Langton Matravers Local History Preservation Society (LMLHPS)

Registered Charity No. 272407

Annual General Meeting

Thursday 22nd May 2025 – 7.30 pm to 8.30 pm: The Village Hall, Langton Matravers

1.	**In attendance:** **Management Committee and Trustees:** Daryle Pearson (Chair), David Selman (Trustee), Jasmine Cattle (Trustee), Andrew White (Trustee), Keith Coombs (Treasurer), Jan Marsh (Facebook Administrator), Elaine Curtis (Secretary/Membership). **Members:** Alan & Roza Aldridge, Jane Arden, Pete & Heather Lightowler, Beryl Mitchell, Chris Pearson, Sue Powell, Eric & Sally Roberts, Emma Teasdale, Martin Wickham, Val Winch, Pat Wright.
2.	**Apologies:** Joanna Bailey, Sandra & Richard Brown, Peter Curtis, Ann Harrison, Mary Haysom, Chris Kwantes, Simon & Meriel Parvin, Mary Sparks (Archivist/Publicity Officer).
3.	**Minutes of the last AGM meeting held on the 9th May 2024 approved:** Proposer: Alan Aldridge, Seconded: Beryl Mitchell - carried *All matters arising/actions incorporated into the following reports.*
4.	**Chairs Report from Daryle Pearson:** The Trustees and management committee have had a very productive year. Firstly, the work towards becoming a Charity Incorporated Organisation was completed; on 17th March 2025 we heard that our application had been successful (new charity number 1212578/company number CE039446). Although there is still some work to be completed, we are well underway to make the transition from one charity to another. Our second task was Barton. The property was valued and went on the market at the beginning of August 2024, with an offer made and accepted on 16th September 2024. The library was packed up, together with the archive and many of the items from the garage, sheds and attic were all moved on 22nd November 2024 to two temporary storage locations. Several items were relocated to Swanage Museum, some of the larger items, along with other items which were unrelated to Langton which did not meet the criteria, were sent to auction to raise funds for the Society. On 26th November we sadly closed the door of Barton for the last time. A small team worked for many days packing, moving, and disposing. I cannot stress what a mammoth task it was. It was a fine example of teamwork, even though some of us were completely exhausted afterwards. The funds from the sale of Barton were put in a short-term interest account and have since been moved into a charity investment account. This will give us an income to cover the costs of running the museum for the time being. The next step is to locate permanent storage nearby. We hope to secure sufficient space to house the archive, the library, and enough room for a small team to work on the archive, and for the occasional visitor to use the library for research. On becoming a CIO, we are now in a position to finalise the lease with the Parochial Church Council on the Old Coach House. After some deliberations, the Management Committee felt that the Old Coach House is still the best place for the museum. We hope to improve the fabric of the building and the layout. We have been advised to obtain a 50-year lease so we are eligible for match funding which could cover improvements and alterations, together with Museum Accreditation we also should be eligible for lottery funding. The main objectives from the last AGM have nearly all been met. Museum Accreditation is still a main objective; we hope to make some headway with this in the coming months. We started by holding a management strategy meeting which was facilitated by Vicky De Witt - Dorset Museum Adviser, Emma Ayling (former curator at the Priest House, Wimborne and now with the National Trust) and Keith Child's (based at Corfe Castle National Trust), the team found this very useful. This meeting helped us recognise our strengths and weaknesses. One major weakness is the lack of volunteers to cover the many jobs there are in running the Society, arranging, and running the talks programme, the Museum, and the archive, as well as numerous other tasks of which there are too many to mention. We will stride to increase our volunteer numbers so we can maintain all aspects of the Society but unless this can be achieved soon, we will have to review the situation. Dr. Mary Sparks is now known as the Collection Manager and due to health problems has managed to work on various projects from home. We miss her input, but she is still the font of knowledge for the archive and local history and manages to be a valuable contributor in the day-to-day running of the museum and Society. We have continued networking with the other museums within Purbeck, and this has been most useful. Burngate has included our museum in their new Marble Quarry leaflet, and we have been giving inspiration and historical advice to Sarah Acton who in collaboration with Burngate is writing Dorset Songs of Stone: Quarry Paths+Distant Voices. a performance piece using music and the spoken voice. We have networked also through the Russell Cotes and the National Trust. The exhibition at the RC - Purbeck - Spirit of Place was one of their most successful exhibitions and our Palmer painting, which had been produced as a greeting card was one of the RCs best sellers. We also now have these greeting cards for sale. At a recent meeting with the RC, they noted the increase in visitors from the Purbeck Area.

