

AGM

10th May 2015

Present: Mark Fitzpatrick
Christina Nurthen
Brian Waters
Liz Hunter
Richard Coles
Mike Kellard
John Robinson

Apologies: Andy Cole
Tim Justham

The minutes of the previous AGM were agreed and signed.

Chairman's Report:

- The Preston Trust has sought to develop its work over the past twelve months, and hope that this has been evident, and that with your support, it will continue.
- Firstly the Chairman would like to thank The Trust committee without whom none of what it has delivered this year would have been possible. In particular The Trust would like to thank Mark Fitzpatrick for his service as Treasurer since he is now standing down. The Trust are very pleased that Robert Young has volunteered to take up this post, and The Trust is sure he'll pick up the reins quickly given he has a little experience of being a treasurer! In addition Hannah Constantinidi and Louise Fitzpatrick are stepping down from the committee, so many thanks are due to them for their hard work. The Trust has been fortunate to have Liz Hunter on board for nearly a year now as well as a brand new committee member, John Robinson.
- Over the past year The Trust has sought to continue its regular activities, and introduce new ones in line with its main objectives of enhancing the village, preserving village history, promoting high standards of planning, and providing financial support for any purposes which fulfil these objectives.
- The continued regular activities include maintaining the village website, providing the Christmas tree and organising the lighting and carols event. This always receives a warm reception, perhaps in part due to the mulled wine! In addition The Trust also made a strong representation to the North Hertfordshire council regarding the Local Plan which threatens our immediate and surrounding environment.
- Perhaps the most notable event The Trust has organised in the last year was the new village day and scarecrow festival last July. There were over 170 voting forms submitted for the scarecrows, and The Trust had a large amount of feedback that the competition and the day itself was huge fun for all who attended. One of the main aims was not only that everyone in the village would have a great day, but that The Trust would be able to facilitate the coming together of our many village societies and clubs and celebrate the richness of them, together with the school and some local businesses. We believe that was achieved, and furthermore The Trust will be running the event again this year on 11th July which should be just as good, if not better.
- Another particularly notable event in the last year was the History of Preston book launch in February. The Trust contacted the author Philip Wray and organised the launch event which was fabulously well attended with over 150 copies of the book sold. Although there is a vast amount of information on Philip's website, we're sure you will agree that having this distilled into a publication is an excellent way of preserving the history of the village and stimulating

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continued interest in it. The Trust may arrange for Philip to return to the village for a follow-up talk on his book.

- As well as the events already mentioned, The Trust plan to run a Safari Supper, and reinstitute the photo competition, but focussing exclusively on aspects of the village. The Trust feel these activities will capture and enhance the spirit of the village as well as contributing to preserving village history.
- So in conclusion, The Trust has had a busy year and would like to thank the village for its support. We rely on financial contributions from the village, so The Trust would like to take this opportunity to encourage you all to renew your subscriptions when you receive a form in the next month.

Treasurers Report:

- MF thanked Sandy Bierrum for his help in reviewing the accounts.
- MF then summarised the accounts for the year.
- The accounts were accepted.

Election of Officers:

- Chairman: Richard Coles
- Treasurer: Robert Young
- Secretary: Christina Nurthen
- New Trustees: John Robinson.

Open Floor:

- The question was raised regarding trees that were planted for the Queens Jubilee, that have died; would the Trust be willing to either replace and/or organise a plaque?
- HR suggested a plaque for the Oak on the Green, this was planted to commemorate the Queen's Coronation.
- DS thought there was a lack of events for seniors in the village, perhaps speakers could be organised on a regular basis?
- HR asked about a War Memorial for the village.
- It was agreed all the above will be added to the agenda and discussed at future meetings
- It was confirmed the Village Day is on the 11th July

Circulation to all committee plus Parish Council