

May 2014

The Hadleigh Society

NOTICE OF THE 32ND AGM, 2014

The 32nd Annual General Meeting of The Hadleigh Society is to be held in Hadleigh Old Town Hall on Monday 16th June 2014 at 8 p.m. and all members are invited to attend.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 31st AGM
3. Treasurer's Report
4. History Group Report
5. Planning Report
6. Society Representation on Other Bodies
7. Chair's Review
8. Proposal to amend the constitution (see page 5)
9. Election of Officers and Executive Committee Members

A short talk on The Courts and Petty Crime in Medieval Hadleigh will follow, given by Margaret Woods.

To finish: wine and nibbles.

The 2013 AGM Minutes are on page 5 in a reduced form and the full document can be found on our website at http://www.hadsoc.org.uk/AGM/agm_2013_mins.htm . Copies will be available at the Meeting, together with the Annual Accounts.

Contents

NOTICE OF THE 32nd AGM, 2014	1
Your Committee Needs You	2
Nomination Form	2
Hadleigh Society History Group–Past Presentations	3
Notice of proposal to amend the Constitution	5
The 31st AGM of The Hadleigh Society, Wednesday 14th August 2013	5

YOUR COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU

If you're interested in becoming a member of the Executive Committee and would like to talk about what is involved then please phone the Honorary Secretary, Graham Panton, on 823503, or any other committee member.

NOMINATION FORM

Society members are invited to make nominations for service on the Society's **Executive Committee** for the year following the Annual General Meeting in the following capacities:

Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary
or as one of our Committee members.

All posts are honorary and seconded nominations must be sent to the Society's Secretary.

To: The Honorary Secretary, The Hadleigh Society, c/o 94 Benton Street, Hadleigh, Ipswich, Suffolk IP7 5AY (Telephone: 01473 823503)

I nominate the following for service on the Executive Committee of The Hadleigh Society for the year 2014/2015.

Name	Position Nominated	Name of Seconder
------	--------------------	------------------

-----	-----	-----
-----	-----	-----
-----	-----	-----
-----	-----	-----

Signed

Name

Date

In each case the nominee has agreed to stand.

You may copy this form or write your own letter to The Honorary Secretary so long as you include the necessary details.

HADLEIGH SOCIETY HISTORY GROUP–PAST PRESENTATIONS

In this edition we begin with the History Group's November 1990 talk on 'The Hadleigh Local Board of 1871'. This first episode provides an introduction to the topic; a further 3 articles will appear in subsequent newsletters to provide readers with an accurate and fairly lively picture of Hadleigh in times gone by.

The Hadleigh Local Board 1871

In 1871 The Hadleigh Board, or The Hadleigh Local Board of Health – to give its full name, was the governing body of the town. It had been established 2 years earlier in 1869 under a National Act which established Local Boards to deal with public health matters and roads; the former apparently being more often referred to as 'nuisances'.

These Local Boards were supervised by a Local Government Board in London which was represented in Parliament & was thus the early ancestor of the Department of the Environment. By an act of 1871 the Local Boards took over the supervision and enforcement of the Poor Law, thus going further along the multi-purpose path.

In Hadleigh its elected members and officers met at 7pm on the first Monday of each month. There were fifteen members and, each year in May, five had to seek re-election. The salaried officer roles were the Clerk, the Treasurer, the Medical Officer of Health and the Surveyor who was also the Collector and Inspector of Nuisances. The Officers of the Board in 1871 were Mr E.S. Downes who was both Surveyor & Inspector of Nuisances, receiving £20 per annum for each post; Mr Harper & Mr Safford, both Clerks to the Board, each received

£25 per annum. The names of the Treasurer & Medical Officer of Health do not appear in the text or Board minutes.

The Board's main source of revenue was the rates. For rating purposes the town was divided into two districts – District One was the central part of the town covering the High Street, Station Road to the station, Bridge Street to the White Hart and the Angel and George Streets to the Green. District Two was the rest of the town. District One's rate was set higher than District Two's to pay for the watering and lighting of the central area. In addition all rate payers paid the general rate of 6d in the pound on houses and 1½d in the pound for land and tithes.

The Hadleigh Society History Group, who researched and produced this talk, selected extracts from the 1871 minutes and correspondence of the Hadleigh Local Board adding helpful explanations and commentary – these form the content of the articles in this edition & also in the next three Newsletters. As part of their introduction the History Group presented the above information on the purpose & structure of these Local Boards but, to provide a flavour of the business undertaken, the History Group reproduced the minutes of the first Board meeting of 1871; we shall do likewise.

