

Draft minutes of the Wandsworth Society 55th Annual General Meeting held on 26 March 2026 at 7.00pm - Draft

There were 39 members in attendance and all members of the Executive present.

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Mary Sherry

2. Approval of the Minutes of the 2025 AGM

The Minutes of the 2024 AGM have been posted on the website and copies were available at the meeting. There were no outstanding matters arising, the Minutes were adopted (Proposed by Julie Harrison, seconded by Richard Pook). Motion carried unanimously.

3. The Annual Report by the Chair, Philip Whyte.

The full report is available on the website, wandsworth.society.org.

- The Society has moved membership fully on to the GDPR compliant database which makes it easier to communicate with 80% of members who have provided their email address.
- Thanks were extended to all members who have been involved with running the Society over the last year. Two members of the Society who have volunteered their professional services were singled out: John Crossland for providing audio visual services and recordings of meetings posted on the website and Paul Henry for being the independent examiner of the accounts.
- The Executive met six times during the year. The Events group have organised nine speaker meetings and two parties, each of which attracted 30-40 participants.
- Groups that have carried forward the aims of the Society during the year include:
 - Environment group, represented primarily by Bruce St Julian Bown. The Chair has been very actively participating in the West London River Group who work on issues of increasing flood risk
 - Roads & Transport led by John Dawson monitoring proposals by the Council covering local roads and cycle lanes This year this has focussed on Burntwood Lane and on the Town Centre following the announcement that TFL and the Council would not proceed with long held plans for the gyratory.
 - Planning, chaired by Philip Whyte monitors all significant planning applications in this part of the Borough sending letters of objection or support, as appropriate. The public consultation on town centre improvements following the news that through traffic would not be alleviated is a current theme. This year comments have also been made on two major applications outside our local area being the AELTC application covering Wimbledon Park and a massive new residential building (the Glassmill) by Battersea Bridge. The chair has been one of a group of local amenity groups attending the public inquiry. We have also made objections to a TFL proposal for an 8m high illuminated advertising panel on the pavement outside Southside.

Other activities of the Society include

- One soiree during the year with many thanks are extended to the hosts. The Society also supported two concerts in St Anne's Church, providing refreshments and general publicity.
- The late Ron Elam's postcard collection, jointly acquired with the Friends of Wandsworth Common in 2025, has now been digitised. The cards are stored in the Wandsworth Heritage Library and can be accessed on request.
- All available past newsletters have now been digitised to allow future research. Arrangements for public access are underway.

Subscriptions. We are grateful to those members who have dealt with the new subscription by altering their standing order to £15. We hope that more will do the same next year

4. Finance

The 2025 annual accounts were presented at the meeting. Net income was £9,359 and expenditure for the year was £8,988 showing a surplus of £371. Net assets remain healthy at £23,649. The Treasurer explained that the healthier position this year the reduction in sponsorship and absence of a contribution to purchase of the Elam postcards and the set-up of the membership database, offset by a £1,000 contribution to Save Wimbledon Park (agreed at 2025 AGM). It was noted that the expenditure on the Bedside was some 20% higher than in 2024, despite reduced pages, explained by a marked decrease in advertising revenue.

The accounts were put forward for adoption. Proposed by J Margaret Bell, seconded by Gill Gray. Motion carried.

5. Election of Society Officers.

Philip Whyte has given notice that he does not wish to continue as Chair. John Dawson was the only candidate coming forward to replace him. He was unanimously elected as Chair for 2026. Philip Whyte agreed to stand as Vice-Chair

Other officers agreed to continue on the Executive. These are Richard Pook (Treasurer), Gill Gray (Membership Secretary), John Dawson, Iain Gray, Bruce St Julian Bown, Peter Farrow (Newsletter Editor), Julie Harrison and Caroline Pook (co-opted minutes secretary). In the absence of anyone else coming forward, the members were elected. Proposed: Jenny Massey, seconded Caroline Pook. Motion carried.

- the Society contribute £1,000 towards this campaign. Motion proposed by Philip Whyte, seconded by Richard Pook. Motion carried without dissent.

The meeting closed at 7.55pm and was followed by drinks and a talk from Jonathan Callaway about taking ambulance to Ukraine.

CP. 28/03/2026