

Minutes OF THE 35th AGM, 2017

The 35th Annual General Meeting of The Hadleigh Society was held in Hadleigh Old Town Hall on Tuesday 13th June 2017 at 8 p.m.

1. Apologies for absence:

Richard Westwell

37 members were present

2. Minutes of the 34th AGM

Agreed as a fair record.

3. Treasurer's Report

Accounts to 30th April 2017

I am happy to say that it has been a peaceful year on the financial front. Mavis has continued the tradition of strict economy as Membership Secretary so expenses continue to be low. The potential for further savings in printing and postage costs by using email more is now limited: thank you for your cooperation in this. Subscription income as recorded has declined in line with the reduction in membership. The deficit over the year in our routine operations was trivial but only because of one donation of £100. (Thanks to our President, Jan, for conducting the tour that led to the donation.) Total funds have stayed pretty well constant.

We do need to consider what we can do about declining membership and therefore subscription income. We could probably carry on as we are for another 15 or 20 years before we finally run out of cash. The Hadleigh Society is by no means unusual in having this problem.

Should we increase subscriptions to, say £10/£15 for the senior rate? (As our members tend towards the more elderly end of the age spectrum any increase would have to fall mainly on them: full members are very much in the minority and we want to encourage them!)

Alternatively, should we charge members for attending meetings or would this be counter productive? The attendance is usually very good, often commented upon by speakers, and this should not be jeopardised.

The situation is not yet desperate and we have time to mull it over, but we ought to have proposals for the next AGM.

My thanks go to Paul Garrard of Walter Wright Chartered Accountants for his help once again in the preparation of the accounts.

If you have any questions relating to the Accounts for 2016/2017 I will attempt to answer them.

**Chris Drake,
Treasurer,**

4. History Group Report

The History Group has been working towards its next presentation which is called 'Hadleigh in the 1960s: a decade of change'. We are using resource material in the Hadleigh Archive, including pictures from the photographic collection, and also interviews with Hadleigh residents. One of the changes within the town at that time was the closure of the railway, and one of our members, Marilyn, has interviewed the very last Hadleigh stationmaster, so we look forward to hearing about his memories. Any other personal accounts of life in the town in the 60s will be very welcome.

In October members of the group attended the annual Peter Northeast Conference arranged by the Suffolk Local History Council. We enjoyed a day of talks including a fascinating account of the upkeep of church towers by Clive Paine.

From time to time we receive by email family history enquiries, particularly from Canada, Australia and the USA, but we usually cannot help with these as we do not have the expertise, so we direct people to the Suffolk Record Office or the Family History Society.

However, we are happy to help with other local requests if we can. Recently we were approached by Hadleigh Library which is celebrating its 30th year in its current building on the High Street. We were able to supply some detailed information about the history of Hadleigh's library over many years, together with some photos from the Archive. These will be displayed at the Library's celebration event in August.

'Hadleigh in the 1960s' will be presented by the History Group on 6th February 2018.

5. Environment & Planning Report

Hattie Bawden thanked Dick Fletcher for his help in reviewing planning applications. She drew members attention to the draft of the Local List that the Group was currently working on.

6. Chair's Review

The year June 2016 until this current month has once again seen a varied range of speakers.

After the business element of last year's AGM on 15th June 2016 **Roger Kennel, Hattie Bawden & Morgan Lear** made a timely presentation on the **Guildhall Kitchen** giving us a wonderfully enlightening background to this particular project of the Society's Environment & Planning Group.

Then on 9 August 2016 **Edward Martin** introduced us to '**Henslow of Hitcham**' - a most fascinating & versatile character of the second half of the 19th century - scientist, educationist, rector of Hitcham & selected as the biologist to join the Beagle but stepping aside because of his heavy commitments so allowing his student Charles Darwin to join the expedition in his place - the rest they say is history!

On 5 October 2016 **Mark Brennan**, an ex-soldier now living in Hadleigh, provided a detailed and arresting account of his group's research into the **Hadleigh folks involved in WW1** - a talk of genuine local appeal, greatly appreciated by our members & several visitors.

The talk at our Christmas meeting on 6 December 2016 '**Yuletide to Morecambe & Wise**' was most amusing as well as skilfully delivered. Unfortunately **William Tyler**, who had also given an excellent festive lecture the previous year, has now departed for the West Country & we can invite him no more. Our annual mulled wine & mince pies hopefully gently started off the festive season for members.

