

DURHAM COUNTY
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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Papers for the
Annual General Meeting

2020

TO BE CONDUCTED BY
ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION
OR POST

The 56th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY AGENDA

1. Minutes of the 55th Annual General Meeting held on 14 September 2019
2. Report of Council for 2019/2020
3. Treasurer's Report and Accounts for 2019/20
4. Appointment of representatives to St. Mary-le-Bow Trust

In view of the extra-ordinary circumstances prevailing this year, the Society's Council has agreed that the AGM be conducted in two stages

Firstly, this booklet is circulated to members by post with a request that Members indicate whether they approve the four reports or not.

Secondly, if Members wish to raise matters of other business, they should do so by post or e-mail

If there is agreement to the four reports and no matters of other business are raised, the AGM will be deemed to have been completed.

If any of the four reports are not agreed and/or matters of other business are raised, then the AGM will need to go to a second stage. This would necessitate the Council agreeing a further report to put to members. This will need to cover:

- (a) the mechanism for dealing with the matters raised,***
- (b) Council's recommendations on how to resolve the matters.***

DATE FOR RESPONSES : FRIDAY 14 AUGUST 2020

To. The Secretary, DCLHS, c/o 21 St Mary's Grove, Tudhoe,
Spennymoor DL16 6LR : E-MAIL - jdbdclhs@gmail.com

Minutes of the fifty fifth Annual General Meeting of the Society held on Saturday 14 September 2019 at 2 p.m. in The City Theatre, Durham.

1. In attendance : The following members of the Society's Council were present: Pat Atkinson, John Banham, Douglas Burdon, Richard Hird, Chris Ludbrook, Pat Mussett, Michael Robson, Win Stokes and Geoff Wallis. Due to the Secretary's absence at the beginning of the meeting an attendance list was not circulated, so the other members in attendance were not recorded.

Apologies for absence : Jennifer Gill, Alan Heesom, Margaret McCollum, Marian Morrison, Elizabeth Newby, Raymond Race, Marie Therese Pinder.

2 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the fifty fourth AGM, previously circulated, were adopted and signed as a true record by the Chair (Dr. Stokes).

3 Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4 Report of Council 2018/19

Dr Banham presented the Council's report and stressed the continued slow decline in membership, and this was endorsed by Mr Robson. A survey of current and former members would be discussed at the next Council meeting.

Discussion then centred on the item in the Report about the proposed Durham History Centre, particularly the planned transfer of collections from Clayport Library to the new centre. Dr Banham informed the meeting that the Society's Council were expecting to be consulted on the Clayport Library proposals before any plans were finalised and that this had been indicated in writing by the County Archivist as set out in the Report.

Dr Hamilton disputed that the Country Council had any intention to consult further and stated that she had received a letter from the County Council's Chief Executive recently, which indicated that much of the Clayport Library collection could not be digitised for legal reasons. Having previously informed the Council of her intention to do so, she

then moved a motion from the floor as follows:

That Durham County Local History Society does not support the removal of the vast majority of the local studies collection from Clayport Library to Durham History Centre, and would only support the removal of very small numbers of old and rare items on condition that the library is provided with a replacement photocopy or digital image of the whole book first.

Dr Banham suggested an alternative motion based on his visit to the Clayport Local Studies Library that morning in the company of Dr Hamilton. This was as follows:

That Durham County Local History Society seeks assurances from Durham County Council that there will be consultation on the digitisation of any local studies material to be transferred to the new History Centre and that the integrity of the fine local studies collection will be maintained at Clayport Library.

After discussion, the Chair ruled that Dr Hamilton's motion be voted upon and, if that was not carried, that Dr Banham's motion should be considered. Dr Hamilton's motion was carried by 8 votes for to 7 against. A number of those in attendance abstained.

5 Talks Programme

Dr Banham said that Miss Morrison had suggested that a group of members should get together to plan next year's talks while Miss Gill was unable to fulfil her role as Talks Organiser. It was agreed to take this forward as soon as possible. The Meeting sent its best wishes to Miss Gill in the hope of seeing her back at meetings soon.

