HEXHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Agenda
51st Annual General Meeting 2019
12th November 2019 at 7.30pm in Trinity Methodist Church Hall

1. Welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the meeting on 13th November 2018 (see below)
4. Matters arising
5. Secretary's report (see below)
6. Treasurer's report (see below)
7. Election of Officers and Committees (see nominations below)
8. Chairman's Remarks
9. Any other business

Following the AGM there will be a talk by Vic Gammon, "Barbara Ellen – a 350 Year Hit Song".

Yvonne Purdy (Secretary)

The AGM papers had been circulated prior to this evening's meeting.

Minutes of the 50th Annual General Meeting held in Trinity Methodist Church Hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday 13th November 2018

Chaired by PETER RODGER

1. **Welcome:** Peter Rodger opened the meeting and welcomed everyone here tonight.
2. **Apologies for absence**: Ian Hancock, John Holland, Hugh Dixon.
3. **Minutes of last Annual General Meeting** on 14 November 2017 were accepted as a true record by Mark Benjamin, seconded by Jennifer Britton.
4. **Matters Arising:** No matters arising.
5. **Secretary's Report:** This had been circulated with the notice of the meeting and was accepted.
6. **Treasurer's Report:** This had also been circulated with the notice of the meeting and was accepted.
7. **Election of Officers and Committee:** The following were elected unopposed:
   Greg Finch, Chair
   Terry Eccles, Publications distribution and sales;
   James Smith, Treasurer;
   Yvonne Purdy, Secretary & Membership Secretary;
   Liz Sobell, Speakers programme;
   Jennifer Britton, Visits programme
   Mark Benjamin, Chairman of the Publications committee and Editor of Hexham Historian and Newsletter.
   Ian Hancock, Vice Chairman
   Christine Hanley
   Mark Runnacles-Goodridge, Social Media.
   David Wilkinson, Co-opted member
   Pete Lee, Webmaster

8. **Chairman's Remarks**: Peter Rodger said that he has stepped down as Chairman, and thanked the committee and members. Greg Finch then spoke as Chairman, thanking Peter for all his previous work on the website, and 'print on demand' for Occasional Publications; the last five were all possible due to Peter's knowledge. Greg will hand over gradually as Treasurer to James Smith. Greg reported on the sad deaths of members Mary Mason, Jim Hedley, and so very recently, Chris Ellingham.
9. **Any Other Business:** There was no other business.

The A.G.M. closed at 7.38 p.m. and was followed with a talk by Dr. Peter Wright "Water Trades on the Tyne in the 17th and 18th Centuries".

Nominations for posts of retiring Officers & committee membership

Proposed committee membership 2019:

Chairman – Greg Finch
Vice Chairman - Ian Hancock
Publications Officer- Terry Eccles
Secretary - Yvonne Purdy
Treasurer – James Smith
Programme - Liz Sobell
Outings - Jennifer Britton
Editor - Mark Benjamin
Christine Hanley
David Wilkinson
Webmaster - Pete Lee
Social Media – Mark Runnacles Goodridge

<u>Publications Board</u>
Mark Benjamin
Susan Ketelaar
Liz Sobell
Greg Finch
Ian Hancock
Tim Barmby

Committee recommendations to the AGM

1) Subscription fees (as required under Article 6.4 v) of the constitution)
"That there will be no change in 2019 to the level of subscriptions set for 2018"

2) Nomination of Auditor (as required under Article 6.4 iv) of the constitution)
"That Howard Forrest be nominated to audit the Society accounts for 2019"

Secretary's Report for 2018

Membership: The Society successfully maintained an excellent number of members in 2018. There had been a consistently good turnout of members who enjoyed our monthly meetings.

Programme: Liz Sobell had organised an excellent and varied programme of speakers covering different aspects of Local History**.** The year was started by Max Adams – Getting Along with the Vikings. February's talk was given by Dr. Pam Graves – The Dunbar Soldiers project, followed in March by Dr. Alastair Fraser – A Battalion on the Learning Curve: The 18th Battalion DLI & Cocken Hall Camp. April saw Dr. Adam Morton – Dangerous Laughter: the problem of laughter in early modern England. The Tom Corfe Memorial Lecture in May was given by Colm O'Brien – A Search for the Northumbrian Landholdings of St. Cuthbert. September's talk was given by Alison Higgs – Featherstone Park POW Camp 18 – the 'Freedom Camp', followed in October by Dr. James Gerrard – Connecting Small Worlds: travel and transport in Roman Britain and beyond. Dr. Peter Wright ended the year in November, after the AGM, with Water Trade on the Tyne in the 17th and 18th Centuries.