Into 2017 & the first lecture of this calendar year was by **Michael Rimmer** with his '**Angel Roofs of East Anglia**' - a truly impressive account of this wonderful architectural phenomenon with a polished descriptive narrative and Michael's own stunning photographs of these angel roofs, most of them in East Anglia. Very much an evening to remember.

Robert Halliday then joined us on 22 March 2017 to recount his somewhat unusual research on '**The History of Suffolk Gravestones.**' He kept us spell-bound - perhaps rather unexpectedly. He has kindly offered to return & present another of his macabre but entertaining topics & we shall no doubt take him up on that offer.

The final talk before this meeting was **Roger Green** long-standing chair of the Friends of St Peter's in Sudbury who entertained us with his engrossing historical account of **Archbishop Simon of Sudbury & the French Connection**. Simon was beheaded by the rebels in the 1381 Peasant's Revolt & his head apparently secretly brought back to Sudbury where it has remained ever since, ensconced in St Gregory's Church in Sudbury. The replica skull and reconstructed head, brought along by Roger, fascinated us though some of us felt we might not like to encounter Archbishop Simon on a dark night!

Several society members joined **Fidelis** on a reportedly very worthwhile visit to **Wingfield College** on 7 September 2016. Fidelis then issued a further invitation for members to come along on their 22 November 2016 evening visit to enjoy the winter lighting of the **Anglesea Abbey** gardens.

BBC's programme '**Fake or Fortune**' came to Benton End in their endeavour to investigate the history of a Lucien Freud painting – this visit included Fiona Bruce. We were involved in setting up the interview with a local gentleman which, most disappointingly, was NOT included in the actual TV programme.

Attendance at meetings has generally been maintained though perhaps numbers were just a little fewer than last year – varying between 38 and 50, though speakers do comment positively on the numbers we attract. Programme cards seem to have been accepted by members who have become accustomed to referring to them; they even requested a slightly larger version!! Unfortunately, for the second year, membership numbers have dropped – from the 153 reported last year to 139 at this point in time; very sadly a few long-standing members developed chronic ill-health problems & a few are no longer with us. The committee has, however, met with Martin Looker & together we have considered strategies to increase membership which it is hoped, when these are in place, will prove successful in encouraging new members. Ideas & help always welcomed!

We have taken to providing information at meetings on local historical & cultural events & study days we believe may be of interest to members. We have also made a point of keeping members up-to-date on our responses to planning applications – this year dominated by the M'Carthy & Stone retirement development on the Brett works site & the demolition of the rear bungalow at 7 Bridge Street to be replaced with the construction of two detached houses. Both these applications have now been granted & building will no doubt commence in the not too distant future. We also supported a Town Council application to English Heritage for the listing of the whole Babergh HQ (some parts of it already are listed) but the decision was unfortunately not as we had all hoped. We have also invited possible ideas for Blue Plaques for buildings within the town so do keep that in mind. Members have additionally been kept up-to-date with developments relating to the local list largely produced by Patrick Taylor (thank you very much to Patrick) & also with Hattie's project to cover over the Guildhall Kitchen. Patrick has in fact kindly attended two meetings to enlighten us on the local listing with many members expressing quite an interest in the subject.

Now, since we are a purely volunteer organisation, we must voice a brief thanks to the indispensable colleagues who keep the society going. Firstly to Sue Angland who has continued to be chair of our History Group in spite of moving out of the immediate Hadleigh area. Sue deals effectively & patiently with family & other historical queries. Thank you so much Sue.

To Mavis Winders we must also give a heart-felt thanks; she is the society persona welcoming attendees to each meeting as part of her role as a thorough & meticulous membership secretary. She has now additionally agreed to write reports of speaker meetings for the newsletter; we are very grateful Mavis for all you do, thank you very much.

Dick Fletcher is owed a huge debt of gratitude for the time he spends, on our behalf, perusing and analysing planning applications at Babergh HQ or on their website and there is little doubt we benefit enormously from his considerable expertise in this field and also the time he is prepared to give. Dick our most sincere thanks to you.