	The three pieces of art loaned by the Society to the RC and displayed in the exhibition were conserved by April Johnson using grants arranged by Vicky De Witt. The third was conserved with funding from the donator of the piece and the Society. All three pieces look splendid. Two of them are now back in the Museum. The third one is in storage. Being included in this exhibition was a great advantage to the LMLHPS. The Russell Cotes are willing to carry LMLHPS leaflets to promote the museum. They did a marvelous job in increasing the profile of not only us but many other small museums throughout Dorset. It also opened up the opportunity to conserve some of our works of art which would not have happened had we not included in the exhibition. Our museum is in throes of staging a Blacksmithing exhibition. Due to time constraints this was not completed for the Museum Opening. We have organised a blacksmith to come and give demonstrations and workshops and we hope this will give us the opportunity to welcome pupils from St George's and St Marks in Swanage as well as pupils staying at Leeson House and visitors to the Museum. Martin Kenway is running our website and with Elaine Curtis ensures it is updated regularly with all the news and events from the Society. We have tried to write regular reports in the Dubber and the Swanage Forum, but this is one job that due to other commitments has been overlooked. It is a great pity as we have much to be proud of and to promote, it is a great way to advertise the Museum and the talks. Jan Marsh continues with Facebook, many of the Facebook members make valuable and interesting contributions. Jan also has been selling our booklets at talks and other events as well as making sure we have good stock in the museum. The printer in the Church where our booklets are printed was out of action but now has been replaced and we are in the process of improving our stock and looking at other printing options. The booklets generate a very good income. We have held a very full and interesting program of talks over the winter season and as usual they were all very well attended. We rely on the income from these talks to run the museum. We still have some rationalisation to complete on the archive and when this is done digital archiving will take place. A legacy has been given to cover the cost of MODES, the computer program used by museums for this task, and we are very grateful to the donator. We have managed to get a small team of custodians to cover five days in order for the museum to stay open, but we have had to make the decision to close on Mondays. They continue to greet our visitors and offer local information, and some share their wealth of knowledge on Langton and the quarrying industry. I would like to thank Vicky De Witt for all the help she continues to give the Society. Thanks also to Emma Ayling and Keith Child's who gave up their time from their busy lives and their kind offer to help in any way they can in the future so we can achieve what we want for the Society. My report reinforces the work that is done by the dedicated people we have on our team. For a Society run solely by volunteers, most are not just over sixty but over eighty we should be proud of what we have achieved in the last 12 months and what we hope we can achieve in the future. Thanks to all who have helped us through another year. Finally, thanks to our members whose continuing support gives us the encouragement to keep going. We may now be a society with an enviable bank account, but it is our members and volunteers that make the Society what it is today and what we hope to make it into in the years ahead.
5.	**Treasurer Report tabled by Keith Coombs:** See summary of accounts year ending 31st March 2025 – attached. Approved: Jan Marsh, Seconded: Jasmine Cattle – carried. <u>Question from the floor regarding the sale of Barton:</u> Initial valuations from three local estate agents ranged from £250,000 (for plot only) to £475,000. Barton was marketed at £450,000, after nine viewings one speculative offer was received, which the Trustees refused. Following feedback from the estate agent the asking price was reduced to offers in excess £350,000. This generated three offers, after "best & final" submissions received, and a short period of negotiation the offer of £360,000 was accepted.
6.	**Membership Report from Elaine Curtis:** Annual members 69, Life Members 43. Membership renewal due in September 2025 will be to the new CIO 1212578.
7.	**Collections Manager Report read by Elaine Curtis in the absence of Mary Sparks:** My apologies for not being with you this evening. Further sorting of the collection took place last year, in preparation for the move from 'Barton', and all items are now in temporary storage. Many thanks to the archive team and others for all you have done to make this possible. We have completed work on the 'Bygones' category, and on the larger items which were in the shed and garage. The team had a training session from an expert Textiles conservator and now feel ready to tackle the large 'Textiles' section, though this work will have to wait until suitable premises are available.

