

# MINUTES OF THE 38TH HADLEIGH SOCIETY AGM, 2020

The 38th Annual General Meeting of The Hadleigh Society, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, was held remotely via the Society's May 2020 Newsletter for Wednesday 17 June 2020.

## Minutes of the 37th AGM

These Minutes were published and circulated in the May 2020 Hadleigh Society Newsletter. No correspondence or electronic mail from members concerning the veracity of the Minutes were received and therefore they are ;- **Approved as a correct Record.**

## Honorary Treasurer's Report

Everything was ticking along smoothly in 2019 but then came 2020, Covid-19 virus and it has all gone a bit pear-shaped! The accounts show a drop in subscription income and, as your Executive Committee have agreed to defer renewals for the period of the "lock-down" this will be repeated next year. However, as our major expenditure is on room hire and speakers' fees that will not be incurred for the duration, the Society should not be embarrassed financially.

Mavis has continued to exercise strict economy as Membership Secretary so expenses continue to be low. We send most communications by email so there is very limited scope for further savings.

Hopefully we may be able to get back to somewhere near normal later this year so any action on membership subscriptions can be deferred until we see how things are panning out.

My thanks go to Paul Garrard of Walter Wright Chartered Accountants for his help once again in the preparation of the accounts. The accounts are in process of audit. In summary the position is as follows.

	2020	2019
Total Incoming Resources	£825.74	£1016.04
Total Resources UsedUsed	£900.82	£1019.55
Current Assets	£2863.85	£2938.93

If anyone wants more details the Treasurer will send them a copy of the audited accounts in due course. If you have any questions relating to the Accounts for 2019/2020 I will attempt to answer them. A final copy of the Audit Accounts are contained at the end of these Minutes

**Chris Drake, Treasurer**

## HISTORY GROUP REPORT 2020

Last summer the History Group decided on its next project: Hadleigh Guildhall Complex. The earliest mention of the Guildhall is 1374, and we thought it would be interesting to research and construct a chronological history of the entire complex up to the current time. Much of the resource material lies within the complex itself in the Hadleigh Archive, which was our first point of call. We held monthly meetings until lockdown, so unfortunately some of our research has been put on hold.

In October 2019, members of the group were involved in stewarding and making refreshments for the 'Partridges Exhibition' which was organised by Sally Looker. It was a huge success and it was lovely to see so many Partridges' employees, past and present, together with many local residents, reliving the town's history.

Also in October, members of the group arranged a stand at the 'Hadleigh On Show' event, where documents from the Archive were on display. It was a rare occasion to see three original charters dating back to 1438, including the Market Charter for the Guildhall.

We hope our presentation on the Guildhall Complex will be ready to share with members of the Hadleigh Society by the end of 2021 or possibly early 2022. One interesting fact that we have discovered so far concerns the building's cellar. The main joists display a simple chamfer, and there is evidence of a plaster ceiling. Both indicate that the cellar had some minor status and was not just a functional storage area. So what was the cellar originally used for? It's a mystery!

**Sue England**

## **ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING REPORT 2020**

The Environment & Planning Group (EPG) has continued to make detailed comments on planning applications affecting Hadleigh since the 2019

AGM, it has submitted objections and comments to Babergh D.C. on the emerging Local Plan for the District, and finally it is continuing the compilation of a Local List of Non- Designated Heritage Assets for Hadleigh. On the planning side, 17 comments were submitted over the past year and generally the Society has experienced a reasonable response with Babergh's decisions agreeing with 12 of the 13 proposals we commented upon. The most notable decision was the refusal of yet another attempt to erect a substantial dwelling in the treed grounds of the former Hadleigh Hall Gardens on the north side of the St. Mary's churchyard. We await decisions on 4 other planning applications including the controversial proposals for Partridge's Store Redevelopment and the vast housing and industrial estate proposed by Persimmon on the north-eastern edge of the town.

In July Babergh published its Local Plan for the District including large allocations for housing and employment estates for Hadleigh. The Society formally objected to several of the proposals on the grounds that they were wholly out of scale with Hadleigh's needs and ability to provide the necessary infrastructure to support the extra 1000+ population. Regrettably the final Local Plan has still not been published and it appears that the Council is likely to approve all the proposed housing and draft plan, thus depriving the community of any meaningful opportunity to lay formal objections to the final plan.

The Local List has been progressing but we received a very sad setback with the unexpected passing of Patrick Taylor, a retired Conservation Officer of Babergh who had been very instrumental in assisting the Society to survey properties which could merit inclusion in the Local List. The initial research has, however, now been completed and a substantial part of the Local List of Non-Designated for Hadleigh has been drafted. It will be subjected to public consultation over the next few months.

Finally the Environment and Planning Group has member representation on the Hadleigh Traffic Management Group, the Hadleigh Steering Group and the Neighbourhood Plan Group (although there have been no meetings on the latter group this year)

**Richard Fletcher, Honorary Secretary and Lead on the Society's Environment and Planning Group**

## **CHAIR'S REVIEW, 2019-2020**

The year 2019-20 has been an unusual year, probably even unique in the annals of Hadleigh Society. Our planned programme of speaker meetings was brought to a halt when coronavirus enforced lockdown in March. Let's re-cap briefly.

