



[www.coraclesociety.org.uk](http://www.coraclesociety.org.uk)

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2011 at Broughton Castle**

PRESENT

Terry Kenny (Hon. Chairman), Mary Badge (outgoing Hon. Secretary), Dave Purvis, Euan Raffel, Dylan Jones and fifteen members of the Society.

APOLOGIES

Martin Fowler, Alan and Nina Grove, Peter Faulkner and Margaret Chapman (Hon. Treasurer)

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Minutes of last meeting accepted  
Proposed by Dave Purvis. Seconded by Euan Raffel

MATTERS ARISING

Bewdley Museum is open during the summer months but Hartlebury no longer exists as an autonomous organisation

REPORTS

*Chairman*

The Chairman feels the Society is ticking over in the right direction. There is a fair amount of activity throughout the year. The website has had over thirteen and a half thousand hits over the last year. Chairman gave Euan a vote of thanks.

Coracles generate interest all round especially in film work which is mostly dealt with by Peter Faulkner.

In a joint venture with the National Museum of Wales the Coracle Society was seen at the Mawddach Paddlesports weekend. The Society may well be invited back.

Peter Badge is involved in a particular interested project at the moment which will be mentioned by the President later on.

The Shrewsbury 1864 event was a great success. Victorian dress of the period was the theme. A few races on the river and many thanks to Gerwyn for his commentary!

Mary is standing down as Secretary; Alan and Nina Grove are also standing down from their posts.

The Chairman thanked everybody for their hard work during the year.

#### *Treasurer*

No formal report provided but a copy of the balance sheets was made available. It was noted that the balances were fairly healthy

#### *Membership Secretary*

The outgoing Membership Secretary was not present due to ill health and didn't submit a report. However it was noted from the membership records that membership remains strong with around 100 members

#### *Society Archivist*

New archive material acquired from the Mawddach Paddlesports weekend

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following officers were elected for the year 2011-12

President: Peter Badge  
Proposed Terry Kenny; Seconded Euan Raffel  
Carried

Vice Presidents: John Davies, Irlwyn John, Terry Kenny, Raymond Rees MBE and Bernard Thomas

Re-elected en bloc  
Proposed Dave Purvis; Seconded Dylan Jones  
Carried

Chairman: Terry Kenny  
Proposed Mary Badge; Seconded Brian Pearce  
Carried

Secretary: Dylan Jones  
Proposed Terry Kenny; Seconded Dave Purvis  
Carried

Treasurer: Margaret Chapman  
Proposed Mary Badge; Seconded Terry Kenny  
Carried

Membership Secretary: Brian Pearce  
Proposed Peter Badge; Seconded Terry Kenny  
Carried

Committee: Peter Faulkner, Martin Fowler, Dave Purvis, Euan Raffel, Mike Elias  
and Rod Bowen

Re-elected en bloc  
Proposed Terry Kenny; Seconded Peter Badge  
Carried

Andy Betteridge  
Proposed Dave Purvis; Seconded Jane Pearce  
Carried

Bruce Watson  
Proposed Terry Kenny; Seconded Peter Badge  
Carried

Auditor

Further to comments last year it is felt that there is no need for an auditor and  
so the post of auditor is to be removed

#### PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Indebted to Peter Badge for the resume:

In January 2010 an article appeared in the Guardian dealing with the Noah's Ark  
incident as mentioned in the Bible.

Inter alia it was suggested that Ark was not boat shaped but, in fact, circular.  
The evidence for this proposition was to be found in a small tablet no bigger  
than a spectacle case, which had come into the possession of a member of the  
RAF who had served in Iraq between 1945 & 1948. On it was a number of lines  
of Cuneiform script. When he had left the Service and returned to Britain he had  
shown it to a number of academics who had not expressed any  
interest. Eventually the tablet came into his son's possession.

When the British Museum held an open day during which members of the public were invited to submit artefacts for examination and advice Leonard Simmons ' son took the tablet where it was examined by Dr Irving Finkel, one of the few people who could read cuneiform script, who confirmed it was 3,700 years old and that, inter alia, it contained directions to the Noah like figure as to the size , shape and method of construction of the craft he was to build. The craft, which would have been built in accordance with these instructions, resembles very clearly a modern Iraqui Quffa, which is, in fact, a Coracle.

Quite apart from the Biblical story this dates the earliest reliable description of a Coracle.

Peter Badge went on to say that a film company intends to make a film for Channel 4 soon and that he, as an expert on the 'Coracle side of the project, has been invited to join Dr Finkel in the production.

### AOB

The floor thanked Mary Badge for all her hard work over the years

Euan Raffel intends to digitise the back copies of the Journal and place them on the web. A call went out for early journals.

### DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To be decided and will be publicised in due course