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**Canterbury Society (CS) AGM 2024**

At *Fruitworks Coworking*, 1-2 Jewry Lane, Canterbury CT1 2NP

The meeting started at 7pm with the Chair Hilary Brian’s welcome.

Quoracy was confirmed and there were no conflicts of interest

Apologies from Martin Vye and David Clarke.

Minutes of September 13th 2023 were approved.

No matters arising

**Chair’s report**:

The venue’s neighbourhood, its proximity to Nason’s linen factory and The Foundry, was mentioned with the possibility of using the same space for the AGM’s in the future.

Hilary thanked CS Officers for their commitment and highlighted the projects the committee have been working on such as the Local Plan, Heritage, Marketing, Quality of Life Campaign, and Blue Plaques (Jan Pahl and John Walker specifically for this project).

She further mentioned CS events such as the Dean’s talk entitled ‘What Is A Cathedral For’, the guided tour at St. Augustine’s Abbey, and the summer event at Solly’s Orchard….

The Chair stated that CS aims at increasing the membership and thanked each of the organisations who sponsor Canterbury Society (all are listed on CS Website). <https://canterburysociety.org.uk/>

**Working Groups, verbal summaries: (all reports have a link to their full report)**

1. Membership and Marketing: Carole Wells

The role and mission of M&M is to promote CS. The main achievement of has been the production of a CS leaflet. We have printed 1000 copies which we continue to distribute.

We have launched our update website, hoping to attract wider range of new members. There have been 14 events over the last year and we inform members via the Newsletter.

The biggest event for the coming year is the Heritage Expo – Saturday 9th November, 11 - 4

Please check our website and please put the date in your diary.

Many organisations are either speaking or holding a stall to promote Volunteering/training opportunities and all the projects that people undertake.

My thanks to Lynette for her help on social media.

<https://www.facebook.com/canterburysociety>

<https://www.instagram.com/canterburysociety>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/httpswww.canterburysociety.org.uk/>

1. Treasurer’s report: Kim Parker

Kim thanked Hilary who is a pleasure to work with.

The Society’s finances are in a sound state and the way we work is to ringfence money for projects. We decided last year to have a Reserves policy and keep £4,500 for that purpose. Projects are commenced and completed. [Read the report here](https://canterburysociety.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Treasurer-report-May-2024.pdf)

Regarding membership renewals, there is a turnover of approx. 10-12%, around 80% are steady. Some of the older projects have a small balance left which we shall use for other projects, ensuring agreement from the donors.

1. Heritage and Conservation: John Walker, vice-Chair

Canterbury Tales of England - design improvement around the city with The Pound’s Steve Allen leading it this project

Leveling Up Fund came about just in time to help the Pound with plans already in place. £20 million to be spent round the city.

Heritage Open Days project has been successful with many enjoying the Heritage venues but we are going to think how to take this forward as it requires a great deal of time to organise.

The first phase of the Blue Plaques is almost complete - what we are working on now and considering is to install new larger plaques on the wall at St Augustine’s Abbey proving the point that this wall is not part of the prison! We are working with Canterbury Commemoration Society on this project. I am told that we probably don’t need a planning permission for this as the wall is not listed.

An application is being made to Canterbury City Council for Tower House to be Listed as an Asset of Community Value.

The waiting room at Canterbury West Station is going to be an exhibition space showcasing railway pictures in conjunction with Canterbury Commemoration Society.

Nikos Karydis will give a talk on Good Design on 17th October – see website for details

The Cathedral are having discussions of a ten year plan, working out how to secure the finances of the Cathedral long term.

Jan Pahl spoke briefly about the Friends of the Cemetery Group project and how to make it better known and visited. There are over 300 varieties of wildlife at the Cemetery and there will be a public meeting on 7th October – again, [please refer to website.](https://canterburysociety.org.uk/event/canterbury-cemetery-discover-a-place-full-of-life/)

4) Architecture, Planning & Streetscapes: no report available

5) Quality of Life & Local democracy – [report here](https://canterburysociety.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/ANNUAL-REPORT-ON-LOCAL-DEMOCRACY-AND-QUALITY-OF-LIFE-WORKING-GROUPS.docx)

The Chair thanked everyone for speaking and the audience who were present at the AGM.

**AGM business**:

The confirmation of Officers 2024-2025 and return of committee Members and Trustees, was proposed and approved en bloc. Guy Mayhew was introduced and confirmed as a new Trustee.

Officers

Chair – Hilary Brian

Vice-Chair – John Walker

Treasurer – Kim Parker

Secretary – Martin Vye

Other Trusteee Committee members

Dr Hubert Pragnell Peter Bradford

Dr Mehri Holliday David Clarke

Carole Wells

Clive Bowley

Guy Mayhew

**Speaker - Dr Hubert Pragnell: JMW Turner in Kent**

A most interesting presentation with question and answer session was given.

We learned about the birth location of Turner with a context for London’s intellectual and cultural life at the time, i.e The Royal Academy, as well as imminent technological developments such as photography. His teachers and possible influences were mentioned but the talk focused on his work in Kent, i.e. Canterbury monuments and Dover and Margate. Dr Pragnell took the audience on a marvellous journey of topographic drawings and the internalised world of perception and emotion of JWM Turner.

Please see link to slides here

<https://canterburysociety.org.uk/talk-turner-in-kent-canterbury-society/>

Jan Pahl gave Hubert a vote of thanks and presented him with a small gift.

The meeting closed at 8:45 pm.