rejected.
- It is hard to believe that it is now the third year of the Amphill Past Memories Project and what a success it is proving to be. This is very much the initiative and driving force of Sandra Read and Mariella Cook. To date they have interviewed and produced approximately 60 podcasts reflecting Amphill's social history.
- Looking forward, 2025-6 promises to be an exciting year. The season will start in September with the ADPS organising a fund raiser for Amphill Church on the afternoon of Saturday 13th September. This will be a talk about the history and architecture of St Andrew's Church with a cream tea served in the Chapter House.
- Our programme of talks will recommence in October with the first being "Amphill House and the Wingfields", followed in November with "World War 1 Hospital at Wrest". We are delighted that two of our members, John and June Lockley, have volunteered to give a talk later in the season. Please remember that going forward we are keen to support any members interested in researching Amphill's history and then sharing their findings with others.

- John Hele will again lead another series of his ever-popular walks, full details to be advised soon.
- This has been a difficult year for the Committee. In November 2024 both the chairperson and treasurer resigned with immediate effect due to personal reasons leaving what was already a depleted committee with just five members. A decision was made to honour the present seasons talks and walks and, in the meantime, draw up a plan to move the Society forward. We were grateful that James Gibb, with his previous committee experience, agreed to be co-opted back on to the committee for the remainder of the year. We decided that if we could not get enough people willing to be voted on to the committee at the May AGM we would have to call an extra-ordinary meeting and dissolve the society.
- I can confidently say we have a group of members who share a common interest in promoting the aims and objectives of the society and are willing, with members backing tonight, to stand on the committee. All those who have expressed an interest have been meeting with the existing committee members. So, it is with the backing of those willing to stand on the committee, both existing and those expressing an interest, that the changes to the Constitution and the membership fee structure will be proposed.

Statement of Accounts

See Appendix 1

Appointment of Auditor

Nigel Pollard was appointed as Auditor for 2025, proposed by Jo Leary, seconded by James Gibb. **VOTED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Election of Officers

Committee Members proposed by John Mower, seconded by Jo Leary. were:

Sandra Read* (re-election), Susan Clinch, Lynne French, Clare Harvey and Ann Vickers.

Approved Executive Committee Roles

Chairperson:	Jo Leary
Vice-Chairperson	John Mower
Secretary:	Sandra Read
Treasurer & Membership Secretary:	John Leary
Planning and Countryside Officer:	Susan Clinch
Programme Secretary:	Jo Leary

All Committee Members and Executive Committee Roles were voted on unanimously

Proposed Constitutional changed to be voted on

MANAGEMENT

Current :The Officers shall consist of Chairman, not more than two Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Programme Secretary, Countryside Officer, Planning Officer and Membership Secretary.

Changed to: The Officers shall consist of Chairperson, not more than two Vice-Chairpersons, Secretary, Treasurer and Membership Secretary, Programme Secretary, Planning and Countryside Officer.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY

FINANCE

Current: The funds of the Society shall be held in the name of the Society in a bank account or a form of investment approved by the Executive Committee. Any two of the Chairman, Treasurer or Secretary shall sign any cheques drawn.

Changed to: The funds of the Society shall be held in the name of the Society in a bank account or a form of investment approved by the Executive Committee. Any two of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairpersons, Treasurer or Secretary shall sign any cheques drawn.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY

PROPOSED FEE STRUCTURING AND COST CHANGE

After careful scrutiny of the accounts and looking at the attendance at talks, which this year has, until the last two meetings in March and April, averaged only 21 members, it is evident that a combination of the subscriptions and door fees are not covering the costs of the meetings. The Society is being kept solvent by the generosity of one of our members who does regular walks throughout the season.

The Committee need to be confident that the meetings will break even and to this end are proposing at the AGM that the current categories of membership should be replaced with the same, one membership fee per person. The newly proposed membership will cover:

- 6 meetings held on the first Tuesday of the month in October, November, December, March, April and May
- Discounted and priority booking for Ampthill walks (£5.00 members, £10.00 public)
- Thrice yearly newsletters sent out in Summer, Winter and Spring
- Occasional visits for which an additional charge maybe payable
- Opportunities to research and share Ampthill's rich heritage
- Automatic membership to Bedfordshire Local History Association
- Membership to a society which proactively monitors planning applications

£20 membership will be an average increase per person of only £4.00 if a member were to attend all 6 meetings and will mean:

- Members will no longer be paying £2.00 per meeting
- Planning for future speakers can be made with confidence
- Signing in at meetings should be made more efficient
- Administration will be simplified

It is therefore proposed by the Executive Committee of the Ampthill and District Preservation Society (ADPS) that:

- the present membership categories be replaced with a single category of “Member”.
- the membership fee for each individual “Member” should be £20;
- there will be no additional entrance charges for regular society meetings.
- any Visitor will be charged £6.00 per person. However, after attending two meetings, membership of the Society (ADPS) would be recommended.

VOTED UNANOUSLY

Mariella Cook conveyed thanks on behalf of the society for all the work that Jo and John Leary had done to take the ADPS forward.

The AGM closed at 7:45pm

Appendix 1



**AMPTHILL & DISTRICT
PRESERVATION SOCIETY**

Audited Accounts for year 2023/2024

1st September 2023 to 31st August 2024

	2022-23	2023-24	Notes
Current	£105.50	£134.00	1
Savings	£3,307.12	£3,486.46	
Cash	£47.09	£12.70	
Starting Balance	£3,459.71	£3,633.16	
Interest	£14.97	£53.79	
Donations	£479.10	£1,121.50	2
Subscriptions	£452.00	£308.00	
Other income	£530.00	£200.00	3
Events net	£174.79	£501.15	4
Net Income	£1,650.86	£2,184.44	
Postage, Printing	£64.89	£24.90	
Equipment	£1,194.12	£1,167.94	5
Misc.	£28.40	£0.00	
Gifts	£80.00	£86.00	
Charitable Donations	£110.00	£185.00	
Total Expense	£1,477.41	£1,463.84	
Net Cash Flow	£173.45	£720.60	
Ending Balance:	£3,633.16	£4,353.76	
Current	£134.00 ✓	£166.00 ✓	
Savings	£3,486.46	£4,161.26	
Cash	£12.70	£26.50	
Ending Balance	£3,633.16	£4,353.76	

Accounts prepared By John Leary

on 12 Feb 2025

Approved by Nigel Pollard

on 24/3/2025

Please see page 2 for notes



**AMPTHILL & DISTRICT
PRESERVATION SOCIETY**

Audited Accounts for year 2023/2024

Notes

1. As per the Auditor's comment on the 2022/23 accounts, the Current Account balance starts at £134.00 not £128.00 as shown on 2022/23 accounts. ✓
2. Donations includes £1,100 grant from Rookery Pit for Ampthill Past Memories Project
3. Other income consists of £200.00 from Barclays as compensation for their poor service
4. Events, breakdown as follows - Includes talks and walks

	2022-23	2023-24
Entrance Charges	£1,096.50	£1,585.00
Hire Charges	-£205.00	-£205.20
Lecturer Fees	-£561.90	-£715.35
Refreshments	-£79.61	-£73.30
Insurance	-£75.00	-£90.00
TOTAL	£174.79	£501.15

5. Equipment purchased for Ampthill Past Memories Project (as per grants received)