

**ELSENHAM VILLAGE HISTORY SOCIETY**

**MINUTES OF MEETING 7<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2012**

**MEMORIAL HALL ELSENHAM**

**Those Present:**

Gordon Barker Chairman	Paul Salvidge	Chris Bush
Mike Rea	David Verlander	Gordon Fulton
Valerie Austin	Tim Snow	Ruth Fulton
Ian Beeston	Jean Beeston	Margaret Rea
Keith Hunt	Jill Hunt	Frances Lambert
Avril Braidwood	Dennis Haslam	Barbara Haslam
Janet Tulley	Brian Tulley	Vic Dowsett
Wendy Morgan	John Morgan	Tim Snow
Christine Hall	Colin Smith	Keith Merrifield
Teri Williams	John Segar	Jean Platt
Jan Westcott	Dorothy Dorman	Geoff Woolvin
Jean Woolvin	Kevin Wood	

**Apologies:**

Heather Salvidge	Colin Clarke	Pam Merrifield
Robert Clarke	Tony Eatson	Ray Franklin

1. The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed those present. He introduced and welcomed our guest speaker for the evening, Mr Tim Turner

**2. Minutes of the Last Meeting**

Amendments have been received as follows:

Item 5.1 Recordings: The list should read Jeff and Marie Witkin not Wickens.

Commemorative Booklets: Add George Collett and Robin Shaw.

The minutes were then agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**3. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

#### **4. Annual General Meeting**

The Secretary opened the Annual General Meeting Segment of the meeting.

- I. Invitations were extended to fill the vacant committee posts.

Gordon Fulton volunteered and was welcomed to the Committee following a show of hands from the floor

- II. Invitations were extended to nominations for the posts of Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer or Secretary.

There being no nominations for these posts, no votes were required so the existing incumbents agreed to serve for another year

- III. The Chairman gave a brief review of the Society's activities over the past year.

- IV. The Treasurer presented the Society accounts for the last year and made these available for inspection.

There being no other matters raised by the membership present the Annual General Meeting segment was closed and business reverted to the main agenda.

#### **5. Guest Speaker Mr Tim Turner**

Mr Turner gave an interesting presentation on Antique Fakes and Forgeries based on the authentication of finds and the fighting of counterfeit material produced since time immemorial. A lot of faking takes place to make money but much also is driven by the desire of certain artists to "get one over" the art establishment. There are also artists who quite legitimately copy great works of art and it was noted that there are many more Rembrandts in the world than he ever painted.

Following a highly entertaining talk and QA session with practical demonstrations, the Chairman gave a vote of thanks to Mr Turner.

As time was now pressing, the meeting closed at 9.40pm

#### **6. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be on Wednesday June 6<sup>th</sup> at 8pm when there will be a talk by Stanley Sutherland entitled Why Start Family History

The following Secretary's note is a précis of information that would have been presented to members.

## **7. Secretary's Note**

**War Memorial Project Updates** – Since the last meeting, a great deal of work has taken place and reports are being produced on every person recorded on the memorial. The memorial sub-committee have done a great deal to tell the story of these men for which the Society is very grateful. So that this work may be more widely known, the team leaders have kindly agreed to present their findings to members at the November meeting.

**Elsenham Cemetery** - The Parish Council (PC) have undertaken a review of the buildings and structures in Elsenham Cemetery after concern was expressed at the condition of the Lychgate in particular. A small sub-committee of the Society (Gordon Barker, Chris Bush and Mike Rea), has evolved to work with the PC and following a number of meetings, the situation is as follows.

The PC will take advice from a suitable builder on the works required to the Lychgate and Chapel. They will also arrange cleaning of the Chapel allowing it to be opened to the public during the Open Gardens weekend in July. The Society will endeavour to provide a suitable display to give some account of the history of the Cemetery.

The Sexton's Store to the rear of the Chapel is in a very bad way and demolition is more than likely. The Society will visit the site beforehand to document the remains and hopefully produce drawings of the building and it's situation.

The longer term aim is to find a use for the Chapel and it is likely that Villagers will be canvassed as to potential uses. The possibility of an EVHS Display of Village history has been discussed.

**Members Visits** - Three possible venues have been suggested, The Secret Nuclear Bunker at Kelvedon Hatch, The Police Museum at Chelmsford and Dunmow Maltings. Members are invited to register their interest in these venues (e-mail the Secretary at [evhs@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:evhs@hotmail.co.uk)) and dependent on the level of interest, the Society may investigate hiring a minibus for the longer distance trips.

**350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The Book of Common Prayer** - We are advised by David Hill that the Church are planning to hold an Evensong service from 1662 to celebrate the 350th anniversary of the Book of Common Prayer. If anyone would like to participate, with a reading maybe, please contact David

**ENDS**