

2021/22 Annual Report

This is a brief outline of the year, although it is only 7 months since our AGM in 2021.

In September, at the AGM, Gill was re-appointed as Chair and Colin Tether re-appointed as the Secretary. Colin has since resigned, due to a move to London, therefore Gill is undertaking the secretarial duties for the time being. The committee, including officers now stands at 7. VECS Constitution allows for 10 members of Executive Committee plus four Officers – Chair, Vice-Chair, Hon Sec and Treasurer (ie total of 14) – the demand on the 7 committee members of fulfilling the executive roles and carrying out all of the other activities is challenging. We URGENTLY need members to step forward and be prepared to serve on the committee, so appeal to you, the membership, to get more involved and to recruit more members. Now that we are able to get out and about more, this is the opportunity to do something positive for the town that you live in or visit.

Planning

Ian Stanton monitors the Wychavon weekly planning applications advising the committee of significant/relevant ones. During the last year, the following proposals have been considered and responded to:

- An objection was submitted to the proposal to replace an old brick building to the rear of Attwoods Accountants, High Street, with a very modern, modular building. This is out to keeping with the character of this part of High Street.
- A letter of support was submitted for the proposed modifications to the Public Hall, to enable it to be brought back into use.
- An objection was submitted to a Rooftop proposal for 6 units on a small piece of land off Cowl Street. This land was identified in the draft prospectus for the town centre, together with the other open land alongside, as a potential comprehensive development site for new housing. The Rooftop scheme would remove this possibility.

Our efforts to get some action by the Council on the enforcement front are not bearing fruit at the moment. We will continue to alert the Council to issues of concern and to lobby for action.

WDC will be issuing its final version of the revised SWDP this year now, it having been delayed by 2 years due to the virus. If necessary, objections will be made, for considering at the public inquiry that will be held by the Planning Inspectorate.

Facebook

Julie Haines keeps our Facebook page up to date with items of interest to our members and the wider public of Evesham. We would encourage members to regularly review the information, so that they can keep up to date with the Society's activities. Gill continues to update the website, until a volunteer can be found to take on this small task.

Conservation Areas

Evesham has one conservation area with seven distinct character areas within it. They are perhaps the most important parts of the town reflecting its historic and architectural influence and are fundamental to its future. Some individual properties are well maintained and others have been recently improved. However, many properties in our conservation areas, including several listed buildings, are showing increasing evidence of neglect, which demonstrates a lack of respect by the owners for Evesham residents, visitors and other businesses in town. The committee will have completed a comprehensive survey of the condition of buildings in the Conservation Area by the time of the AGM. The properties needing urgent attention will then be highlighted and a list sent to WDC for it to identify the owners/tenants. VECS will then write to these parties urging them to act, not just for the benefit of their own property but also for the benefit of the whole area.

Town traffic

This is still a live issue that the committee members are seeking solutions for. The Evesham Transport Stakeholders group has not met for over 2 years, but it is hoped that it will meet again this year.

Events

VECS members put up the exhibition and maintained a presence at the Medieval Market and Battle of Evesham Festival, helping to raising the profile of VECS. The exhibition was also on display in the Library for a period of 2 months, free of charge; whether it has resulted in any new members remains to be seen.

Colin Tether continued to produce our excellent newsletters until his move, for which many thanks are due. His expertise will be sorely missed, as members will already be aware due to their receipt of a somewhat smaller bulletin, prepared by Gill.

Projects

Despite our optimism in September 2021 that the Bengeworth Fountain project would at last make some progress, with the 'Parish Team' within the Highways department undertaking the ground works free of charge, comprising the levelling of the grass area with re-seeding, the installation of a new litter bin and the construction of the hard surfaces for the new seat and the drinking trough to be moved from the Almonry garden. Unfortunately

the Parish Team is now managed by Ringway and we are still waiting for a start date. Better news is that both Wychavon District Council and County Councillor Emma Stokes (from her Divisional Fund) have provided funds for the work to move the trough and to purchase a new seat. The new information board is in place, thanks to a grant from Evesham Town Council.