After the June 2019 AGM Ray Whitehand recounted his thoroughly researched tale *Another Hadleigh*

*Murder* – a popular topic. Our August speaker was Horry Parsons with his fascinating account of *The Building of St Edmundsbury Cathedral Tower*. Robert Blake's October presentation on *19<sup>th</sup> century Suffolk Artists* was accompanied by an attractive display of illustrative paintings. In December one of our regular speakers, Edward Martin, gave his usual polished talk - on this occasion on *Suffolk's Humphrey Repton*. Our first (and to date final) speaker of 2020 was Sarah Doig's quirky and amusing *A to Z of Curious Suffolk*.

The onset of Covid 19 lockdown sadly caused the remaining two meetings to be cancelled – Adrian Walters on Sudbury Common Lands and Waterways on 25th March and Lisa Psarianos on 5th May with *Where have the Houses Gone?* The fact you are receiving this report in a newsletter indicates we are still in lockdown and our future meeting plans, at the moment of writing, cannot be confirmed.

Membership numbers have gone up a little from the total reported last year, tending to hover around 130. Attendance at meetings has once again been healthy.

Three events of the year are worthy of note. First was Hadleigh on Show in the Guildhall Complex and St Mary's Church. The Hadleigh Society's stand, attractively decorated and cheerfully staffed by committee members, was in the Guildroom. The day was deemed most worthwhile for the Society and indeed was a great success for the organisers and the town.

The Noel Turner Award was presented at our December 2019 meeting to Richard and Ruth Abel (owners) for their inspirational planning and oversight of the discerning renovation of East House and to master bricklayer, Jason Thompson, for his exceptional brickwork on the East House boundary wall. They received a framed certificate designed by local artist Richard Bawden and a year's free membership of Hadleigh Society.

Third was our venue move. It was felt the time had come to forsake the wonderful Old Town Hall (the venue for the majority of meetings in the Society's 38 years of existence) and conduct meetings in the ground floor Dining Room of the Guildhall Complex. This provided much easier access and, pleasingly, was found by several attendees to be a more comfortable setting.

As always at this point in the year we acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the Committee members; we thank them sincerely for all they have done. They are:

Sue Angland, Chair of History Group (though not currently on the Committee), keeps the group on track with its current projects.

Hattie Bawden organised a most successful late summer visit to Shelley House garden and regularly contributes her expertise on environment and planning issues.

Chris Drake is our most worthy and efficient Treasurer.

Dick (Richard) Fletcher has become our Secretary this year as well as remaining an effective and industrious Chair of our Environment and Planning Group.

Graham Panton thankfully continues as our IT expert in the roles of Webmaster and Newsletter Editor.

Ray Whitehand, our Programme Co-ordinator, successfully tracks down and arranges our interesting range of speakers.

Mavis Winders remains a committed Membership Secretary and also writes the interesting synopses of speaker talks for the Newsletter.

We are, as ever, grateful for the unfailing support of our President Jan Byrne.

You, our Hadleigh Society members, are of course our most important resource. Do come along to as many future meetings as you can (in the ground floor Dining Room opposite the Ram) and bring friends and relatives whenever possible. We wish you all good health for the coming year, do stay safe. We also much look forward to seeing you when it is deemed permissible to come together in groups.

Thank you all very much indeed.

**Margaret Woods, Chair**

## **ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The existing Officers and Committee Members all put themselves forward for re-election. No nominations for new Committee members or Officer posts have been received therefore under the constitution all existing Officers and Committee Members are re-elected. They are;-

### **OFFICERS**

Margaret Woods.....Chair

Richard (Dick) Fletcher..... Honorary Secretary

Chris Drake .....Honorary Treasurer

### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Graham Panton.....Webmaster & Newsletter Editor

Mavis Winders.....Membership Secretary

Ray Whitehead.....Programme Coordinator

Hattie Bawden.....Outing Organiser

Jan Byrne remains President of the Society

**THE HADLEIGH SOCIETY**  
**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2020**

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		
Subscriptions	£781.00	£886.00
Meetings	£39.00	£110.00
Donations	£2.00	£16.00
	<u>£822.00</u>	<u>£1,012.00</u>
Bank Deposit Interest	£3.74	£4.04
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>	<u>£825.74</u>	<u>£1,016.04</u>
<b>RESOURCES USED</b>		
<b>TOTAL DIRECT CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE</b>		
Donations & Affiliation Fees	£55.00	£55.00
Printing & Publishing	£14.50	£34.48
Postage & Stationery	£16.00	£20.14
Society Meetings & Materials	£679.32	£783.93
	<u>£764.82</u>	<u>£893.55</u>
<b>OTHER EXPENDITURE</b>		
Administration & Sundry	£136.00	£126.00
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES USED</b>	<u>£900.82</u>	<u>£1,019.55</u>
<b>NET INCOMING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR</b>	<u>-£75.08</u>	<u>-£3.51</u>
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>		
Balance Brought Forward at 1 May 2019	£2,945.04	£2,948.55
Balance Carried Forward at 30 April 2020	<u>£2,869.96</u>	<u>£2,945.04</u>
<b>BALANCE SHEET</b>		
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
	<u>30 April 2020</u>	<u>30 April 2019</u>
Bank Current Account	£880.50	£914.32
Bank Deposit Account	£2,025.77	£2,022.03
Cash in Hand	£2.58	£2.58
Less Bills outstanding not yet presented/paid	-£60.00	
Payments in hand but not banked	£15.00	
	<u>£2,983.85</u>	<u>£2,938.93</u>

C. J. Drake  
Treasurer, 11th June 2020

