

Old Chiswick Protection Society
Minutes of the 57th Annual General Meeting
Monday 24th November 2014 at
The Hock Cellar, Fullers' Brewery

1. Welcome

The Chairman thanked those present for attending. OCPS has in its area more listed buildings than any other part of the Borough, or in London, and thus possibly in the UK.

The era of Listing had come about thanks to the Luftwaffe. After the War, local Authorities were required to produce a list of buildings in need of special protection, and thus which should be restored ahead of other, bomb damaged buildings. OCPS founders had chosen the word "Protection" carefully when it was set up. Local Authorities might have forgotten about it, but we haven't. Protection is the key.

2. Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the 56th Annual General Meeting were approved.

3. Election of President

Sir Alan Munro was unanimously elected President for the forthcoming year.

President's remarks

The President thanked the committee members who chaired and sat on our various committees. Their work ensures that the area stays protected. OCPS had taken on two new "traditions" over the past year. The Summer Party, held this year in the President's garden had been a great success thanks to a joint effort from Committee members; it would be good to hold it again next year. OCPS now has its own website. This was developed Janey Stevens, with help from Penny Barltrop and Sophie Sainty, whose hard work had really paid off. Sadly the Barge MV Leonard Piper has "shivered its last timbers" and was no more. It had been towed away very recently.

4. Election of members of the Executive Committee

Patricia Langley, Janey Stevens, James Stitt and Tony Taylor were elected to the Committee to serve for three years.

5. Hon. Treasurer's Report

James Stitt presented the accounts, which were duly approved. Subs were slightly up. Donations were up by £100. We had 149 membership subscriptions, which was a record.

Because of the very wet winter weather, we had been unable to get onto the Eyot for pollarding, so expenditure on this was £200 rather than usual £2,000. Gift Aid was about 22.7%.

Book sales were very high, and income from this was up by £900. WE had made a donation to Thames 21 for the work.

Overall expenditure was £1400, down from £4,000 last year.

In the coming year we would need to spend £1500 on pollarding, and £2,000 on the plaque on the wall of St Nicholas Church.

6. Chairman's Report

There have been two very important cases for planning law this year: Barnwell Manor and Forge Field. Basically, these two cases have established that, in the case of a proposed development in a Conservation Area, which causes *any* harm, then there is a presumption against development. The Court said that the words used in the 1947/48 legislation were deliberate. Protection was the key. The cases mean that we will be able more readily to protect our Conservation Area. OCPS is respected locally and our Borough listens to us.

Wheelie bins: the second phase of the so called "pilot" is being implemented. They are not proposed in our Conservation Area. They will sit **outside** houses in the borough 365 days a year. So contact your Councillor now to object.

We've had a year of lively debate in OCPS. That is a good thing, it shows that committee members care passionately about the area they have been elected to help protect.

Thanks were due to Sir Alan who opened his lovely garden for the OCPS summer party. It had been a sunny day in the loveliest garden in the Conservation Area.

There were two books to recommend to those present: Dorothy Bartram's book on the old Chiswick Hospital and Sir Alan's book Keep the Flag Flying, his memoir of his time in the Diplomatic Service.

Finally, the Chairman paid tribute to Fullers, who though they are a public company, act as if they were a family firm, with thought for their neighbours and with a very generous spirit.

7. Talk By Fullers

Mr Richard Fuller gave a brief but fascinating account of the history of Fullers in Chiswick.

8. AOB :

The Hogarth roundabout: Fullers would like to sponsor it, but it's difficult to talk to TfL. OCPS is working with them on the small wildflower triangle.