Minutes of a general meeting of the Hadleigh Local Board held this second day of January 1871 at the Committee Room at the Town Hall

Present Mr Joseph Rand Chairman

Mr J.F Robinson Mr R. H. Cook Mr R.C. Joslin Mr T.W. Wilson

Mr John Cooper Mr Thomas Chisnall Mr W. Kersey Mr J. T. Muriel

Mr George King Mr Kersey (Salaried Officers not listed)

The minutes of the last general meeting were read and signed by the Chairman.

Amendment proposed by Mr Robinson and seconded by Mr George King.

Mr R.C. Joslin duly made and signed his declaration of qualification before proceeding to act in the execution of his office.

That in consequence of the secretary's reply Mr Wheeler be asked to give his authority to the Gas Company to remove the column at any time, should the Local Board cease to light the lamp.

The Treasurer's book was produced and showed a balance of £71. 8s. 4d

For the amendment Mr Robinson and Mr King – total 2

The Boards were informed by their Clerk that the amount of Mr Everett's bill (9s 4d) included in the cheque for £5. 8s. 6d drawn at the last meeting was retained and paid to the credit of the Bank account: such bill having been subsequently reduced to 17s and paid by a separate cheque.

For the original proposition Mr Kersey, Mr Wilson, Mr Kersey, Mr R.H. Cook – total 4.

The Clerk reported that he had received £8. 19s. 11d from the Lavenham Highway Board as the balance in their hands to the credit of the parish of Hadleigh, and that he had paid that sum to the Treasurer as appears by the Treasurer's book.

The original proposition was declared carried.

A letter was read from the Deputy Inspector of Factories, the Clerk was directed to reply that this Board had no means of furnishing the return which he required.

A letter was read from the Secretary to the Hadleigh Gas Consumers Company Ltd in reply to the letter of the Clerk, stating that the Directors would place the lamp and light it as requested, if a guarantee would be given that the Company might remove the lamp when the Board ceased to light the same.

A tender of £4 from Mr George Davies for the road scrapings and sweepings for the year commencing 2nd January was read and directed to be accepted, subject to the same being removed within 12 hours after notice from the Surveyor on pain of forfeiting the same to the Board, and on terms of payment of the money in advance.

It was proposed by Mr W. Kersey and seconded by Mr T.W. Wilson that the consideration of the Secretary's reply be adjourned to the next meeting.

An order was drawn on the Treasurer in favour of the Surveyor for manual labour - £10.

Mr Robinson, Mr T.W. Wilson and Mr R.H. Cook were appointed the Finance Committee for the year ending November 1871.

NOTICE OF PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION

We really do need more members for the Executive Committee, partly to inject fresh inspiration as most of the current committee have served for many years. Nevertheless we recognise that a committee the size stipulated by the current constitution is unlikely and unnecessary. To reflect that reality we need to amend the Constitution, and propose to do so as follows.

The current relevant clause states: The Executive Committee shall consist of the Officers and not less than SIX and not more than EIGHT other members to include the representatives of study groups set up under item 9.

To be changed to: The Executive Committee shall consist of not less than SIX and not more than EIGHT members to include the Officers and the representatives of study groups set up under item 9.

THE 31ST AGM OF THE HADLEIGH SOCIETY, WEDNESDAY 14TH AUGUST 2013

(Some formal detail omitted, see website for full version)

3. Treasurer's Report - Chris Drake

Accounts to 30th April 2013

I am happy to say that it has been another boring year on the financial front with no nasty surprises. In spite of Margaret's sterling work as Membership Secretary there has been a drop in membership figures and thus some of the reduced income (ignoring deposits paid for the trip on SB "Victor"). We showed a surplus on the year and can comfortably cover our routine costs. Subscription rates are always under review because of the time taken for changes to produce results. No change is proposed this year but I cannot promise the same for next year. Apart from the drop in membership variations in income and expenditure between the past year and the year before are mainly explained by idiosyncrasies in the way bills are presented and paid. On the expenditure side we saved by not having a stand at the May Show but the deposit paid towards the trip on SB "Victor" counterbalanced this. We again had a donation from Sue Andrews with respect to sales of her Hadleigh Historian magazine.

As always, expenditure from the Fighting Fund is dictated by activities on the Tesco front. There was a revised planning application and some costs were incurred sending information packs to Babergh councillors but the major expenditure was A3 size posters for display in the High Street. It is handy to have cash available quickly to meet urgent needs but if it should come to legal fees it would not go far.

