

Welford and Weston Local History Society
www.welfordandweston.org.uk

Newsletter 80 – April 4th, 2022

AGM and Membership Application / Renewal for 2022/2023

Our 'Season' runs from April to April, culminating with the AGM. This Season like the previous one has been shaped by the Coronavirus. In the first 12 months of the pandemic, we moved quickly as a Society to provide remote access to our series of talks, by way of Zoom. In doing this we were amongst the leaders, with some Societies taking the decision to close down operations completely. During the summer of 2021, when there seemed no end in sight, we started to develop our 'hybrid' approach, by which we hoped to be able to simultaneously offer remote Zoom access to our meetings whilst at the same time offering face to face access to the speaker in the Memorial Hall, for those who preferred that approach. This was something of a technical nightmare, but fortunately, within your Committee we have two people, Howard Francioni and Karen Dickinson who were up to the task. They were ably supported by other committee members John Read, Mike Banning-Lover and Mike Kearsy. Unfortunately, the solution was not technically sound by the time of the September 2021 meeting, but by the November meeting we used it for real, and it worked well. For January 2022 we took the decision that because of the high incidence of the Omicron variant, we should revert to Zoom only, but in the most recent meeting held on 25 March the hybrid was again used. On this occasion there were as many people in the Memorial Hall, as linking by Zoom from home. I think we are unique in being able to offer this dual access approach to our meetings, amongst Societies of a similar size.

Two members of the Committee have decided to step down in recent months. In early January, Mike Kearsy completed a 5 years stint on the committee and because of an imminent move back to Warwick decided it was time for him to stand down. I wish to thank Mike for his sterling work over this period. I'm delighted that Candida Watson joined the Society later that month, and look forward to her having an enjoyable & productive time on the Committee. Towards the end of March, John Read stepped down from the Committee, for personal reasons. During his 4 years he has never been slow to ask the difficult 'what if' questions that all Committees need to answer. I'm currently looking for an enthusiastic member to join the ranks. If you feel you'd like to join the team & help your Society to thrive, please contact me.

*Please do try and attend the AGM. It is fairly short, & gives you the chance to have your say on how the Society is run, the speakers chosen and the type of visits we should have. Your comments are always welcome and help to keep the Society relevant to its membership. Our **AGM** is on **Friday, 29 April**, starting at **7:00 p.m.** The AGM is followed by the Quiz and Fish & Chip supper. See Newsletter 77. **Tickets for the Quiz are selling fast, so if you want to go please contact any of the committee**, whose names and telephone numbers are given below.*

Brad Plimmer 750716, Mike Banning-Lover 750480, Karen Dickinson 07970 179821, Howard Francioni 07454 815345 Candida Watson 07932 528079

2022 - 2023 Membership and Subscriptions

Following a review of our membership structure and looking at other comparable history societies in the area, we have decided to make some changes. At present we do not distinguish between membership categories. Everyone pays a flat annual membership which has stood at £5 for at least the 10 years that I have been in the Chair. During Covid we made some savings on Memorial Hall charges, and travel expenses for our speakers. However, these were more than offset by additional software costs for Zoom etc as well as increased charges for speakers. We have recently had significant capital expenditure on other necessary software.

We would also like to appeal to a wider age group of members, and so we have decided to expand our membership categories. We will now have the following categories of member. Individual membership and Family membership. Individual membership is open to anyone and the renewal subscription is now set at £8 per year. Family Membership is open to families and also includes children both at home or away in college. The cost of a family membership will be £15 per year. At the same time the visitors charge has been raised to £5.

We hope you will agree that these changes are in the long term interest of the Society, and that you as members are still getting good value for your subscription.

To renew your membership for the 2022 – 2023 season, please go to the Society website, and click on Membership/Visitors under Quick Links.