

SURREY HEATH MUSEUM ACTION GROUP

Meeting Monday 10th April 2017 in St Michael's Church Hall

Present: Bernard Baverstock, Robert Binks, David Chesneau, Jess Cochrane, Sylvia Cole, Tony Cowell, Sharon Cross, Reg Davis, Mike Hillman [Chairman], Cyril Pavey, Phil Stevens, John Williamson.

- 1. Apologies:** John Case, Christine Craig, June Davis, Teresa Franzkowiak, Sandra Grainger, Monique Taylor, Ursula Trentham.
- 2. Minutes of Meeting on Monday 22nd August 2016** were approved.
- 3. There were no matters arising.**
- 4. Treasurer's Report:**

Figures from 01.04.16 to 31st March 2017.	£
Balance at 01.04.16	1,947.09
Income: Gallery sales	2,078.20
Desk Donations	<u>175.45</u>
Total	4,200.74
Expenditure: Museum book sales	829.30
Purchases	511.84
Donation to Museum	<u>650.00</u>
Total	1,991.14
Income less Expenditure	2,209.60
Represented by – Balance at the Bank	2,179.60
- Cash – Till float	<u>30.00</u>
	2,209.60

John Williamson was thanked for taking on the post of Treasurer and for presenting the accounts. He in turn thanked June Davis for the considerable help she had given during the hand-over of the duties. Finances are in a healthy state. It was asked what, considering the Museum's current situation, would happen to donations given to the Museum should it be closed. Apart from the fact that these would already have been spent, the Museum's current situation is not that it should be closed down, but that it is to regain its accreditation.

5. Museum Curator's report:

Gill's report is impressive. The only weakness is in visitor numbers which in view of the lack of footfall in that area and the difficulties in reaching the displays is not surprising.

Museum Development – this has received a lot of attention locally and created worthwhile debate. The Museum's Discussion Group has been set up, a survey on line is due to be set up and we are organising special consultation events – the first being on 20th April at a special viewing of the museum's exhibition. Please email museum@surreyheath.gov.uk and Gill can make sure your comments are gathered and/or you are invited to future consultation events.

The Exhibitions – 140 years of Camberley had been very popular with c.600 visitors. The current exhibition is drawn from the Museum's art collection. We are also preparing for the following exhibition, Take Ten, looking at 10 people from other countries who have made the area their home. If anyone has any suggestions, please let Gill know.

Events – we are due to begin advertising events from May to September. This includes a separate leaflet of walks, bringing together all the walks we have developed over the last 4 years, including an addition of a Basingstoke Canal Walk.

Projects –

- Milestone – the milestone was officially unveiled on 31st March, supported by many of those involved in the project, the Mayor of Surrey Heath, Cllr John Winterton, and Vicar of

St.Michael's, Bruce Nicole. Well documented by Mike Hillman, Alan Meeks and Tim Dodds (thanks to all)

- b. The St.George's Stones - the stones have been funded and bought and we are now embarking on having all the names of those who fell (1914 to early 1919 (the latter in hospital) inscribed on the stone. SCC Cllrs have funded 1914 and 1915 and we are hoping to secure funding for 2016 and 2017. We hope to have the stones in place by November this year. Would SHMAG/FOSHM consider joint funding 2016 and 2017 – the contribution would be c. £800.
- c. Paddock Wood, Lightwater. We are installing a blue plaque on the original school building at Paddock Wood, this will be in September. We are also intending to launch the Military Remnants Map. Both events will be part of a planned 'Heritage Event' which is a development of the music festival; we are planning to have music events simultaneously with heritage events this September.

Collections – the museum audit, work on the Ron Francis collection continues. FOSHM have kindly agreed to fund the purchasing of negative boxes. Gill has met with Kate Hebditch from the Arts Collection to start the Accreditation process. This has come at an opportune time, as will be central to any redevelopment.

Reminiscence – We have been able to utilise just under £3,000 funding via Greenspace to create 12 reminiscence boxes, leaflets, recordings and purchase 3 x ipads to develop this new 'arm' of our outreach service.

We remain 'blessed' by the number of supporters we have and those who volunteer. A volunteers' get together is being organised for Wed 26th April (10.30 to 12.30 with Bacon and Bagels) at the museum, if any one from SHMAG or FOSHM wishes to attend, please let me know.

The Museum's Report for 2016/17 is on the museum website - www.surreyheath.gov.uk/museum. Gill will be using it as a base information for all consultation work in the forthcoming months.

6. SHMAG Report: Museum Discussion Group Meeting

On Friday 3 March in the morning there was a meeting with Gillian B-R and Sue McCubbin [Business Manager] which included many of SHMAG's members to discuss the way forward for the Museum service. After introductions and a summary by Gill of the last 4 years, members were invited to give their assessment of the situation and ask questions. The greatest worry appeared to be footfall, possibly to be improved by 'outreach', and the need for the Museum to become accredited which would bring in funds and gain access to displays. It was agreed to set up a discussion group to formulate and feedback on ideas and development. Volunteers were recruited.

7. Gallery Report:

The Gallery is the Museum's best example so far of 'outreach'. We have averaged 6,320 visitors pa over the last 2 years despite suffering from a low passing footfall – don't forget we had 12,500 visitors in 4 months when we were in Main Square. Our thanks go to our volunteers who contribute a total of 1,000 sessions or 2,500 hours pa. Last year sales totalled £2,078.20, including £829.30 for Museum books, and £650 was donated to the Museum. We sell more than 40 local history books and 10 local DVDs. Locally produced photos and paintings are also available. Thursday Talks went well with over 40 different speakers in the year.

8. AOB

- a) Sharon reminded members that Gill had requested finance from SHMAG for funding St George's commemoration stones and it was agreed to contribute up to £800.
- b) Reg commended the substantial contribution made by Phil in the running of the Gallery, particularly in connection with the volunteer rota.

9. Next Meeting Monday 3rd July at St Michael's Church Hall at 2pm.