	I have explored the range of documents through looking at index cards for each: there is some duplication, and it seems that Reg was in the process of re-numbering items, meaning that retrieval is challenging at times. There are circa 1,500 items, so it may be quite difficult to sort this out, but as every item in the collection will be re-numbered as part of the digitising process, this can be done then. The collection of photos also needs to be reviewed, but sample retrieval of items from this source seemed to work well. On a more general point, creating a digital record of the collection will create a searchable catalogue of all items. The committee have already agreed to go for the Modes Compact system of recording but cannot start to undertake any digital cataloguing work until the collection has a new home in permanent storage. This is because each item must have an exact reference to where it can be found for retrieval purposes. The position and capacity of such a storage site will depend on other decisions which need to be made by the committee beforehand. In my role as Publicity Officer, I have produced posters for talks and written newsletter updates for the Dubber and website, hopefully keeping people both local and from further afield up to date with activities of the Society and at the museum. I have also just completed an 'armchair' version of my Village Trail, which I hope to be able to deliver at Clifftop Care Home, following a request by them for a 'History of Langton' to entertain residents. This could also be offered as an 'afternoon' item as part of our next series of winter talks. I have also written a longer talk on the role of the Pellatt family and Durnford in the life of the village in the 20th Century, which I hope could be an evening presentation. Finally, The Dorset Community Archaeology Group opened a trench on our local site last autumn to confirm the position and date of the hamlet. In the first trench shards of pottery were found and we believe them to be 11/12th medieval. I applied for funding for the next season, and we were successful and hope that the dig will start again early June. I also applied to Historic England for permission to carry out a geo physics survey on the listed Medieval site. Members from the Society joined the team and enjoyed the experience. It was a pity it had to close due to the very wet conditions which it impossible to work in.
8.	**Election of Trustees, Officers and Committee:** Original Charity Trustees (272407): Jasmine Cattle, David Selman, Andrew White. New CIO Charity (1212578) has been formed with Jasmine Cattle, Keith Coombs, Daryle Pearson, David Selman as trustees. It was agreed by the new CIO trustees (listed above) and all those present to add Ann Harrison, Jan Marsh, Mary Sparks, Andrew White as trustees to the new CIO. The following officers were willing to be re-elected: Chair: Daryle Pearson, Treasurer: Keith Coombs, Secretary/Membership: Elaine Curtis. Proposer: Roza Aldridge, Seconded: Sally Roberts – carried.
9.	**AOB:** Volunteers: Daryle Pearson reiterated the need for additional volunteers to support both the Museum and the Society's work. Thanks: David Selman expressed thanks to the small group of people for the huge amount of work conducted this year. A sentiment supported by those present. Museum Knowledge: Andrew White suggested actively seeking individuals with museum experience to support the current management team. Daryle Pearson will consult with Dorsets Museums Adviser, Vicky de Witt.
Daryle Pearson thanked all in attendance, with the meeting concluding at 8.30 pm.	

LMLHPS Committee (272407) 2025/26		
Chair: Daryle Pearson (DP)	Treasurer/Membership Secretary: Keith Coombs (KC)	Secretary: Elaine Curtis (EC)
Facebook Administrator: Jan Marsh (JM)	Collections Manager/Publicity Officer: Mary Sparks (MS)	
Trustees: Jasmine Cattle (JC), David Selman (DS), Andrew White (AW).		
With support from: Martin Kenway, Website, Ann Harrison, CIO/Digital Archivist.		

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