

Notes of the 65th meeting of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Chairs Meeting held at the Gurkha Museum on 6th March 2023

Present:

Ali Green	Chair Area Support Team (CAST) outgoing
Charles Harris	Chair Area Support Team Area Chair (CAST) incoming
Caroline Coleman	AS Trustee
Anne Deuchar	Wessex CAST
Terry Stevens	AST Treasurer outgoing
Pat Hindley	AST Treasurer incoming
Caroline McGrath	AST Heritage Volunteering Co-ordinator outgoing
Anne Reynolds	AST Heritage Volunteer Co-ordinator incoming
Simon Reynier	Website Manager

and 33 Chairs and representatives from 18 Hampshire and Isle of Wight Societies

Apologies:

Janet Pooley	Acting AST Secretary/Trails of Discovery Co-ordinator
Sybil Warner	AST Arts Volunteering Co-ordinator

NOTE OF THE MEETING

1. Welcome

- All
- Guest Anne Deuchar – Wessex CAST
- Caroline Coleman - AS Trustee.
- Charles Harris – more about later

2. Apologies for Absence

- Janet Pooley, Sybil Warner, Brian Lake.

3. Minutes of the 64th Area Meeting held on October 3rd 2022 (attached to email)

Matters arising: None.

4. CAST's update:

- Guilford Street has now sold, and HO is using rental space in Holborn.
- Portsea Island scheduled to close in July 2023 after 31+ years in business.
- Simon Reynier is the new webmaster, and he is chomping at the bit – he will be approaching you to offer to put your events onto our Airedale website (moving to the National one in due course).

5. Presentations:

Charles Harris: Recruitment and Retention in Age of Declinism (attached). Pink tokens, lucky dips with guest vouchers are an incentive to recruitment of new members.

Anne Deuchar: Ticket Tailoring – Online Ticketing (attached)

Terry Stevens: Card payments and the Grant Process (attached)

Caroline Coleman: Update on the Zoom Access Scheme: History, discussion about most of the Lecturers' support of the scheme.

AS move from Guilford Street to High Holborn. Caroline drew our attention to the key points in the online AS March Bulletin including AS Conference in May, in Bristol.

6. Review (farewell and welcome) of Area Support Team reps,

So the AST will look a bit different after today:

- CAST Ali Green handing over to Charles Harris after lunch
- New Secretary in post – many thanks to Janet Pooley for stepping in, and welcome to Diana Heatly
- Treasurer Terry Stevens is handing over to Pat Hindley
- Arts Volunteering – Sybil Warner is standing down after probably 7+ years in post, which is VACANT
- Heritage Volunteering – Caroline McGrath is handing over to Anne Reynolds today
- Trails of Discovery – Janet Pooley
- ACE remains in the hands of Ali until we identify replacements (targets in view...)
- Training post is VACANT
- Webmaster – Chris Esplin Jones is retiring and has handed over to Simon Reynier

7. Lunch

8. Charles Harris hosted **Society Chairs 2 minutes update** to include only items of particular interest to other societies.

Societies revisited membership numbers and recruitment tips to counter the Covid impact, reflected in lower Visit and SID numbers...most societies are stabilising now. Pro rata subscriptions have been introduced. Several societies have a recruitment /social team. 'Audience Finder' tool invaluable, can be found on the AS website: Resources-> Recruitment and Retention or on 'You Tube'. Discussion about linking with local societies. The boost to membership by moving to a new venue. Value of the 'G drive' available for free through AS.

9. Any Other Business

- Twice yearly meetings of Visits Secretaries organised by Peter Crowfoot before his recent retirement, when will they be re-established? Ali did start the planning but ran out of time. Action: Charles.

10. Date of Next Area Meeting: **Monday 2nd October 2023** (please add to your diary).