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## Reports from The Chichester Society's 40th Annual General Meeting

The AGM of the Chichester Society was held at the Assembly Rooms on October 16th, 2013. Besides the presentation of reports, of which summaries follow, these elections were made: Chairman, Richard Childs; Vice-Chairman, John Templeton; Secretary, Anthony Quail; Treasurer, David Wilson & committee members Rodney Chambers, Cédric Mitchell, Trevor Redman, Bill Sharp, Grace Taylor and John Wichers.

### Chairman's Report for 2012-2013

**Richard Childs**

The Chairman commenced his annual report by referring to the recent death of the Society's founder and president, David Goodman, and quoted from his 1973 speech, "...to stop all further change until it is demonstrably clear that it is for the better." In this context the Chairman reported on the Society's major preoccupation during the year in responding to the District Council's Draft Local Plan. The Society had responded to the initial consultation in June and the further consultation in September. He hoped that the Society had involved members in this process, not only through the pages of the Newsletter and the publication of the information leaflet, *The Chichester Society and the Local Plan*, but also with the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary brochure *Chichester Today and Tomorrow*.

In responding to the Draft Local Plan the Society had reiterated its long-held position on development in and around Chichester. The Society wishes to see a much lower house building figure than that of 395 per annum as proposed by the Council. The Chairman reiterated that the Society objects to any building on the strategic greenfield sites such as Whitehouse Farm and Oldplace Farm. The Society identifies the preferred sites for development as Shopwyke Lakes, Tangmere and Southbourne. Moreover, the Society believes that no development should be considered on greenfield sites until all brownfield sites have been developed.

Moving on from the Local Plan, the Chairman reflected on the number of events and activities which the Society had arranged during the year, including two concerts by the Quillet Quartet, David Wilson's talk and walk as part of the Festival of Chichester, and the visit to Rolls Royce. The Chairman thanked all those who had been involved in organising these events.

The Chairman concluded by thanking the officers and members of the Society's Executive Committee for all their hard work during a particularly busy year. He also thanked the several volunteers who have also supported the work of the Society. Finally he made a plea for more volunteers to assist the Society as there was always work to be done.

### Secretary's Report for 2012-2013

**Anthony Quail**

The Secretary reported on three main themes representing the Society's activity this year.

First, the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary was celebrated in various ways including:

- Commemorative tree planting next to the New Park Centre
- Publishing in April the booklet *Chichester Today and Tomorrow* which illustrate the charms of this city and surrounding countryside and which is illustrated with local artists' paintings and photographs
- Organising a number of Festival events, notably a Concert at St John's Chapel in June for which we owe thanks to Joanna Emerson and her Quillet Quartet and also to Chichester composer Neil Sands for his piece *Tolling Bells, Rolling Hills* – specially commissioned by an anonymous well-wisher for the Society's 40<sup>th</sup> birthday
- Being selected for the Waitrose Community Matters Green Token scheme at the Chichester store
- Concluding with a celebratory lunch at Chichester College's Goodwood Restaurant on 18 October.

Secondly, the Society continues to take an interest in all aspects of planning and development:

- Planning applications are monitored throughout the year with reviews at every monthly meeting of your Committee. For this we are indebted to research and advice by John Pavitt. For the year to September 2013 decisions were taken on 151 applications of which 36 were objected to in writing.
- The year has been especially significant as the Draft Local Plan has been published for consultation. The

Society's responses included a four-page *Briefing for ChiSoc Members* and this was followed up with a four-page *Local Plan Briefing for CDC Councillors*: a copy was sent by mail to each councillor.

Thirdly, the Society has continued to work with other organisations and groups, in particular:

- The District Council whose planning team has helpfully clarified policies and procedures when requested
- CRAG, the Chi Residents Association Group with whom the Society jointly published the Local Plan briefing for CDC Members last July
- Transition Chichester who offered space at their September Green Fair, an opportunity to promote the Society that is much appreciated.

In conclusion, it's been an exceptionally busy 12 months since the last AGM!

## Treasurer's Report for 2012-2013

**David Wilson**

**SUBSCRIPTION INCREASE** By now you will have had a separate notice of this. New rates are overleaf.

### Income

- Subscription income has decreased owing to the end of the progressive phasing in of income from a number of life memberships. This was offset by a collection of £316 under the Waitrose Community Matters scheme.
- A sales programme has achieved better advertising income
- The £400 in 2012 was a grant from WSCC for a survey of the work needed to restore the murals in the Westgate Fields underpass. The Society contributed another £200 to this to make up the total needed, and this appears in 2013 under Professional Services. Recording the income in one year but expenditure in another, as required by Charity Commission rules, has distorted the end-of-year surplus and deficit.

### Expenditure

- Of individual events related to the 40th anniversary, the talk on Family History made £53, the concert £101 and the Chalkstones walk £67. These profits were offset by the cost of commemorative trees and plaque in Jubilee Park of £236.
- Of other events, the November concert made a loss of £124, the Record Office visit made a profit of £40, viewing at Rolls-Royce was cost-neutral, and replacing the Sloe Fair's tree cost £33 (though it now appears to have died!)
- Membership of the Historic Towns Forum has been discontinued, as it was felt that minimal benefit was being gained. The society is still a member of the Federation of Sussex Amenity Societies.
- The increase in cost of the newsletter is not as dramatic as appears, as the September 2011 Newsletter happened to be paid for in the previous financial year. The actual cost of the four issues September 2011 - June 2012 was in fact £3125, not £2570, again artificially increasing last year's surplus.
- The advance stock of postage stamps bought before the last price increase but one has now been exhausted

### Membership

At August 31st 2013, there were 530 annual members in 384 households and 231 life members in 170 households. The corresponding figures for 2012 are 540 (in 387) and 249 (in 183).

### ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31/8/13

This is an abbreviated summary of accounts. The full version was approved at the AGM, and a copy can be obtained on application to the editor, address on back page.

#### Receipts and Payments Account

INCOME	2013	2012
Functions and Events		
40th anniversary	850	400
Other	<u>1140</u>	<u>977</u>
Total Functions & Events	1990	1377
Gift Aid on Subs	523	612
Interest	23	20
Newsletter advts	765	346
Subscriptions	3412	3964
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>6713</b>	<b>6319</b>

EXPENSES	2013	2012
Meetings	482	469
Functions & Events		
40th anniversary	865	0
Other	1257	1168
Total Functions & Events	2122	1168
Insurance	190	190
Local Plan Response	202	0
Newsletter costs	3314	2570
Office expenses	190	196
Professional services	646	0
Publications	907	120
Subs to outside bodies	50	120
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>8103</b>	<b>4784</b>

**Net Inc/Exp            Deficit 1390    Surplus 1535**

#### Assets and Liabilities

Cash at bank		
RBS Current A/C	2108	2449
CAF Deposit A/C	<u>13183</u>	<u>13159</u>
Total cash at bank	15291	15609
Stock of postage stamps	10	1081
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>15301</b>	<b>16690</b>