6 Report on Publications

Dr Banham updated the meeting by indicating that the Seaside Trains book had now been put on sale at Locomotion and would be sold at Beamish Museum during the *Yesterday belongs to You* event on 21 September.

7 Report on Journal

Dr Banham said that Journal 83 was now ready to go to the printers and referred to Dr Egan's Editorial, which stated:

I am delighted to introduce the 83rd Journal of the Durham County Local History Society. Although we are publishing this

Journal a little later than I had hoped, it is a bumper edition in terms of quantity and quality. The main article is a superb piece of detective work on Durham's three ancient spas, bringing to life a hitherto forgotten subject. In submitting his research for publication, Alan Rose told us that he is not a historian. However, in my view his work is a great example of excellent local history research and I'm thrilled we can put it into print. George Muirhead has followed up his article in the last Journal with a fascinating piece on Wearside fishermen during the First World War. Win Stokes has also updated some of her previous work, this time focusing on the rather shady business career of Charles Barrett. Finally, Glen Lyndon Dodds introduces us to William Brockie, an important figure in Victorian journalism in South Shields and Sunderland. I hope to produce the next Journal in Spring 2020 but to achieve this I need to receive articles by the end of January, so that they can be edited and typeset. If you are interested in writing for us please do get in touch. My role is to help get articles published and I am very happy to advise on style and content and to offer editorial suggestions to help articles read more clearly. We need your contributions to carry on publishing the Journal, which makes a unique contribution to the understanding and awareness of our county's history.

8 Election of Council Members

Mr Christopher Hawkes of Darlington was elected as a member of Council. The Secretary reported that Mr Raymond Race had been ill this year and had been unable to attend meetings. Mr Race was willing to continue as a Member of Council but had suggested that, if someone younger could be co-opted to replace him, he would stand down. The meeting sent good wishes to Mr Race for a speedy recovery.

9 Accounts and Balance Sheet for 2018/2019

Mr Wallis tabled the Accounts and Balance Sheet, which had been audited by Mrs J Garnett. The accounts were approved by the meeting. Mr Wallis said that he wished to stand down as Treasurer and indicated that a new auditor was also needed. Mrs Christine Ludbrook, from the Society's Council, was appointed Treasurer and Mr Tim Griffiths agreed to audit the accounts.

The meeting thanked Mr Wallis for his service as Treasurer.

10 St. Mary-le-Bow Trust

Miss McCollum and Dr Banham were re-appointed as the Society's representatives on the St. Mary-le-Bow Trust.

11 Any Other Business

Dr Banham said that he wished to give notice that he would be standing down as Secretary in two years' time.

The meeting was concluded at 2.59 pm.

RESOLUTION 1 : COUNCIL RECOMMENDS THE APPROVAL OF THE ABOVE MINUTES

REPORT OF COUNCIL TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020

The Council of the Society has only met once since the last AGM in September 2019 - on 12 February 2020. We have kept in touch by e-mail during the "lockdown".

Membership

The number of fully paid up Members fell to just over 100 this Spring and this continued decline is a major issue for the future of the Society.

Talks

Only two talks have been possible in 2019/20

12 October 2019 : Richard Pears

Gothic survival and Gothic revival - architecture in Northern England 1600-1860

9 November 2019 : Andrezej Olechnowicz

The Spennymoor Settlement - interwar unemployment and "the problem of leisure".

Both talks were very successful and the speakers have indicated that they are willing to give further talks in future.

The Spring Programme was cancelled because of "lockdown" and, currently, there are no talks arranged for 2020. The Council will review the situation in the Autumn with a view to starting talks again in Spring 2021.

Journal

Journal 83 was published in September 2019. Journal 84 is enclosed with this AGM mailing and Journal 85 is planned for publication in the late autumn.

Other Publications

There has been no progress on proposed new publications. The Secretary is holding the remaining stock of the book - *A visit to the seaside* - but there have been no sales since 1 April due to “lockdown”. The Society’s previous publications have been donated to Durham County Record Office which has an on-line sales facility and room to store the books.

Website

The Society’s website has been updated to keep members and the public informed of the changes in arrangements due to “lockdown”.

