



# County Durham History & Heritage Forum

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE COUNTY DURHAM HISTORY AND HERITAGE FORUM HELD AT COUNTY HALL, DURHAM ON

5 NOVEMBER 2011

**Present:** Win Stokes (Chair), Allan and Joan Harley, Keith Pounder, John Banham, Gill Wetherell, Margaret Hedley, June Palmer, David Blair, Dawn Layland, Julie Hawthorn, Ros Evans, Ian Finlayson

Margaret McCullum DCLHS, Cliff Brown Bowes LHG, Arthur Scott WLLH. Isobel Scott Birtley Heritage Group, Billy Jones Crowtrees Heritage Group, Malcolm Bell Bowburn LHS, Sarah Hillier, Mark Smith, Paul Dunnill Thorpe Thewles History Group, Paul Stoker BAHC, Ron Hunt, W A Gordon South Moor HG, Anne McKenzie Friends of Longevicum, Ann Bell, TTHG, Len and Brenda Ludvigsen Northern Archaeology Group, Alice Hardy Wear/Tees U3A, John L Dixon, EWMP 70<sup>th</sup> Brigade Research, Francis Gotto Durham University Library Special Collections

**Apologies:** John Grundy, Anita Thompson, Sedgefield LHS

**Chair's Report:** the Chairman welcomed everyone and said she was pleased to see so many attending. She was sad to report the deaths of two former Forum Committee members Doris Fawcett and Joy Pounder and offered condolences.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed as a true record and there were no matters arising.

She said the said the Forum on 19 March had gone very well but the venue for the event Yesterday Belongs to You was unsuitable and the event had not been well publicised. Chairman had written to County Hall expressing concerns but had not yet had a reply. We had also registered our concerns with appropriate representatives re Zurbaran paintings.

The Family Day in Hardwick Park in June in had been a great success with warm and sunny weather. We will hold another one next year on 24 June and hope to build on the success of the previous one.

David Blair was anxious for Societies to give him any proposed dates for their events to avoid any clash of dates during the year.

The website was now up to date but if anyone was able to help with this to speak to John Banham. Newsletter would be produced every 3 months and any items for inclusion should go to Julie Hawthorn next deadline for copy last week in November for inclusion in December newsletter.

The Chairman thanked all the Committee for their hard work throughout the year but the Treasurer had indicated his wish to stand down at this meeting we therefore need to elect a new Treasurer.

**Treasurer's Report:** he thanked everyone for their kind thoughts on the death of his wife. He explained the statement of accounts and went through them showing the balance at the end of August as £830.57.

**Membership Secretary's Report:** he reported 51 members at present 14 individual and the rest were associate or groups. Chris Lloyd the Deputy Editor of the Northern Echo had been included as an associate member.

**Election of Officers and Committee:** the following were re-elected to honorary positions on the committee for 2011/12:

Chair: Dr Winifred Stokes, Durham County Local History Society, Vice Chair, Allan Harley, Durham County Vintage Collectors' Society, Treasurer – to be elected, Secretary, June Palmer, Membership Secretary, David Blair, both Aycliffe Village Local History Society

Members: John Banham, Durham County Local History Society, Gillian Wetherell, Friends of Darlington Railway Centre and Museum, Joan Harley, Durham County Vintage Collectors' Society, Ian Finlayson, South Moor History Group, Margaret Hedley, Wheatley Hill History Club, Julie Hawthorn.

**The future of Yesterday Belongs to You:** Chairman had written 3 letters to County Hall expressing our concerns and had had no reply. Comments had also been passed on to representative of the venue raising concerns about the pre-planning and other issues with no response. It was proposed and seconded that we aim to organise the event ourselves and Allan Harley would initially speak to and meet appropriate representative/s of the County Council to discuss this. Volunteers offering to serve on a sub-committee to organise this event were then recruited.

The meeting then closed and the Reel History was then shown with guest speaker Suzanna Huber. Date and time of next meeting to be confirmed.