

# **MINUTES OF THE 36TH HADLEIGH SOCIETY AGM, 2018**

The 36th Annual General Meeting of The Hadleigh Society held in Hadleigh Old Town Hall on Wednesday 13th June 2018 at 8 p.m.

## **Apologies for absence**

None received

(44 members in attendance)

## **Minutes of the 35th AGM**

Approved as a correct record

## **Honorary Treasurer's Report**

### **Accounts to 30 April 2018**

The Treasurer was happy to report that it has been a peaceful year on the financial front. Mavis had continued the tradition of strict economy as Membership Secretary so expenses continued to be low. There had been continued savings in printing and postage costs but the potential for further savings is very limited: thank you for your cooperation in this. Subscription income as recorded had been steady (there are variations from year to year depending on when they are actually paid).

There was a surplus on the year, largely due to visitors at meetings and a donation of £75. (Thanks to Roger Kennel for conducting the tour that lead to that donation.) Total funds have grown a little, but it would be unwise to rely on individual donations in the future: taking 2016/17 and 2017/18 together it was only the two significant donations which balanced income with expenditure. Hence the motion on the Agenda, as was suggested at the 2017 AGM.

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

The treasurer then invited any questions relating to the Accounts for 2017/2018. No questions were raised.

(Copy of Accounts attached at rear.)

## **Motion to increase membership fees**

The Honorary Treasurer presented a report concerning a need to increase membership fees. The present membership fees were adopted in July 2010. Considerable economies had been made in administration but, as intimated at the 2017 AGM, to ensure that the Society can continue to engage high quality speakers, regardless of the fees charged, and in the light of increases in other charges such as hire of the hall, it is necessary to have an increase in members' subscriptions as below:-

*Senior Citizen raised from £8 to £10, and Joint Senior (couples at same address) raised from £10 to £15*

All other Membership category fees were to remain unaltered.

Discussion was then opened to members. The discussion that ensued was generally over whether it was reasonable that Joint Members & Joint Senior ( couples at same address) should have a membership fee not equivalent to two Single or Senior Citizen membership fees. Several members considered that the Joint categories ought be abolished and that all adults pay the same Single or Senior Citizen fee.

The original motion to 'Increase the fees as proposed by the Honorary Treasurer' was amended by Jan Bryne (seconded by Jan Mcnelly. to:-

*"The membership fees be increased as suggested by the Honorary Treasurer, but that the Executive Committee review the retention of Joint membership Categories and bring the matter before the next AGM for consideration."*

The amended motion was carried by a majority show of hands at the meeting.

## **History Group Report**

In February this year, the History Group presented its talk on 'Hadleigh in the 1960s: a decade of change'. It was very well attended, the room seemed to be at full capacity and we could hear many comments like 'Oooh, I remember that!' We were very fortunate to be able to use 1960s photos from the Archive collection, and they showed that the 60s were indeed a boom time for the town, and a period of great change.

In October members of the group again attended the annual Peter Northeast Conference arranged by the Suffolk Local History Council. We enjoyed a variety of speakers on the theme of the impact of the reformation on Suffolk's churches.

From time to time we receive email enquiries (which come through to me or to one of the other committee members) and we are happy to help with local requests if we can. For example, a gentleman recently moved into Friars Hall Nursing Home and wanted to know some of the history of the house. Roger Kennell kindly provided some information for him. I received an enquiry just yesterday which said 'I'm researching criminal activity within the town over the past centuries, I wonder if you can put me in contact with people who have similar interests .....

If you missed 'Hadleigh in the 1960s', it will be presented again on Saturday 11th August in the Guildroom. (as part of the Saturday lectures programme that has recently been set up.)

And if you missed the talk 'Hadleigh During the Great War' it also will be presented again on 27th October in the Guildroom. It hasn't yet decided what the next project will be, and shall be meeting again to discuss ideas very soon.

## **Environment and Planning Report**

Two primary activities have kept the group occupied this year.

