



WINSTON CHURCHILL MEMORIAL TRUST

SOUTH WEST ASSOCIATION OF CHURCHILL FELLOWS

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AT THE REDWOOD HOTEL AND

COUNTRY CLUB, FAILAND, BRISTOL

1015 HRS SATURDAY 17 MAY 2014

The Chairman, Professor Roger Motte, welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the three speakers for the day Joanna Traynor, Tamasin Knight and Peter Jollands

Apologies were received from a number of Fellows including the treasurer Malcolm Harrison.

The minutes of the last meeting that took place on 11 May 2013 were read out and accepted as a true record.

There were no matters arising

The Chairman's Report. Professor Roger Motte said that we were all delighted to have the company of so many Fellows and guests but it was of a concern that many of those attending formed a 'core' of supporters. Ideas on how we can engage with younger Fellows would be gratefully received!

Thanks were offered to the Secretary for organizing what promised to be another excellent day out for Fellows and guests.

The Secretary's Report. Bill Nicholson expressed his gratitude to all those who attended without whose support his efforts would be in vain

The work of the HQ staff was praised for the assistance they give the Secretary on all matters relating to the Association and of course for the very generous annual grant of £500 that is given to the Association, without which free and subsidised events would not be possible.

The Secretary again asked if anyone was willing to assist with publicising the work of the Trust and the awards but there were no volunteers although it was known that some Fellows carried out individual work. Contact details for local newspapers was asked for.

The Treasurer's Report. The accounts for the year had not yet been prepared but in the absence of Malcolm Harrison, the Treasurer, Bill Nicholson said that he was aware that recently the current account had a credit balance of £1036-02 and the Deposit Account had a credit balance of £11-80. From this would have to be deducted £526-60 in respect of the Bristol event which left a healthy balance for another event planned for later in the year. Professor Motte will make contact with the Treasurer to ensure that the accounts are prepared and examined.

Election of Officers.

The Chairman indicated that both he and the Secretary had wished to stand down in 2015 to make way for younger members who would no doubt have fresh ideas. Unfortunately there has been no interest shown by anyone in taking over the reins and therefore both suggested they remain in post to plan the Anniversary

event. This was agreed to by those at the Annual General Meeting. The Secretary mentioned that he had asked in an email for volunteers to join the Committee but there had been no response.

It was agreed by a show of hands that the Committee would comprise of the following.

Chairman – Professor Roger Motte

Secretary – Bill Nicholson who asked once again for help in publicising the work of the Trust across the Region. Email addresses of local newspapers would be appreciated.

Treasurer – Malcolm Harrison

Committee Members – Janet Franklin and Andrew Eccleston.

2014 Fellows. Bill Nicholson mentioned that there were seven new Fellowships in the South West. He had been in contact with all the new Fellows by email welcoming them to the Association but only two had thus far responded. Although this was rather disappointing he knew that at this time of year there was a great deal of contact between new Fellows and the Trust and so he would refrain from following up contact through mobiles etc as he had done in previous years.

Social Media. Andrew Eccleston had recently suggested that the Association should make greater use of 'Twitter' as although we have a Facebook page it is not used by Fellows. When asked who in the room used 'Twitter' only one person said that they did. No one was prepared to take responsibility for setting up a 'Twitter' account but the Secretary said he would ask for further views in an email to all Fellows on his database. He then read out a letter from Roger Granada who deals with IT issues on behalf of the Trust. 5% of the visits to the Trust website and 9% of the reports downloaded found us via social media channels such as Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, blogs, YouTube etc and so we need to be aware that times are changing as are the ways conversations on the web have the power to reach wide audiences rapidly.

Penzance function. The Godolphin Arms at Marazion has been booked for a morning of talks on Saturday 20 September 2014 commencing at 1030 hrs. There will be coffee on arrival and a superb buffet lunch overlooking the bay towards St Michael's Mount. In the afternoon most will visit art galleries in Penzance whilst some may visit the nearby Telegraph Museum. A three course dinner has been arranged at the Godolphin Arms in the evening and the following day we walk over the causeway to St Michael's Mount.

Any other business – The secretary said he had attended the Annual Association meeting in London in April and all Fellows would be sent a copy of the minutes by email in the near future together with the minutes of today's meeting.

Time and date of next meeting – the Secretary said this would be given out in due course.

The meeting then concluded at 1045 hours