

Malvern Civic Society AGM

9 November 2018

The Society held its Annual General Meeting on Friday, 9th November at the Eden Church Centre, Grovewood Road; 68 members attended.

The Chairman, Clive Hooper, recalled that 60 years ago on 9th December, 1958, the first meeting of the Friends of Malvern (later renamed Malvern Civic Society) was held. The object of the Friends was the conservation of the built and natural environment of the Malvern area, and this remains at the core of the Society's activities today. Since the initial failure of the Friends to save Rose Bank House, many other heritage buildings and locations have been saved from destruction due to the Society's intervention, including the bandstand in Priory Park, which is now the Society's emblem. The Society continues to have an influence on the District Council's planning decisions.

In addition to planning issues, the Society arranges a varied programme of activities to entertain and inform its members. The membership continues to grow and now numbers 440.

The Chairman made presentations to several members of the Executive Committee who were not seeking re-election and who had all contributed much to the Society: Valerie Gilmer, Cara Roslington, Philip Rumney, Tony Whalley and Graham Myatt. Denise Preston has relinquished her role as website manager. All these deserve the Society's sincere gratitude.

Clive commented that he had now reached the end of the five years allowed in the Society's constitution for his office. For him, those years had been "challenging, but stimulating, fulfilling and almost always enjoyable. It had been a privilege to work with such a splendid group of supportive colleagues."

Clive was thanked very warmly for his successful leadership of the Society, for dealing so conscientiously and efficiently with its affairs and, above all, for the courtesy and good humour which have been the hallmarks of his chairmanship.

The election of officers and members of the Society's Executive Committee then followed. Dr. John Harcup OBE was unanimously reaffirmed as President, as were Vice Presidents Ian Rowat, Roger Sutton and Katharine Barber. Clive Hooper was unanimously elected as a new Vice President. There was also unanimous support for Andrew Huntley as the new Chairman; Andrew's present role as Treasurer is as yet unfilled. Walter Brooks was confirmed as Secretary.

After the conclusion of the AGM, those attending formed small groups and discussed with enthusiasm the future development of the Society. Some lively ideas were noted by the Committee.

John Dixon