

Verwood Heathland Heritage Executive Council meeting 15th January 2018

The Chairman opened the meeting by noting the passing of Ruth Bussey, long term member of the Executive Council representing Friends of the Heritage Centre. He listed many of the organisations with which Ruth had been associated over the 56 years she had lived in Verwood. All present agreed that Ruth would be greatly missed.

The Chairman reported that footfall was holding up well and that the centre was particularly full on Wednesdays and Thursdays. He expressed thanks to all the volunteers who work very hard to make the centre successful. He also thanked Ann Page, Secretary, for all her work on the night of the Extravaganza which had resulted in an extra £50 profit from the raffle. The Chairman also reported that the repairs to the front door had been chased many times. Repairs have now been promised during the second half of January. If this does not occur, the door might be replaced.

The Treasurer reported that the Centre's finances are very healthy despite the expenditure on the outside of the Centre.

The underfloor heating was discussed. The thermostat has been replaced and when the electrical safety inspection is carried out, any problem with the heating system should be identified. It seems that the system is using power even when it is off.

The Archivist reported on various donations made to the Centre. She also reported on a donation from the Wareham family from Flameburst and that a volunteer Andy Wood has helped with computer records but needs help with some pictures which contain unidentified buildings. He is also helping to sort displays upstairs at the Centre. Mike Dolan is searching for a replacement computer for the Centre and after discussion, it was agreed that the Centre could afford to purchase a new laptop with a bigger screen. Verwood Library has asked if it is possible for the Archivist to be available to talk to library users about family history.

There was a discussion about a recent article in the local press about Farrow and Ball which stated that the company was founded in Bournemouth. The Archivist has contacted the paper to correct this error. It is not the first time that this error has occurred

Concern was expressed that membership of the Friends of the Heathland Heritage Centre is dropping and the income from this source has also dropped. However as income generally is satisfactory no further action is necessary at present.

It was also reported that an Electrical Installation report is necessary and will be commissioned shortly. There was also discussion about lighting in the main room and it was agreed that replacement of some of the existing bulbs with LEDs would be carried out to see if the lighting improved.

The next meeting will be held on 9th April at 9.30am in the Centre

Lindsey Dedden