

The Beaconsfield Society
**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2008/9 HELD IN
THE NATIONAL FILM AND TELEVISION SCHOOL
STATION ROAD, BEACONSFIELD
ON TUESDAY 24TH NOVEMBER 2009 AT 8.00 PM**

The meeting started at 7.30 p.m. with a talk from Dr Liam Fox MP Shadow Defence Secretary. Formerly a GP at the Millbarn Practice. He likened his move into politics as very similar experience to medicine holding regular surgeries and discussing people's problems. He raised his major concern that we now live in a world of trivia, celebrity and rubbish. There is no sensible debate possible. People have their own truths - opinion not backed by facts. Leadership is needed to tell people what is needed, not bending to Focus groups. He was concerned that News is considered an entertainment - not a source of information. The culture is instant gratification - buy now pay later. There is a need to throw down the gauntlet to our generation. On defence he was concerned about Iran - a rigid regime and an exporter of terrorism. It is creating an arms race in a very unstable area. Russia is still a problem.

Sandy Saunders thanked Dr Fox for his very interesting talk. Dr Fox left the meeting to return to London

The Annual General Meeting

Some 40 members were present with an addition of some 30 friends and interested parties.

2) Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Audrey and Graham Coles, Doug Manocha, Claudia Rumens.

3) Minutes of last AGM and matters arising

The minutes of the last AGM were accepted nem. con.

4) Chairman's report

Sandy Saunders welcomed members to the meeting.

He reviewed the objectives of the Society.

He then reported on the work done for the Parish Appraisal. A meeting of some 60 representatives of voluntary organisations in Beaconsfield was held where views were expressed about the future of Beaconsfield.

These views were consolidated in a Synopsis, supported by the results of a questionnaire completed by the representatives after the meeting.

The Synopsis was presented by Sandy to the Town Council and elements of the District Council to help in the development of the Local Development Framework.

After the Parish Appraisal had been completed, Bucks County Council noted that the format of the appraisal was not relevant to Beaconsfield. What should have been done was a Market Town Health Check.

The Town Council has asked Sandy, as Chairman of the Society, to lead this exercise. The format and responsibilities have yet to be resolved.

5) Treasurer's report

Tony Bristow presented the accounts for the year 30th Sept 2008 to 30th Sept 2009. He explained the differences from the previous year and noted that we are breaking even. The membership numbers have reduced but the subscriptions total has increased after members were given a gentle reminder.

The accounts were accepted by the meeting. Nem con.

6) Election of Officers and Committee

Sandy Saunders asked the President Les Davies to oversee the election of the Chairman.

Chairman - Sandy Saunders proposed by Les Davies and seconded by Kay Rogers elected nem. con.

Sandy as Chairman then proposed that the officers and committee members be elected en bloc.

Vice Chairman - Dermot Cox, **Treasurer** - Tony Bristow, **Secretary** - Vacant position

Committee - Jackie Dawes, Ian Johnson, John Meredith, Kay Rogers, Claudia Rumens and Ken Rumens.

All officers and committee members were elected unanimously.

Sandy Saunders welcomed Ian Johnson as the Town Council appointed representative on the committee.

7) Presentation of Society's awards

Sandy reported that the Outstanding Building Award will not be presented this year. The committee felt that there was no new or restored building that added sufficiently to the street scene in the Town.

Les Davies presented the Citizen of the Year Award to Adrienne Britton. Adrienne came to Beaconsfield some 40 years ago and started fund raising work 30 years ago. She formed the Beaconsfield branch of Cancer Research UK. In those 30 years she and her committees have raised £646,000. She has worked for and led the Old Folks Lunch Club, the Tangent Club, the Chamber of Commerce and many other organisations. Adrienne thanked the members of the Society for the Award.

8) Any Other Business

Sandy thanked members for attending the meeting and the National Film and Television School for their hospitality and the use of their cinema.

Sandy asked members to actively support the Society by helping with recruitment of members and volunteering to work on or with the committee. We have a particular need to fill the post of Secretary.

Sandy then described the current status of Wilton Park. The military have not yet made a decision about the future use of the existing facilities. Sandy outlined our thoughts on the use that the military, residents of Beaconsfield and others can make of the extensive grounds and buildings.