

# Colwyn Bay Heritage Group

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

February 2<sup>nd</sup> 2017 - Theatr Colwyn, Abergele Road.

**Present:** Arthur Creber (Chair), Peter Detheridge (Secretary), David Masding (Treasurer), David Brown, Cllr Mary Doyle (CCBC), Katherine Dutta, Jane Edwards (U3A History Group), Cllr Chris Hughes (CCBC), Janet Johnson, Linda Nesbitt, Ian Reid, and Monty Slocombe (Old Colwyn Residents Assoc.).

### 1. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from: Cllr. Cheryl Carlisle (CCBC), Cllr Dave Cowans (CCBC), Cllr. Brian Cossey (CCBC), Cllr David Griffiths (B of C TC), David Jones MP., Cindy Lowe, Darren Millar AM., Mildred Nelson and Eunice Roberts.

### 2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on January 28<sup>th</sup> 2016

- (i) The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true record.
- (ii) Matters arising:  
There were no matters arising.

### 3. Chairman's report

The Chairman was pleased to report on another year of activity in which the Heritage Group continued to enhance its reputation in the town. The Group was able to make the town's history and heritage more accessible through publications and digital outlets. It continued to collect valuable memories and had contributed to consultations and reviews relating to the development of the town.

#### Walk booklets and Walks

The English version of the Old Colwyn Walk booklet was produced early in the year and copies were distributed at the Meeting. The booklet followed the same format as previous publications and was well received. The Welsh edition was published in the early spring. An inaugural walk based on the booklet was held in the summer when 15 people participated, including the Vicar of Old Colwyn who opened up the redundant St. Catherine's Church, a rare treat. The walk was led by David Masding and David Birch, to whom we are grateful. A second walk took place in the autumn under the auspices of Conwy Walking Week and the Health and Well-being project. Over 20 people participated in these.

A short but well received walk around the centre of Colwyn Bay was held during the "Inspire" Day in the late summer, using the Town Centre Walk booklet, again thanks to David Masding.

## Oral History

Continuing the focus on Old Colwyn, a series of interviews were recorded with people born and brought up in the locality. Ten interviews were completed and will shortly be uploaded to the Group's website.

An e-book of peoples' memories of the Pier was published for purchase through the Amazon digital book-store. Contributors were given free printed copies and a few printed copies were made available for sale. Thanks are due to Cindy Lowe for the research, transcripts and production and to Eunice Roberts for finding the means to print copies at reasonable cost and for assembling them.

Cindy is now collecting memories of school days in Colwyn Bay and is moving towards producing our second e-book, having obtained recordings or transcripts from 32 people.

## Exhibitions, Information, the Timeline and Publicity

The Group is often asked to contribute to exhibitions, conferences, fayres and town promotion days. With help from the Townscape Heritage Initiative we had purchased a set of exhibition boards and two pop-up display posters and produced a number of publicity leaflets. The website has also been reconfigured to enable its downloading onto mobile phones and tablets.

Eleven draft exhibition displays (texts and photo's), in Welsh and English, were prepared for the exhibition boards and these are now with the printer.

The Timeline was uploaded to the Group's website and is slowly being modified to display information by category in addition to the chronological displays.

The Group's Facebook page and Twitter accounts continue to attract visitors from across the United Kingdom and sometimes further afield.

## Consultations and presentations

The Group was invited to provide information and offer its opinion on a number of new initiatives in the town. These included:

- > The suggested 'postcard' information paving sets for the new promenade
- > The Colwyn Bay Town Centre Conservation Area Management Plan
- > The Prince Madoc Project
- > The Rhos Point development proposals with specific reference to retaining the Rhos pier toll house.

We promoted the work of the group through exhibitions at the Colwyn Bay “Inspire! Day and Forties Festival and attended initial meetings exploring the establishment of a countywide Heritage Forum and a Colwyn Bay Heritage Forum.

#### Acknowledgements and appreciations.

The Group continued to receive support from a number of organisations throughout the year including the THI and the Colwyn Bay Town Council, for which we were grateful, but in particular the Colwyn Bay Library for the expert advice and encouragement we received on a very regular basis through Eunice Roberts. The Group only exists through the partnerships it has with the local authority departments and its link with the library is a fine example of collaborative working.

Following his report the Chairman was asked if in future oral history interviewees could be given pre-interview information regarding the proposed format of the interview to enable them to be better prepared. He said that he would take this request back to the Oral History Sub-Group.

In response to a further question the Chairman elaborated on the Council’s proposal for the Promenade “postcards” and also spoke further about the Group’s overall involvement in Rhos on Sea.

#### **4. Treasurer’s report**

The Treasurer reported that there had been an expenditure of £4,868 during the year, the main items totalling £4,382 were for the printing of the Old Colwyn Walk booklet. Income had largely comprised a £1,598 grant final payment from the Rhyl Flats Windfarm Communities Fund to fund the Old Colwyn walk project. There being no uncleared cheques, the current balance was stated to be £692, most of which was committed for expenditure on the printing of the exhibition material.

In response to a question of whether the Group had considered obtaining sponsorship for any of its projects, the Treasurer said that the criteria of the main grant aiding bodies approached had been appropriate for the Group’s projects so that alternative funding sources had not been necessary.

#### **5. Management Committee Elections**

The Chairman said that during the year the Committee had co-opted Helen Jackson and Linda Nesbitt onto its membership and also that David Brown had attended several Committee meetings as an observer. The Chairman added that the present members of the Committee were prepared to continue in 2017 and that David Brown, Helen Jackson and Linda Nesbitt had indicated a desire to be full members of the Committee. However Katie Dutta would only be a member until March/April when her THI contract ceased.

It was **resolved** that members of the 2017 Committee should be David Brown, Arthur Creber, Peter Detheridge, Katherine Dutta, Helen Jackson, Janet Johnson, Cindy Lowe, David Masding, Linda Nesbitt, Ian Reid and Eunice Roberts.

## **6. Future work programme**

The Chairman said that the forward work programme was likely to comprise:

- Completion of the production of the exhibition material.
- Old Colwyn memories interviews.
- Possible production of further e-book - Old Colwyn memories or school reminiscences.
- Development of the timeline.
- Undertaking work about the area's open spaces.

He also said that any ideas for future projects would be welcomed at any time during the forthcoming year.

## **7. The Old Colwyn Heritage Walk**

David Masding gave an interesting presentation on the Old Colwyn Heritage Walk and highlighted some of the most interesting buildings featured in the walk. He gratefully acknowledged those who were responsible for undertaking the work behind producing the walk and also the funding bodies for their support.

## **8. Any Other Business**

There were no items of any other business

In closing the meeting the Chairman thanked those present for their interest in the work of the Group and for their attendance at the meeting.