

Old Retfordians' Association
Annual General Meeting - Saturday 26th April 2025 - Minutes
Ye Olde Bell, Barnby Moor

1. Attendees & Apologies

Attendees:

Alan Stennett	Ged Moss (Sec)	Paul Kerr	Simon Hart (Tres)
Dan Needham	Jack Barber (Pres)	Peter Holdsworth	Tom Oxley
David Mellor	John Dernie	Peter Kenworthy	Vin Hooton
Bert Hunt guest			

Apologies (as per website):

David Waterfield	Les Beldham	Peter Skelton	Steve Hill
Harry Nixon	Mick Smith	Robert Ilett*	Tom Randall
Jonty Connor (ill)	Mike Edwards	Steve Barton	Robin Williams (AP)

* Robert having being called away to assist an ill relative

2. Minutes of AGM 2024

The 2024 minutes, per website, and in printed form on the table, were read out by PH, proposed for approval by TO, 2nd by AS and approved by all.

3. President's Report

Jack delivered a brief verbal report including an apology for not bringing the old school bell (allegedly removed under suspicious circumstances).

ACTION: Jack to bring the school bell to a future meeting

4. Treasurer's Report

The accounts, also distributed in printed form on the table, were introduced by SH. The financial position was described by SH as “quiet” with a modest number of new subscriptions, the main cost being the website hosting, and a closing balance approximately in line with the previous year. The practice of meal deposits was questioned by PH, debated, and motion to cease deposits PASSED. Absentees without apology or good reason will be asked to pay for their meal.

5. Election of Officers

- a) President – JB, re-standing, proposed by AS, 2nd by DN and PASSED
- b) Vice President – Robin Williams, not pres, prop by PH, 2nd JB PASSED
- c) Treasurer - SH, re-standing, proposed by TO, 2nd by JB and PASSED
- d) Asst Treas. – D.Mellor, **new**, proposed by GM, 2nd by DN and PASSED
- e) Secretary - GM, re-standing, proposed by TO, 2nd by JB and PASSED
- f) Asst Secretary, PH, ‘re-standing’, prop by TO, 2nd by AS and PASSED
- g) Reunion Organiser: SH, re-standing, prop. by GM, 2nd by PH, PASSED

There are voluntary positions not subject to election

- a) Bassetlaw Museum Liaison – Robert Illet, apology received
- b) Archives Co-ordinator – Tom Oxley, thanks given
- c) Zoom Host – David Waterfield, apology received

Extra-ordinary item (1) accepted: National Westminster safe boxes

Whilst the subject of museum and archive representation, Bert Hunt introduced himself as a local counsellor and party to a number of school artefacts offered to the Retford Oaks School but subsequently turned down. Mike Quigley and Derek Turner were names quoted.

An elegant brass plaque once donated by ORA to the school, commemorating the work of M.C.Chislett was produced to the meeting and admired by all the group.

Furthermore, Bert explained that a pair of storage boxes had been shown to him containing a variety of (valuable) school prize cups but it is believed are still held by the Retford NatWest bank, now closed. **ACTION: the request that some of the current ORA explore these assets was accepted by Treasurer Simon Hart, and Tom Oxley**

6. Dates and Times for next AGM, 2026, and zoom calls, were suggested

- a. 2026 AGM – Sat 18 Apr 2026 : prop TO, 2nd GM and PASSED
- b. Summer zoom call - Wed 16 Jul 2025
- c. Autumn zoom call - Wed 22 Oct 2025
- d. Winter zoom call - Wed 14 Jan 2026

Extra-ordinary item (2) accepted: Heritage Day publicity

PK raised a suggestion about making better use of the annual Retford Heritage day to draw new ORA members which was widely agreed upon. Local volunteers would be required to approach the Heritage day organisers and negotiate participation. **ACTION: Robert Illett not being present, David Mellor agreed to bring this up with Robert. GM agreed to provide display material.**

Extra-ordinary item (3) tabled: Membership subscription rates

TO asked to bring up the subject of a membership rate change, which the group agreed to. The proposal was, although the current £50 is agreed to be good value, perhaps a life expectancy dimension could be added with a proposed reduction to £30 for over 75s? Consensus within the group remained however to keep the rules as simple as possible. TO respectfully withdrew his idea.

Lunch was enjoyed by everyone approximately between 1 and 2pm

7. Tom Oxley: “a varied life – motorbike scrapes and campervan japes”

After lunch, Tom Oxley provided a lengthy, fascinating, and well illustrated chronology of his life and various careers to the whole group. Beginning with the 1962 “Rivals” tower ascent (many more photos and diagrams of this are in the website “1962” gallery) Tom used over 30 of his own photos and videos to illustrate his travels around Europe and the world.

Tom’s life appears to have begun with a childhood chimney collapse and thereafter travels been heavily punctuated by motor cycle accidents, and numerous other near death experiences.

Exploits have extended well into his recent years and growing family, and amongst them the crossing of the Humber Bridge on his hover board, exploring underground tunnels, and sledging off the top of enormous Northumberland sand dunes.

Tom’s talk was rewarded with warm applause from the appreciative group.

8. Meeting Close

The meeting closed at 15:41