The committee has again proceeded smoothly over the past year, this time with five members (one more than in the previous year), the newest member being **Ray Whitehand**, a genealogist & historical researcher, especially in relation to workhouse. He also wrote a most worthy article for the last but one newsletter.

Hattie Bawden has an exceedingly busy life but somehow always makes time to lead the Society's Environment & Planning Group & effectively & cheerfully undertake the many associated tasks.

Chris Drake continues to keep us well on track in terms of financial matters & of course deals fastidiously with the day-to-day & the annual accounting procedures.

Graham Panton, who as secretary, is our mainstay; we benefit from, and work to, his indispensable knowledge of the society's constitution. Of course, with his very extensive IT skills, he remains absolutely vital as web-master & newsletter editor.

My most grateful & sincere thanks to each of you for all your hard work & dedication.

We also recognise the valuable support given to the committee & the Society by our **president Jan Byrne**; she also keeps us informed of any essential local & district matters so helping us meet more fully the aims of the Hadleigh Society.

And of course you the society members are our main resource & we greatly value your continuing support & we really do always welcome your ideas & contributions. Please enjoy this evening's presentation by Jan & Sue, followed by the wine & cheese, & we look forward to seeing each of you at as many of our 2017-18 meetings as you can manage to attend. / Thank you all very much indeed.

7. Election of Officers and Executive Committee Members

The existing officers and members agreed to continue and were re-elected. Dick Fletcher agreed to stand and was duly elected. For the coming year the committee consists of:

Margaret Woods	Chairman
Chris Drake	Honorary Treasurer
Graham Panton	Honorary Secretary
Hattie Bawden	member
Ray Whitehand	member
Dick Fletcher	member

This was followed by a presentation of *Ever Changing Hadleigh* by Jan Byrne and Sue Angland and then to finish, wine and nibbles.

ACCOUNTS

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
INCOMING RESOURCES		
Subscriptions	£808.00	£959.00
Meetings	£90.00	£86.00
Donations	£103.00	£25.50
	<hr/> £1,001.00 <hr/>	<hr/> £1,070.50 <hr/>
Bank Deposit Interest	£0.75	£0.80
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	<hr/> £1,001.75 <hr/>	<hr/> £1,071.30 <hr/>
RESOURCES USED		
TOTAL DIRECT CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE		
Donations & Affiliation Fees	£55.00	£50.00
Printing & Publishing	£93.30	£62.20
Postage & Stationery	£28.97	£31.38
Society Meetings & Materials	£719.71	£777.14

	<u>£896.98</u>	<u>£920.72</u>
OTHER EXPENDITURE		
Administration & Sundry	£123.19	£177.00
TOTAL RESOURCES USED	<u>£1,020.17</u>	<u>£1,097.72</u>
NET INCOMING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR	<u>-£18.42</u>	<u>-£26.42</u>
GENERAL FUND		
Balance Brought Forward at 1 May 2016	£2,788.97	2815.39
Balance Carried Forward at 30 April 2017	<u>£2,770.55</u>	<u>£2,788.97</u>
RESTRICTED FUND - "Hands Off Hadleigh"		
Balance Brought Forward at 1 May 2016	£57.89	£1,307.89
Donations Received	£0.00	-£1,250.00
Expenditure - Literature	£0.00	£0.00
Expenditure - Stationery & Postage	£0.00	£0.00
Balance Carried Forward at 30 April 2017	<u>£57.89</u>	<u>£57.89</u>
RESTRICTED FUND - Public Address System		
Balance Brought Forward at 1 May 2016	-£64.00	-£64.00
Grant Received		
Expenditure - Remote Microphones & Stand		
Balance Carried Forward at 30 April 2017	<u>-£64.00</u>	<u>-£64.00</u>
TOTAL FUNDS AT 30 April 2017	<u>£2,764.44</u>	<u>£2,782.86</u>
BALANCE SHEET		
	<u>30 April</u>	<u>30 April</u>
	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
CURRENT ASSETS		
Bank Current Account	£745.23	£764.40
Bank No. 2 Current Account - Fighting Fund	£0.00	£0.00
Bank Deposit Account	£2,016.63	£2,015.88
Cash in Hand	£2.58	£2.58
	<u>£2,764.44</u>	<u>£2,782.86</u>

C. J. Drake

Treasurer, 13th June 2017