The first is the long term project of the compilation of a Local List of buildings, monuments and local features that, whilst not of national listed building status, nevertheless have local architectural, historic or social interest relevant to Hadleigh's history. The target is to complete the list and have it adopted within the Hadleigh Neighbourhood Plan and emerging new district wide Local Plan.

The second task has been to continue to monitor and comment upon planning applications and other local authority and developer initiatives that affect the town. This year the Society commented upon 9 planning applications, the comments have not always been of objection with half comprising conditional support. Of the 4 the Society did object to the Council approved one, refused one and decisions are awaited on the remaining two.

Other Major consultations/reports undertaken were:-

- The submission of numerous comments regarding the Babergh/Midsuffolk Local Plan Consultation,
- A Review of Benton Street Traffic Management Options,

- The Suffolk Parking Strategy, and finally
- The Cork Lane, Bridge House and Angel House re-development proposals promoted by Babergh District Council

This work will continue next year, but I would like to take this opportunity to thank Hattie Bawden for all the work in leading the Group over the past few years. Hattie has now decided to take a more sedentary role and whilst not stepping completely out will no longer lead the Environment and Planning Group. So if we could give a small round of thanks to Hattie.

## Chair's Review

During the year June 2017 – June 2018 we have again enjoyed a varied range of talks.

After the business element of last year's AGM we were well entertained by our **President Jan Byrne & History Group Chair Sue Angland** with a slide-show of old photographs from Hadleigh Archive entitled *Ever Changing Hadleigh*. This is always an exceedingly popular presentation.

In August **Dr Bob Merrett** from Woodbridge Museum enthralled us with a fascinating account of the *Liberty of St Etheldreda*

Then in October we were pleased to welcome **Ivan Cutting**, Artistic Director of the much lauded Eastern Angles; Ivan explained the style & origins of this well-known rural theatre company.

Dr Kate Jewell regaled us royally with tales of *Cakes, Ale & Partying in Medieval Suffolk* – a most appropriate December topic. The evening came to a festive close with our customary mulled wine & mince pies.

February 2018 saw the Society's History Group bring back to life *Hadleigh in the Sixties* with the help of many local & national power point images. This was by far our most popular & well-attended meeting for quite some time.

*From Wool to Cloth* was the title of **Dr Nick Amor's** March talk – a most erudite account of the history of Suffolk's famous woollen cloth industry, the result of several years painstaking research on Nick's part.

**Robert Halliday** returned in May with the slightly scary but light-hearted story of *Suffolk Ghosts & Hauntings*. Much interest ensued afterwards about the ghost of Mary Miller who is reputed to haunt a section of the road between Hadleigh & Lower Layham.

Once more attendance at meetings has generally been maintained – varying between 33 and 79 (the latter for *Hadleigh in the 60s*). Membership has dropped a

little, settling around 130. We would of course very much welcome new members. Please recruit if you can.

Programme cards are totally accepted now and actually much in demand at meetings. We continue to announce forthcoming relevant events prior to our speakers.

Members will have noticed in the most recent newsletter our statement on how we meet the new data protection regulations. Fortunately we were already working towards this requirement.

As a purely voluntary organisation, several colleagues who keep the society running and meeting its aims must be thanked on your behalf.

**Mavis Winders**, who, as membership secretary, welcomes us all to meetings and is really thorough in the execution of her role. She also writes the splendid resumes of each speaker meeting for the newsletter.

**Sue Angland** has remained a supportive and well-informed chair of our History group in spite of moving some distance from Hadleigh.

**Mavis & Sue - thank you both very much indeed.** Now to the committee:

**Hattie Bawden** has for several years led the Environment & Planning Group for which we are most grateful; circumstances, however, have caused her to relinquish what is a fairly onerous responsibility. We are, however, pleased she remains a loyal committee member.

**Dick Fletcher** joined the committee this time last year & has recently taken over leadership of the Environment & Planning Group. He devotes a massive amount of time to analysing & responding very professionally on behalf of the Society to planning applications lodged with Babergh.

**Ray Whitehand** has very pleasingly taken over the task of programme arranging and again has contributed one of his well-researched and very interesting articles on Hadleigh history to our newsletter.

