



**Minutes of Annual General Meeting held at
The Punch Bowl
on Thursday 27 November 2008.**

Present: around 22 members and friends.

1. **Apologies:** Jane Priest, Peter Iles, Bob Braddock, Gina Barker, Keith Lincoln, Peter Wooldridge, Dawn Jones, Nadine Holland-Bailey, Keith Allan.
2. The Minutes of the AGM held on 29 November 2007 were agreed and signed.
3. The Chairman, Carol Cooper presented her report. This took account of the changes in local government that would come into effect in 2009. Carol recorded thanks to the close and generous partnership that has existed with Bridgnorth District Council. Special thanks were extended to Bob Braddock and Gina Barker for all the work they had put into promoting tourism in the District. Thanks was also recorded to Shropshire Tourism for their continuing advice and support.

Carol Cooper reminded members of some of the things that had happened in the year. She also thanked Sue Yardley and her team at the Visitor Information Centre for their work in the production of Where to Stay. Jytte Spouncer was mentioned especially for her recruitment of new members. The membership is still over 100 and this should be recognised as a success in difficult times. In conclusion the Chairman thanked the Secretary and committee for their hard work.

4. **The Treasurer's report** was tabled and accepted.
Proposed Jean Reynolds. Seconded Anthony Webb.
The auditor was thanked.
5. **Honorary Membership.**
The Secretary reminded members of the existing Honorary Members of the Association.
Margaret Cosh, Peter Iles, Keith Lincoln and Adrian Williams.
He brought a further nomination from the Executive Committee of Carol Cooper. This was accepted and agreed by members.

6. **Election of Officers:**

Chairman	Carol Cooper	Nominated Jean Reynolds	Seconded Alan George
Vice Chairman	Peter Wooldridge	Carol Cooper	Anthony Webb
Secretary	Adrian Williams	Carol Cooper	Jean Reynolds

Appointment of Treasurer: Keith Lincoln.

Executive Committee: 8 places

The following existing members had agreed to serve for a further year.
Keith Allan

Jean Reynolds
Sally Tallents
Peter Iles
Anthony Webb
Jane Priest
Karen Crick
John Leach

and were elected with two new members

Brian Davies and James Lloyd being added.

In addition there are 6 co-opted representatives which will be confirmed by the Executive Committee.

The Secretary announced the date of the next Executive Committee meeting to be held at The Library in Bridgnorth at 2.00 pm on Thursday 11 December 2008.

7. There was no urgent business notified but the Chairman tabled the new leaflet advertising Sustainable Business Grants and the Broseley bid for the People's Millions.
8. Brian Davies of Trevithick 200 was introduced as a guest speaker. He explained his involvement in the building of a working replica of Catch Me Who Can and the steam rally in July 2008. The connection to Bridgnorth and the benefits to tourism were outlined. The steam rally had proved very popular with 5,500 people visiting over two days. The event will be run in 2009 as the Rally in the Valley on the weekend of 18 and 19 July. It will be supported by a series of lectures and an open air concert.

Brian also outlined the idea behind the promotional stand which was being developed with funding from Bridgnorth District Council and the Association. This would accompany the engine on its tour around the country and help to promote the attractions of the Bridgnorth area.

The second speaker was John Leach, the Marketing manager from the Severn Valley Railway. He described how the railway had recovered from the floods in 2007 with the support of funding bodies and the general public. Large numbers of visitors had attended this year, including HRH The Prince of Wales.

While it was impossible to predict how business would develop in 2009, a full programme of events was being planned. These include:

- Continuous service weekends (Sept)
- 3 day Festival of Steam
- Diesel Gala
- 1940 weekends
- Bridgnorth in Bloom and Severn Valley in Bloom
- Thomas the Tank Engine and Santa Specials

There were various questions and the speakers were thanked by the Chairman.

9. Members continued to enjoy each others' company over tea and coffee.