GOWERTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Held at Gowerton Primary School Monday 9th September 2024 at 10.30am

PRESENT:	Siân Pritchard	Elaine Howell
Pam Morgan	Kay Bamforth	Margaret Cross
Wendy Davidge	Pearl Hill	Pat Hood-Williams
Sue Jones	Janet Leary	Marion Morris
Linda Nicholls	Jean Payne	Glenys Phillips
Terry Townend	Barbara Woodward	Margaret Bowen
Margaret Davies	Steve Bolchover	Linda Bolchover
APOLOGIES:	Peter Pritchard	Viv Davies
Terry Nicholls	Ros Holt	Eryl Williams
Dave Wootton	Paula Wootton	Diane Howells
Anne Guard		

WELCOME and UPDATE ON RECHABITE POSTER: The meeting opened with Elaine welcoming everybody back and then extending a warm welcome to two new members, Margaret Bowen and Margaret Davies, both from Mynydd-Bach-Y-Glo, Waunarlwydd. She then welcomed our visitors, Mr Steve and Mrs Linda Bolchover to our meeting. They were there representing the old inactive Gowerton Archive Group. They handed to Pam (treasurer) the cheque for £179.98 which has effectively closed their archive account. Mr and Mrs B. were shown the poster of the Rechabites which they duly exclaimed over as it is a particularly colourful and effective image. The £179.98 will be used to pay for framing the print and we will all go to the Rechabite Hall to present it back to the Bolchovers and watch it being hung on the wall there.
Steve Bolchover told us a bit more about the work of the Rechabites and I have included it at the end of the minutes.

MATTERS ARISING: Elaine asked for a moment's quiet to remember Peter Davies who had sadly passed away during the summer. Peter had been a member during the early days of GLHS. Thanks were extended to Pam for organising the trip on the Copper Jack, the lunch afterwards and doing the commentary on board. Thanks also to Dave for skippering. Everybody enjoyed the trip and many were delighted to have seen herons and even a kingfisher. It proves that the quality of the water must be improving.

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS for AGM: Elaine said that this could wait until the AGM. Pam has already said she will stand as treasurer again next year, unless anybody else wishes to take on the role.

AOB: Elaine has spoken to Anne Robertson, author of 'Estuary People' and she will come and talk to us in November.
Our two new members, who are original Waunarlwydd girls, are going to meet Andrew Dulley of the Swansea Archives in Zion chapel in Waunarlwydd. They plan to do 'audio interviews' with a year-group from Waunarlwydd primary school to record their memories of their childhood in the village.
GLHS website: Due to popular demand, Pete will give us all another run-through of the website after the AGM in our October meeting, in order that the new members can see what is available and what could be added. He will also write out a step-by-step idiots' guide to help people find their way around the site.

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Next meeting is the AGM at the school on 14th October at 10.30am

AGENDA for AGM:

Apologies
Minutes from last AGM 2023
Matters Arising
Chairperson's Report
Treasurer's Report
Matters Arising from Reports
Nomination and Election of Officers:

1) Chair
2) Treasurer
3) Secretary

AOB
Website with Peter Pritchard

Encyclopædia Britannica:

Rechabite: a member of a conservative, ascetic Israelite sect that was named for Rechab. He was a zealous antagonist against the worshippers of Baal, a Canaanite fertility deity.
The Rechabites were separatists who refused to participate in agricultural pursuits, drink wine, or engage in other practices associated with the Canaanites. Believing that the semi-nomadic way of life was a religious obligation, they herded their flocks over much of Israel and Judah. They were fervent followers of Yahweh, and are best known for their connection with the slaughter of the worshippers of Baal during the revolt led by Jehu.

Modern Rechabites were started in 1835 and were named after the Biblical Rechabites. They also believed in temperance and members paid into the society, run as a mutual which was effectively an early example of a welfare state. They campaigned against the trade unions.
Since 2004 the Rechabite Friendly Society has traded as Healthy Investment, a financial services organisation that continues to specialise in providing ethical savings and investment products, no longer restricted to teetotallers.