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 2012/2013 I will attempt to answer them.

Accepted.

4. History Group Report - Sue Angland

The History Group has finished gathering information for its project on 'Hadleigh during the Great War', and we have spent our last few meetings putting together a script for our forthcoming presentation in December. We wanted to concentrate on what was happening in the town during that period and how everyday life was affected, if at all, by national events.

Well, not only were hundreds of troops billeted here on a regular basis, but we have discovered that the town wholeheartedly supported the war effort in many ways. 'Collecting' seems to be a word that crops up frequently. The town collected money for all sorts of good causes and the children were put to work collecting dandelion seeds, herbs,

ivy and horse chestnuts. In the autumn of 1917 nearly a whole ton of chestnuts was collected by the schoolchildren for the Government. So if you want to know exactly what those chestnuts were used for, you'll have to come to the meeting on 9th December.

5. Planning Report – Jan Byrne

If I look at the AGM reports over the last 14 years much of what I am going to report will be repetitive.

These are some of issues relating to planning that the Committee have dealt with.

Sue Angland represents the Town Council on the Babergh Core Strategy and has report back to us the progress on this, which I believe is due to come out for consultation soon, parts of it being with the Government Inspectorate.

Consent has been given for 5 small properties behind 109 / Cinch in the High Street. The last bay of Cinch is to be demolished to slightly widen the road. The flat above Cinch renovated for letting, and the small houses either side of the roadway. I have been asked if this is an underhanded way of getting on to the Riverside site, but, if Tesco were to be built that roadway is identified as the escape route in the case of the water meadows flooding. However once the houses are built in no way could that roadway be wide enough to permit commercial access to the Tesco site. Remember with the first application which was refused they needed to knock down the whole of Cinch and part of the refusal for the planning application was because we were able to prove that large lorries could not safely turn in and out of the site.

As we know, Morrisons arrived and did not require planning consent except for straightening out the entrance road, and two porches which were refused.

Strong rumour is saying they Morrisons are about to put in an application for a filling station, but as yet that is not confirmed.

We did not object to the enlargement of the shop at the Lady Lane garage.

Graham, Sue, Jane and I attended a day conference, Independence day, at Frome in Somerset. We spread ourselves around amongst the various working parties, and it was quite useful for gathering information, and also for dispensing our own version of 'doom and gloom' The Towns that had been successful in fighting off the

supermarkets were all on the same side as their District Councils, however our position was quite different as we are opposing Babergh Officers wishes. Interestingly though all of the main supermarkets came up at some time during the discussions the one that people objected to because they appeared to play dirty are 'you know who'

We have had a number of telephone conversations and e-mails from different parts of the country asking how we have led our campaign and seeking our advice.

So to our current situation on the Brett Works / Riverside site. We are still waiting for Babergh to announce the date of the meeting to discuss the current Tesco application.

When the last application was refused Babergh made it quite clear to us that the only information or objections that they took in any way seriously were from professional organisations, and as you know one Councillor stated during that meeting that although 90% of the population did not want a supermarket on that site it was not a planning issue. We have got the message and have managed to raise the monies to fight this application through professionals

The position has of course changed with the opening of Morrisons, and we have recorded footfall figures to show the effect that has had on our High Street. However this time we are not working alone, at last the Chamber of Commerce has decided to oppose the application and we are now working together, sharing information, expertise and using our monies for different reports to obtain the maximum effect. The Chamber of Commerce has commissioned a new Traffic report and a new retail report. We have a leading academic in Professor Hallsworth covering the aspect of the short and long term effect of supermarkets on High Streets, and a Q.C. Paul Stinchcombe is covering the legal aspects, such as the District Plan now being totally out of date since the arrival of Morrisons and Babergh apparently ignoring the current national requirements on planning. Both of these people hope to be available to speak when the planning application is eventually heard.

Babergh has now appointed a new case officer to deal with the application, Gareth Durrant having left, and their solicitor leaves at the end of the month.

Tesco have also appointed a new P.R. organisation for the application. Babergh's case officers and Tesco P.R. organisations appear to change at the

same rate, with each application whether it has been heard or not.

We have not undertaken any public demonstrations, our time being spent in reading and re-reading the documents supporting the Tesco application, dissection the information and passing it on to the organisations undertaking the professional reports. The great difference between us and Tesco being that we know the town and we want the professional organisations to have our solid information as opposed to national guess work figures.

