



FEBRUARY AND MARCH MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the second edition of the 2024 newsletter.

The AGM and Election of Committee took place to a packed audience on Wednesday, January 17th at the St. Nicholas Church Hall, Little Bowden.

The Chairman, Kevin Millard welcomed Members and Guests, and introduced Councillor Peter James (HDC) and Simon Hobbs (Little Bowden Neighbourhood Forum) who gave a short update on the current activities of their organisations and how they relate to Little Bowden and the wider Market Harborough Town area.

The following members were elected: Chairman – Kevin Millard, Secretary – Cynthia Thomson, Treasurer – Jean Stamp, Speaker Co-ordinator – Phil Baildon, Publicity Co-ordinator - Anthony Cherrington, Membership Secretary – Kevin Millard, plus Sheila White Janet Lee. Non-Committee roles: Webmaster - Michael Milsom, Raffle Co-ordinators - Alec and Carol Hodgson.

The evening's entertainment after the A.G.M. was provided from the archives of the **Market Harborough Movie Makers**. This organisation, now sadly closed, started in the 1960's and specialised in the production of documentary heritage films relating to local events and local history. Members were given an hour-long enjoyable presentation of films of local interest. These included **The story of finding the Hallaton Treasure** and **Harborough in Bloom** (featuring the volunteers).

The photo below features Simon Hobbs of the Little Bowden Neighbourhood Forum, Councillor Peter James, HDC, our Chairman Kevin Millard and Speaker Co-ordinator, Phil Baildon.



Forthcoming events – Continuing the theme that was suggested by the questionnaires that were received on what events the membership would like to happen these are the events planned for the next four months:



Wednesday, February 21st, The Market Harborough and the Bowdens Charity

John Feavyour, QPM, is the Chairman and a Trustee of the **Market Harborough and the Bowdens Charity** will explain the workings of the charity, their influence they have on the local area through being local landowners, with allotments to let in the town, their own offices and staff at Fairfield Road, landlords of town shops and offices and support the give to many local charities. The charity was very supportive of our Society, when we published our book, 'Aspects of Little Bowden' back in 2017.

Wednesday, March 20th, Suzi Felstead, A Day in the life of a local Magistrate

Suzi Felstead is a local Magistrate with over 23 years' experience of sitting on the bench in Leicestershire. Suzi will be able to give a good overview of how the court system works, and the challenges Magistrates have to face whilst doing their work as volunteers in the Justice system. Suzi will also highlight the benefits of being a magistrate and the importance of the role in delivering justice.



Wednesday, April 17th, Sam Mullins, OBE, Former Director, and Chief Executive of the award-winning London Transport Museum in Covent Garden on the subject of 'The New Harborough Museum, how we did it in 1982'

After 28 years of leading the organization, Sam stepped down from his position in 2023, but continues his career as a historian, writer, and presenter.



Wednesday, May 15th, Sandy Leong, 'The Bishops Finger'

Sandy is an historian, published author and a professional speaker. Sandy will give a lighthearted look at the history of British Pubs. The British public house started life as a Roman Wine Bar and dates back over 2000 years. Ale was central to the Anglo-Saxon sense of community, the place to get drink, often using a brush as a sign. An amusing evening is assured.

Please note that monthly events are advertised online with both the Harborough Mail and HFM Events. They are also announced verbally on HFM Radio. Details can also be found on the Society Website, plus the monthly membership notifications sent out by Kevin.

The Society Facebook Page has been developed by Kevin to attract more members. If you are a Facebook user, please visit our page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/61446724600520> and give us a like. Alternatively, if you use social media but do not use Facebook, I have recently set up an Instagram Page Little_Bowden_Society, to help promote our meetings.

Membership Fees for 2024 – These were in January and if you didn't manage to renew then, and still wish to renew please send your membership fees, £10.00 per person or £20.00 per couple, to either Kevin Millard at 151 Northampton Road, or Jean Stamp at 110 Scotland Road.

Alternatively, you may pay by bank transfer to Little Bowden Society at Lloyds Bank, Sort Code 30-95-47, Account Number 00338985. As discussed at the AGM it was decided to keep the single membership at £10.00 per person and increase the couple membership to £20.00. This is in line with the fees we pay or donate to guest speakers and hall charges for holding meetings.

Little Bowden Information Leaflets – Back in 2001, the society, with sponsorship, published various leaflets about Little Bowden, which included various people, guided walks, and buildings of interest. As much has changed over the past 20 years, these leaflets have now been updated and reprinted. They are on sale at £3.00 for the three. These are on sale at Monthly Meetings or from Phil Baildon.



As announced at the AGM, Market Harborough's first Neighbourhood Forum has now been well established in Little Bowden – This gives residents more of a say in planning and land use in their community, as well as tackling issues such as flooding, traffic, and the care of green spaces.

Six of our Society members are on the Forum Committee, and they are working with other Forum members to develop a 'neighbourhood priorities statement' with a longer-term view of writing a Neighbourhood Plan.

There is more information on the HDC website. Log onto www.harborough.gov.uk – latest news - Town's first neighbourhood forum established in Little Bowden.

The Transport Group are already lobbying Central Government, LCC and HDC to try to avert the threat by Leicestershire County Council to cut subsidies for local bus services, plus planning applications within Little Bowden.

If any members have any concerns, they would like to discuss, the Forum can also be contacted at lbnfharborough@gmail.com.

Harborough District Consultation Plan – Further to Councillor James' update at the AGM, the consultations are open and the deadline for comments is 23.55 hours on **Tuesday 27th February 2024**. Further details are on the HDC website.

Anthony Cherrington, Publicity Co-ordinator, Little Bowden Society Committee, February 2024