

Date: Thursday 4 December 2014
Chaired by: Mike Smith
Members present: 40
Apologies: Gordon Beetham, Janet Hayes, Alan Hayes, Edith Kinnear, Mike Vickers, Anne Vickers, Judith Toleman, Janette Nixon, Stephen Nixon, Graham Nixon, Joy Galloway, Diane Fairgreave, Peter Stewart, Margaret Morrison, Barbara Mckenzie, Joan Tyler, Michael Green and Joyce Green

Chairman's Welcome

Mike opened the meeting and welcomed everyone along. The secretary read out the apologies for non-attendance.

Mike said the Annual Report contains contributions from all conveners.

Minutes of AGM of 6th December 2012

The minutes were agreed with one amendment. The reference to Fun Day should have read £4,000 and not £40,000. Proposed: Dennis Franks, Seconded: Peter Nixon.

Matters arising from last year's Minutes – No matters arising.

Report of the Committee of Management for the year to 30 September 2014

The Report is as printed on pages 6, 7 and 8 of the LUCS News. There have been a number of highlights in the last year. We were runners-up recently in the Tourism Award for Visit West Lothian. We now have people coming to us asking to be included in our tourism adverts. Two television companies have been here this year. Michael Portillo with his programme Great Railway Journeys and Timothy West and Prunella Scales with their Great Canals series. Both should be aired in the new year and members will be notified in advance of these. Victoria was used to carry the Commonwealth Games Baton as part of the Linlithgow section which was also televised. Our association with other societies on the canal are getting closer, namely the 1940 group who have brought their boat Bluebell to the basin to cover our aqueduct trips when St Magdalene is on Falkirk Wheel trips. They have thoroughly enjoyed being involved. ReUnion now have a day hire boat which has prompted us to do a refurbishment of Leamington. This is now ongoing. Mike Vickers is still helping us out with Leader grants. Chris Matheson-Deare has now relinquished drivers' rotas. A vote of thanks was called for. We are also reviewing our website to cope with electronic devices as this seems to be one of the most popular ways to access us.

Accounts for the year to 30th September 2014

Douglas Robertson presented the accounts. Page 11 of the report gives a breakdown of what activities made. The accounts were adopted. Proposed: Douglas Robertson Seconded: Bob Wigley

It was agreed that Pagan Osborne be retained. Proposed: Douglas Robertson;
Seconded: Ian Raven.

Election of Officers and Members of the Committee of Management

(For convenience, the Proposers and Seconders of all candidates are tabulated below).

Mike Smith stood down as Chairman.

The following Officers were elected:

Chairman: Duncan McIntyre

Vice chairman: Allan Melling

Treasurer and Company Secretary: Douglas Robertson was re-elected.

Minutes Secretary: Pat McIntyre.

The Chairman sought nominations for the Committee from the floor. There were none. Nominations for ordinary members had been received and were duly elected.

The Committee for 2015 is as follows:

Office	Name	Proposer	Secunder
Chairman	Duncan McIntyre	David Shirres	Allan Melling
Vice-chairman	Allan Melling	Duncan McIntyre	Mike Smith
Treasurer	Douglas Robertson	Elsbeth Ross	E A S Liddle
Secretary	Pat McIntyre	Elsbeth Ross	Douglas Robertson
Committee Members	Barbara McKenzie	Mike Smith	Allan Melling
	Ronnie Reis	Allan Melling	David Shirres
	David Shirres	Mike Smith	Douglas Robertson
	Lynne Nelson	Douglas Robertson	David Shirres

The new chairman thanked Mike for carrying out his role as chairman in exemplary fashion despite very difficult personal circumstances. He also thanked Bob Wigley for all his help and guidance.

Proposals for the season 2015

Next year is the Society's 40th birthday. It is intended to hold an event in April hopefully with a lunch for members (especially founder members), flotillas, etc. It is proposed to refurbish and upgrade St Magalene. Leamington refurbishment is now under way. Funding for the completion of the driveway has been granted and work should start on this in January.

Duncan then formally closed the meeting.

Any other business

Norman Foulner voiced his concerns about the viability of the canal as he feels there are fewer boats using it. Scottish Canals have promoted the idea of Living on Water and there are pontoons in Linlithgow. He asked if the committee would look into the possibility of the society purchasing one of these boats and renting it out on a short or long term basis. It was agreed that the committee would consider looking into this.

Danny Callaghan mentioned the new boat fund and it was explained that as a new boat would cost in the region of £100,000 a complete upgrade and alteration of St Magdalene would be the way forward bringing her out of the water in September 2015 and commencing work then.

Richard Toleman gave an update on the canal towpath upgrade. This seems to be moving along well.

Following the closure of the meeting, David Shirres showed the highlights of the year including a trip to the Kelpies and Fun Day, etc., - it was well-received.