

Saffron Walden Museum Society

Report to Museum Management Working Group : 31st August, 2006

The Management Committee met on 8th June, 2006 prior to the Annual General Meeting.
The Executive Committee met on 21st August, 2006.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM on 8th June was chaired by the Society's President for 2006/07 Councillor Alan Row. This was the first AGM under the new Constitution which provided for the election of Officers, the results for which were as follows:

Chairman	Richard Wallace
Hon. Treasurer	David Laing
Hon. Secretary	Susan Hollingworth

Edwin Planterose, who was elected three years ago, was re-elected as a member of the Management Committee. Notice was given that consideration of an increase in the annual subscription would be needed at the AGM in 2007.

The Hon. Treasurer drew the meeting's attention to the personal liabilities of Trustees and advised members that consideration would be given to investigating ways of mitigating such liabilities, including the possibility of the Society's becoming a charitable Limited Company.

There were many expressions of appreciation of the work and untiring efforts of Tony Watson, during his terms of office as Chairman.

Heritage Quest Trust

Tony Watson and David Laing met with Diane Burrige and Catherine Nicholson of UDC Legal Department on 22nd May. The Museum Society has agreed to provide one of the Trustees. Recent advice from the Charity Commission indicates that some change will be required to the Trust's objects to be acceptable to the Charity Commission. A number of Museum Society Officers and Members participated in the visit to the Collections Discovery Centre at Fishbourne Roman Palace on 31st July.

Signage

Outline costs have been ascertained for additional signage and refurbishment of existing signs. The Society has earmarked £1,000 for this purpose and wishes to put this in hand without further delay.

Feasibility Study

A recommendation from the Executive Committee to put in hand the architectural Feasibility Study into the use and needs of and the potential for extension of Museum display areas and facilities will be made to the Management Committee at its next meeting. Appropriate funds have been allocated for this purpose.

Membership

The new Membership Officer, Ann Holloway, has developed a new database which gives a complete and accurate record of all current Members of the Society.

Events

At the AGM on 8th June, Members' attention was drawn to the fact that those who attended the Society's talks were, in fact, being subsidised by those who did not attend. It was decided that, in an endeavour to make talks self-financing, in future Members should pay £1 to attend one of the Society's talks, with guests/visitors paying £3 per occasion.

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