

HEXHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Agenda

55th Annual General Meeting 2023

14th November 2023 at 7.30pm
Trinity Methodist Church Hall, Beaumont Street, Hexham

1. Welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the meeting held 8 November 2022 (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. Committee's Recommendation to the AGM
9. Any other business

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

Minutes of the 54th Annual General Meeting held at 7.30pm, Tuesday 8 November 2022

Chaired by Pete Lee

1. **Welcome:** Pete opened the meeting and welcomed everyone
2. **Apologies for absence** None
3. **Minutes of last Annual General Meeting** in November 2021 were proposed by James Smith, seconded by Mark Benjamin, unanimously accepted as a true record.
4. **Matters Arising:** There were 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 approved.
7. **Election of Officers and Committee:** The following were elected unopposed:
Chair: Mark Benjamin
Vice Chair: Ian Hancock
Secretary and Membership Secretary: Yvonne Purdy
Treasurer: James Smith
Publication distribution and Sales: Terry Eccles
Editor: Liz Sobell
Web Master: Pete Lee
Outings Programme: Jennifer Britton
Social media: Mark Runnacles Goodridge
Chairman of the Editorial Board and Editor of the Newsletter: Mark Benjamin
Advertisements Organiser: Christine Hanley
Speakers' Programme Organiser: Andrea Cameron

8. **Chair's Remarks** None recorded.

9. **Any Other Business:** There was no other business.

The A.G.M. closed at 7.40 p.m. and was followed with a talk by Dr Frances McIntosh: Edwardian Explorations; Discovering Roman Coria

Secretary's Report for 2022

Membership: The Society maintained a membership of over 300 members in 2022.

Programme: Andrea Cameron had organised an excellent and varied programme of speakers covering varying aspects of Local History. The year was started by Greg Finch on "Pursuing the Blacketts"; February with Dr Barbara Crosbie on "Half-Penny ballads and the soundscape of an election: Newcastle upon Tyne 1774"; March, Dr Andrea Dolfini "A sword's tale: reconstructing Bronze Age fighting styles"; April, Graeme Young on 'The Bowl Hole Cemetery: life and death in the early medieval palace of Bamburgh'; May saw Dr Richard Pears deliver the Tom Corfe Memorial Lecture "Safe Sanctuary: the defensible churches of Northern England"; September, Gordon Scorer on "The 1771 Tyne river flood"; October, Dr Vic Gammon on "The rise and fall of the West Gallery: popular religious music in the 18th & 19th centuries"; the year ending with Dr Frances McIntosh on "Edwardian explorations: discovering Roman Coria"

Outings: Outings resumed after Covid; members enjoying visits to Blyth Battery, a guide to the windows of Hexham Abbey, and the landscape archaeology of Hexham Park.

Newsletters: The Society's three Newsletters, compiled and published by Mark Benjamin during 2022, included a fascinating mix of news, reviews, requests for information and articles. Many thanks to our many members who now choose the option of receiving Newsletters by email.

Publications: Hexham Historian No. 32 maintained the high standard of excellent and varied articles, produced by Publications Editor Liz Sobell, assisted by Mark Benjamin. The Committee continue to plan publications for the future.

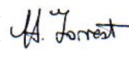
Sales: Terry Eccles continues to oversee and maintain regular sales from online sources, and local outlets, as well as from his book stall at monthly meetings.

Internet: Pete Lee continues his hard work maintaining and building new and interesting features into the HLHS website. Mark Runnacles Goodridge successfully maintains a popular Facebook presence for the Society which continues with a substantial number of followers.

Committee: The Committee held four Zoom meetings in 2022.

Hexham Local History Society

Accounts Year Ended 31 December 2022

	INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
	2021	2022	2021	2022
	£	£	£	£
Membership	3,285.35	3,359.46	Society Administration	97.99
Subscriptions	2,775.00	2,829.00	Membership Committee	10.00
Gift Aid	510.35	530.46	Programme/newsletter production/printing	857.69
Number of Members	311	316	Distribution	350.69
Visitors		24.00	Meetings	343.90
Donations	555.27	413.17	Facilities	143.90
Grants	-	-	Speakers	200.00
Miscellaneous		10.00	Insurance	75.00
Outings		302.00	Outings	302.00
Publications	939.56	4,156.34	Publications	1,189.07
Sales	664.56	3,644.34	Authorship/licences	1,182.72
Adverts	275.00	512.00	Editorial Administration	13.50
			Printing	1,107.54
			Distribution	58.79
			Marketing/ publicity	18.97
			Sales Administration	22.74
			Website/ gen. publicity	259.50
Interest	33.21	87.48	Grants and awards	50.00
			Bank Charges/Interest	-
Total Income	4,813.37	8,352.45	Total Expenditure	2,873.15
Net surplus/ deficit	1,940.24	2,556.03		
Balance			Audited and found correct	
	01-Jan-22	01-Jan-23		
Bank - Current a/c	2,576.66	5,269.06	Dr Howard Forrest	
Bank - Deposit a/c	2.82	2.82	White Gates Cottage, Elvaston Park Road, Hexham	
Skipton BS - savings	9,522.97	9,610.45	Hon Auditor	
Paypal account	237.47	6.52	7th February 2023	
Petty Cash	35.00	42.10		
Balance 1 Jan 2022	12,374.92			
Profit/(loss) for 2022	2,556.03			
Balance 1 Jan 2023	14,930.95	14,930.95		

The accounts of the Society remain very sound with a surplus for the year of just over £2500. This strong position is the result of membership remaining at around 300 individuals with single or joint membership and sales of HLHS publications. Sales of Greg Finch's new book The Making of the Hexhamshire Landscape were especially good in the run up to Christmas requiring several re print runs to meet demand. Sales of other publications available on the web site also remain strong.

As the cost of postage rises significant savings are made from the distribution of newsletters by email and the hand delivery of many copies of Hexham Historian. Our thanks go out to those who help with this.

I would like to thank Dr. Howard Forrest for again auditing the accounts.

Nominations for posts of retiring Officers & committee membership

Proposed committee membership 2024 (Statutory Posts in Bold):

Chairman – Mark Benjamin

Vice Chairman – Ian Hancock

Publications Officer – Terry Eccles

Secretary – Julia Grint

Treasurer – Mark Hatton

Editor – Helen Rutherford

Outings – Vacant

Editor Newsletter – Mark Benjamin

Advertisements for HH – Christine Hanley

Speakers' Programme – Vacant

Webmaster – Pete Lee

Social Media – Mark Runnacles Goodridge

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 2024 to the level of subscriptions set for 2023.”

- 2) Hexham Local History Society (HLHS) is currently an unincorporated association and a Registered Charity. The Committee has recently decided to examine the option of converting to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) which looks more suited to our present-day operation.
“The Committee recommends that it develops a proposal, to be considered by a Special Meeting of the membership during the next 12 months.”