Durham History Centre

The Secretary has kept in touch with the County Archivist over progress on the development of the Durham History Centre at Mount Oswald. Mrs Bregazzi has provided the following update :

In the last six months there has been some significant progress on moving the History Centre forward and the project has passed several important milestones. Chief among these was the submission of our planning application and the completion of an options agreement with The Banks Group, owners of the Manor House and surrounding land, securing our right to acquire the Mount Oswald site if we are successful with planning.

Following public consultation on high level designs last Summer, detailed design work is now underway ahead of procuring our main contractor later this year. We are working closely with the external design team to ensure that the building will meet our specific and specialist requirements, especially in terms of ensuring the correct environment and security for collection storage, exhibition and collection.

Interpretation is progressing, developed through a collaborative process that has taken full advantage of the existing knowledge and

vision of the major stakeholders and partners, and their academic and specialist advisors. This work provides a road map for the development of interpretive displays, exhibitions, materials and activities for the History Centre to enable us to successfully engage with our core target audiences. Our interpretative approach will work alongside an Activity Plan and Business Plan to aid the discovery of new ways of presenting County Durham's heritage by combining and supporting stories with objects from multiple collections and via multiple media to create a more detailed, accessible and complete offer.

Despite the difficulties of remote working in terms of direct access to collections, interpretation works continue to make good progress. We have focussed our efforts on researching those areas where we have access to digital information and digital collection assets, and where we have access to online research aids such as Ancestry. Where possible we are supported in this work by volunteers who continue to make a very valuable contribution.

In March, we began work on our National Lottery Heritage Fund Development Phase. We have now procured an external Digital Consultant and an Activity Planner to contribute to the development of our Round 2 application which, if successful, will help us to provide a substantial activity programme before and for several years following the opening of the new History Centre. As part of this work we will carry out further consultation and engagement as well as testing of activities. We are due to submit our Round 2 application in March 2021 and we expect a decision by summer of the same year.

We continue to regularly review the master programme and the project team has reviewed programme risk in relation to Covid-19 in some detail, including scenario planning to assess the impact of delays which might occur as a result. As it stands, we do not expect COVID-19 to adversely affect our construction project timetable and we expect to start on site early 2021 as planned. The programme also remains on track for the new history centre to fully open in early 2023.

Significantly, given the objection raised at the Society's 2019 AGM to moving the Clayport Library collection, the County Council's Planning Statement still proposes that the centre will house :

Local studies reference materials, the principal body of research material on the county's heritage, including many rare editions;

Therefore, the planning proposals would appear to involve moving the Clayport Local Studies Library collections to the new centre and do not clarify the arrangements for cataloguing and digitising material at Clayport discussed last year.

It is recognised that the "lockdown" has severely affected opportunities for consultation and work on the Local Studies Collection. Furthermore, making progress on setting up the new history centre, which will have substantial benefits for a new generation of historians - professional, students, local history and family history users, is much welcomed. Nevertheless, the COVID-19 experience has highlighted the importance of digital media in studying history and makes it more important for the cataloguing and digitisation of the Clayport collection to be progressed.

It is desirable that discussions with the County Council on this matter should take place as soon as possible. This would be best achieved as part of a History Centre User Group including a representative of the Society's Council. Ideally this User Group should have regular face to face meetings, although it is recognised that, in current circumstances, meetings may need to be on digital media. The Council proposes that it should lobby the County Council to set up such a User Group.

Finally, the need for new members of the Council is becoming an urgent one particularly for people with skills related to social media and attracting young people take up an interest in local history. The best opportunity this year is for new members to be co-opted - we hope that members will respond to the challenge of taking the Society forward and write to or e-mail the Secretary before 14 August.

RESOLUTION 2 : COUNCIL RECOMMENDS THE APPROVAL OF THE ABOVE REPORT

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Receipts and Payment Account for the financial year ending 31 March 2020 are set out below. This year's accounts have been audited and are compared to the previous year's accounts.