**Chris Drake** continues to work away behind the scenes managing our finances in his calm and exceedingly conscientious fashion.

**Graham Panton** is an experienced and long-standing committee member with an invaluable knowledge of the society and its constitution. He thankfully continues in the role of secretary. His IT skills also make him indispensable as our webmaster and newsletter editor.

**On behalf of the Society our most grateful & sincere thanks to all committee members for your hard work & commitment.**

We must additionally recognise the valuable input & support of our president **Jan Byrne**. Thank you so much Jan.

And of course you, the Hadleigh Society members, are our main resource; we hope you will continue to attend as many future meetings as you can. Enjoy Graham & Lindsay's talk this evening & do stay for a glass of wine or juice & a nibble of

cheese - fully acknowledging, of course, the ladies who have kindly come along early to set this out for us. We do appreciate your help.

**Thank you all very much indeed**

## **Election of Officers and Executive Committee**

The existing officers and members agreed to continue and were re-elected. Mavis Winder had agreed to stand and was duly elected.

For the coming year the Executive Committee will consist of:-

Margaret Woods - Chair

Jan Bryne - President

Chris Drake - Honorary Treasurer

Graham Panton - Honorary Secretary

Hattie Bawden - member

Ray Whitehand - member

Dick Fletcher - Environment and Planning Lead

Mavis Winder - Membership Secretary

This was followed by a brief talk on The Amazing Gayer- Andersons by Graham and Lindsay Panton and then finish with wine, cheese and nibbles.

**THE HADLEIGH SOCIETY**  
**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2018**

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		
Subscriptions	£837.00	£808.00
Meetings	£148.00	£90.00
Donations	£77.00	£103.00
	<u>£1,062.00</u>	<u>£1,001.00</u>
Bank Deposit Interest	£1.36	£0.75
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>	<u>£1,063.36</u>	<u>£1,001.75</u>
<b>RESOURCES USED</b>		
<b>TOTAL DIRECT CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE</b>		
Donations & Affiliation Fees	£55.00	£55.00
Printing & Publishing	£34.00	£93.30
Postage & Stationery	£23.05	£28.97
Society Meetings & Materials	£588.36	£719.71
	<u>£700.41</u>	<u>£896.98</u>
<b>OTHER EXPENDITURE</b>		
Administration & Sundry	£184.95	£123.19
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES USED</b>	<u>£885.36</u>	<u>£1,020.17</u>
<b>NET INCOMING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR</b>	<u>£178.00</u>	<u>-£18.42</u>
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>		
Balance Brought Forward at 1 May 2017	£2,770.55	£2,788.97
Balance Carried Forward at 30 April 2018	<u>£2,948.55</u>	<u>£2,770.55</u>
<b>RESTRICTED FUND - "Hands Off Hadleigh"</b>		
Balance Brought Forward at 1 May 2017	£57.89	£57.89
Donations Received	£0.00	£0.00
Expenditure - Literature	£0.00	£0.00
Expenditure - Stationery & Postage	£0.00	£0.00
Incorporated into General Fund	-£57.89	
Balance Carried Forward at 30 April 2018	<u>£0.00</u>	<u>£57.89</u>
<b>RESTRICTED FUND - Public Address System</b>		
Balance Brought Forward at 1 May 2017	-£64.00	-£64.00
Grant Received		
Expenditure - Remote Microphones & Stand		
Incorporated into General Fund	£64.00	
Balance Carried Forward at 30 April 2018	<u>£0.00</u>	<u>-£64.00</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS AT 30 April 2017</b>	<u>£2,942.44</u>	<u>£2,764.44</u>
<b>BALANCE SHEET</b>		
	<b>30 April 2018</b>	<b>#####</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Bank Current Account	921.87	£745.23
Bank Deposit Account	2017.99	£2,016.63
Cash in Hand	2.58	£2.58
	<u>£2,942.44</u>	<u>£2,764.44</u>

C. J. Drake  
Treasurer, 13th June 2018