Talks/trips

Member events have resumed. In September 2021 there was a very informative talk by Shawn Riley on his work as Inward Investment Manager, WDC. This was followed in October with a talk on costumes of the residents of Mary Arden's Farm during the Tudor period, the speaker Glynda Sanger and her assistant both came in period dress that they had made themselves and brought with them many examples of other textile items in use at the time. In November Richard Hodges gave an illustrated talk on the families who lived at Dumbleton Hall. In February, we were entertained by Max Hunt with his illustrated talk on the history of the Morgan Motor Company in Malvern.

A couple of trips are planned for this summer.

Thanks are given to Sue Campbell, who continues to provide us with an excellent series to talks and visits.

The VECS publications can be found for sale in six local coffee shops/cafes - this helps to raise our profile and some much needed income.

Vale of Evesham Civic Society

Income & expenditure account for the year ended 28 February 2022


| <u>Income</u> | 2022 | 2021 | Notes |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|--|
| Subscriptions | 1,160.00 | 1,025.00 | |
| Donations | 114.50 | 60.00 | |
| Sale of publications | 45.05 | 10.10 | |
| Interest on deposit account | 0.12 | 0.33 | |
| Proceeds from meetings | 191.00 | 46.00 | 2021 Covid restricted number of meetings |
| Gift Aid reclaimed | 226.25 | 454.04 | 2021 included 2 years Gift Aid claims |
| Garden party | 55.00 | - | |
| | <u>1,791.92</u> | <u>1,595.47</u> | |
| <u>Expenditure</u> | | | |
| Newsletters, envelopes and stamps for same | 102.80 | 174.00 | Civic Voice, Historic Towns Forum, Prot For Ancient buildings, Cotswolds Line, Campaign to Protect Rural Eng |
| Subscriptions | 263.00 | 255.50 | |
| Insurance | 331.82 | 336.18 | |
| Speakers | 140.00 | 40.00 | 2021 Covid restricted number of meetings |
| Ecgwins room hire for monthly talks | 165.00 | 21.00 | a new charge which commenced in 2021 |
| Expense for auditing | 9.00 | 10.00 | |
| Expense for flowers and display stand | - | 30.00 | |
| Website hosting | 144.00 | 144.00 | |
| Amendments to website | - | 96.00 | |
| Web domain name | 20.99 | 20.99 | |
| Annual programme & AGM printing | 96.84 | 27.60 | Amendments to design, envelopes and postage 2022 |
| Zoom meetings cost | 71.95 | 57.56 | |
| Paint to refurbish bridge plaques | - | 4.58 | £395 remains to be spent (from the £400 from Worc CC) |
| Library exhibition | - | 71.00 | |
| Donation to Battle of Evesham w/e | 20.00 | - | |
| New gazebo | 229.99 | - | |
| Banner for gazebo and velcro | 157.03 | - | |
| Sponsor a shield at Battle w/e | 100.00 | - | |
| Hand sanitizer for meetings | 5.75 | - | |
| Contribution towards info board at roundabout | 275.00 | - | Part of roundabout project |
| Deposit for room hire - 50th Anniversary | 50.00 | - | Party in June 2022 |
| | <u>2,183.17</u> | <u>1,288.41</u> | |
| (Deficit) / Surplus for year | (391.25) | 307.06 | |
| Worcs CC re new bench in Bengeworth | 1,045.20 | - | Receipt into bank account - to be spent on project in 2022 |
| Balance brought forward | 3,634.48 | 3,327.42 | |
| | <u>4,288.43</u> | <u>3,634.48</u> | |
| <u>Balance sheet</u> | | | |
| Deposit account | 1,095.02 | 1,094.90 | includes contributions from Worc CC for Fountain and bridge plaque repairs £775.42 and also in 2022 £1,045.20 for a new bench at Bengeworth roundabout |
| Current account | 3,193.41 | 2,549.58 | |
| less unrepresented cheque | - | (10.00) | |
| cash book balance | 3,193.41 | 2,539.58 | |
| | <u>4,288.43</u> | <u>3,634.48</u> | |
| Increase/(decrease) from previous year | 653.95 | 307.06 | |

A. Peake, Hon Treasurer

I have not audited these accounts, but I have examined them and on the basis of the information provided truly reflect, in my opinion, the present state of the society's finances.

Peter Gay

Date accounts examined

 22/3/22