IINCOME & EXPENDITURE	2019/2020	2018/2019
Member related	£	£
(Inc) - Subscriptions	1,945.00	2,362.00
(Inc) - Bank interest	27.09	29.20
(Inc) - AGM event	0.00	5.00
(Inc) - Donations	64.00	0.00
(Inc) - Gift Aid	0.00	0.00
(Inc)- Journal Sales	10.00	5.00
(Inc) - Other	20.00	77.00
(INC) - TOTAL	2,066.09	2,478.20
Exp - Journal Printing	395.00	0.00
Exp - Documentary Printing	0.00	65.00
Exp - Journal - Expenses	176.00	0.00
Exp - Newsletter	0.00	50.00
Exp - AGM expenses	205.00	376.00
Exp - Duplicating	0.00	0.00
Exp - Postage	390.00	479.70
Exp - Stationery	46.75	26.98
Exp - Officers expenses	23.10	11.10
Exp - Subs. to other societies	173.00	130.00
Exp - Room Hire	125.00	125.00
Exp - Speakers	185.00	170.00
Exp - Promotions expenses	34.45	0.00
Exp - Other costs	15.00	844.90
Exp - Bank charges	0.00	0.00
Exp - Website	0.00	0.00
EXP - TOTAL	1,768.30	2,278.68
Surplus/Deficit	297.79	199.52

INCOME & EXPENDITURE	2019/2020	2018/2019
Publishing	£	£
(Inc) - Sale of publications	196.00	735.80
(inc) - Postage	0.00	0.00
(INC) - TOTAL	196.00	735.80
Exp - Publications - Printing	0.00	934.00
Exp - Publications - Expenses	0.00	119.00
Exp - Publications - P & P	0.00	77.79
Exp - Publications - Storage	0.00	100.00
EXP - TOTAL	0.00	1,230.79
Surplus/Deficit	196.00	-494.99
Total Income	2,262.09	3,214.00
Total Expenses	1,768.30	3,509.47
Total Surplus/Deficit	493.79	-295.47

BALANCE SHEET

	2019/2020	2018/2019
Cash at Bank	£	£
Current Account	8,621.78	8,894.45
Deposit Account	14,685.54	14,658.45
Total	23,307.32	23,552.90
<i>Cheques cleared in April 2019</i>		<i>-739.37</i>
<i>Carried forward to start of year</i>		22,813.53

ACCUMULATED FUND

At Start of Year	22,813.53	23,109
Surplus/Deficit	493.79	-295
At end of year	23,307.32	22,814

The major issue for these accounts is the decline in subscription income reflecting a reduction in membership numbers. It should be noted that Gift Aid had not been claimed for the financial years 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19. This has now been rectified and

HMRC made a payment of £790.70 in June 2020. This is made up of :

Gift Aid for the year ending 31 March 2017	£245.79
Gift Aid for the year ending 31 March 2018	£284.19
Gift Aid for the year ending 31 March 2019	£260.72

This Gift aid income received in June 2020 will be included in the 2020/21 accounts, along with Gift Aid for 2019/2020, which is still to be claimed.

Christine Ludbrook – Honorary Treasurer

I certify that the accounts presented to members give a true and fair view of the assets of the Society on 31 March 2020 and of the income and expenditure for the year ending on that date. I draw the attention of members to the subsequent recovery of Gift Aid for the 3 years to 31 March 2019, a post balance sheet event which made a significant addition to the net worth of the Society.

Tim Griffiths - Honorary Auditor

15 June 2020

RESOLUTION 3 : COUNCIL REQUESTS THE APPROVAL OF THE ABOVE FINANCIAL REPORT

APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO ST MARY-LE-BOW TRUST

RESOLUTION 4 : It is recommended that Miss Margaret McCollum and Dr John Banham continue as the society's representatives on the St Mary-le-Bow Trust.

**PLEASE LET THE SECRETARY KNOW BY E-MAIL (or Post)
BY 14 AUGUST WHETHER OR NOT YOU ARE IN FAVOUR OF
THE FOUR RESOLUTIONS SET OUT ABOVE**

jdbdclhs@gmail.com

**MEMBERS ARE ALSO INVITED TO PUT
THEMSELVES FORWARD FOR CO-OPTION
TO THE SOCIETY'S COUNCIL**