Outings: Jennifer Britton successfully organised three excellent outings which, as always, were very well supported, and greatly enjoyed. In May there was a Wednesday afternoon visit: Tour of Grainger Market, Newcastle. In June there was a Thursday afternoon visit: Heritage Walk in Saltwell Park, Gateshead and, in July, a Saturday full day visit to Traquair House (Scottish Borders).

Newsletters: In 2018, the Society's three Newsletters, compiled and published by Mark Benjamin, included a fascinating mix of news, reviews, requests for information and articles. Many thanks to our increasing number of members who now choose the option of receiving Newsletters by email.

Publications: Hexham Historian No. 28, was produced by Publications Editor Mark Benjamin, and continued to maintain the high standard of excellent and varied articles. The Committee plan on publications for the future.

Sales: This year, Terry Eccles has overseen regular sales not only from online sources, but also from a number of events at which the Society has been represented.

Internet: The migration to the new website was successfully completed, going live in September, and Pete Lee continues to work hard maintaining, and building new features into the site . Mark Runnacles Goodridge successfully maintains a popular Facebook presence for the Society which has now a substantial number of followers.

Committee: The Committee met four times in 2018. Yvonne Purdy

Treasurer's Report for 2018

HEXHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

SUMMARY OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE – YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

INCOME

	2017 £		2018 £	
Membership	2,984.28		3,034.04	
Subscriptions		2,533.00		2,589.00
Gift Aid		451.28		445.04
Number of Members		290		291
Visitors	116.00		184.00	
Donations	227.42		15.00	
Grants	-		-	
Miscellaneous	200.00		-	
Outings	1,370.10		972.00	
Publications	2,458.27		1,618.36	
Sales		1,903.27		1,143.36
Adverts		555.00		475.00
Interest	66.46		84.03	
Total Income	*5,907.43*		**5,907.43**	
Net surplus/ deficit	*-2,873.74*		**-2,991.58**	
	2017		2018	

EXPENDITURE

	2017 £		2018 £	
Society Administration	1,668.00		1,941.73	
Membership		1,668.00		1,921.73
Committee		-		20.00
Programme/newsletter	963.12		1,035.99	
production/printing		575.00		626.52
Distribution		388.12		409.47
Meetings	891.19		908.51	
Facilities		540.19		523.51
Speakers		351.00		385.00
Insurance	75.00		75.00	
Outings	1,393.90		974.50	
Publications	1,870.35		1,311.16	
Authorship/licences		250.35		89.08
Editorial Administration		9.62		8.15
Printing		1,440.74		936.70
Distribution		35.21		54.45
Marketing/ publicity		62.90		216.79
Sales Administration		71.53		5.99
Website/ gen. publicity	2,460.00		2,572.12	
Grants and awards	523.79		80.00	
Bank Charges/Interest	-		-	
Total Expenditure	*9,845.35*		**8,899.01**	

Balance	**01-Jan-18**	**01-Jan-19**
Bank - Current a/c	123.62	546.51
Bank - Deposit a/c	2.82	2.82
Skipton BS - savings	12,766.46	9,340.49
Paypal account	43.76	50.26
Petty Cash	35.00	40.00
Balance 1 Jan 2018	12,971.66	
Proft/(loss) for 2018	- 2,991.58	
Balance 1 Jan 2019	9,980.08	9,980.08

Audited and found correct

Hon Auditors

Last year's report indicated that work on the Society's new website and membership admin system by 2BGraphics of Stocksfield was expected to be completed in 2018, and it was. As also anticipated it meant a second year of 'headline' losses as we account for the investment costs of this. Without this exceptional item the actual loss of £2,991 would have been a surplus of around £1,500 instead. Overall the new website and membership admin system has cost just over £8,000. It gives us an excellent foundation for our future work, and we still have nearly £10,000 in our reserves.

Indeed we have seen an immediate contribution from the new website to our 2018 finances in the form of online bookshop sales of £220 since the site went live in September. Despite not having a new occasional publication on sale during the year our total publication income was a very healthy £1,618. Subscription income was slightly higher than in 2017, as our membership was sustained at just under 300 people. Online and print publicity of our programme also led to a big increase in income from visitors, to £184.

Once again we were able to keep tight control on administrative spending and postal costs, in no small part due to our *Hexham Historian* 'hand distributors', to whom we are grateful, and to the increasing number of you who choose to receive the newsletter in digital form. The cost of our meetings programme was broadly the same as in 2017.

My thanks go once again to Dr Howard Forrest for checking the accounts this year. Our finances are now in the safe and capable hands of James Smith, my successor as Treasurer, who I wish every success.

Greg Finch, February 2019