When we know the date of the meeting we will be distributing some new posters to use in the main streets so that the Babergh members cannot be off seeing how the town feels, just in case they do not already know.

Needless to say that when we send major documents to the planning department we also send copies to the councillors on the planning committee, and will send a final document when the day comes. We hope that some of them will read the information and not just accept the précis that is produced by the Babergh Officers.

7. Chair's Review

We have had a stable year with membership staying fairly static and good attendance at meetings.

I hope you will agree that the selection of speakers and their topics has been very interesting. I am always surprised that when we produce the list of speakers there are some that appear to be my personal favourites and others I think will be less interesting, and am then amazed that my choice is wrong and my 'less interesting's' turn out to be superb.

This year we decided not to have a stand at the May Show, but committee members were able to attend the show and enjoy it without having had to work hard before the show and then dismantle it. It also saved a fair amount of money at a time when speakers are becoming more expensive.

Sue and Jane attended a meeting of the Ipswich Society at which Griff Rees Jones was the guest speaker, and he used Hadleigh as an example of a town under threat but fighting off the 'invaders'. At members request we organised an outing this year, and thus floated up the Orwell on a sailing barge last Saturday. There were more family and friends than members, but it was an interesting and amazingly relaxing day. You missed a good day

out. Thank you Chris for undertaking the organisation.

The committee has continued to meet regularly to organise meetings and of course to produce the Christmas Mince pies and wine, and the AGM Cheese and wine. We share out the various roles between us, although Chris has maintained the Treasurers post for some years, thankfully, and thank you Chris.

It is very difficult in any organisation to find a Secretary. Graham has undertaken the role, and committee members have taken it in turn to produce the minutes of the meetings. Graham also keeps the web site up to date and produces newsletters and posters. Margaret is our membership secretary and Sue arranges the printing and distribution of the posters. Many thanks to all three. The other three of us do what we are told to support any member of the committee, so what I am really saying is we all work well together which is great. Pity we haven't any more nominations for committee members to join us.

I would ask you please to thank all of the members of the committee for their time which is given freely and with amazing good humour, without them we would not exist.

We do receive a number of requests through the web site from people wishing to know more about the History of Hadleigh or family research, and they are dealt with by whoever seems to be the appropriate person.

You will have noticed over the last few months that the Community News gave us the opportunity to put forward our views on the Supermarket Development, and on a couple of occasions also asked us to take the front page. It seems to have been well read by the number of people who have personally commented to us on it, and hopefully has got the truth out to residents. I have not written anything in the last two additions as it really seemed to be 'going over the top', but when we know the date of the meeting, and if there is the time, then Kelvin Avis will give us the space to put forward our case again, and introduce any new information. I would like to thank Sue and Graham who have corrected and edited my attempts and journalism, usually on a Sunday afternoon at the very last minute.

Next year's programme is almost fully booked and we hope you will continue to find the meetings of interest.

THE HADLEIGH SOCIETY

Honorary Secretary

94 Benton Street
Hadleigh
IPSWICH
Suffolk IP7 5AY

Telephone

01473 823503

Email

secretary@hadsoc.org.uk

All views expressed are those of the contributors and are not necessarily those of the Hadleigh Society

Programme of Events 2014

Wed 21 May	Hadleigh and the Suffolk Yeomanry during the French Wars, 1794-1815	Dr Margaret Thomas
Mon 16 Jun	AGM	followed by Margaret Woods on The Courts and Petty Crime in Medieval Hadleigh
Wed 6 Aug	Frolic, Fervour and Fornication	Pip Wright
Sat 27 Sep	Suffolk Local History Council Study Day	Not a Hadleigh Society event
Mon 6 Oct	Boudica and the Iceni Rebellion, 60 - 61 AD	Dr Nick Sign
Wed 3 Dec	Ho, Ho, Ho Hadleigh	Untapped Writers
<i>Meetings are held in Hadleigh Old Town Hall, 8pm, unless otherwise notified. Entry is free for members, £3 for non-members.</i>		

Other Contacts

Chairman	Jan Byrne	chair@hadsoc.org.uk	01473 822192
History Group	Sue Angland	history@hadsoc.org.uk	01473 827298
Membership Newsletter delivery	Margaret Woods	membership@hadsoc.org.uk	01473 823798
Website & Editor	Graham Panton	webmaster@hadsoc.org.uk	01473 823503

The Hadleigh Society website has past newsletters and other information at <http://www.hadsoc.org.uk/>