

Huntingdonshire Local History Society

60th Annual General Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting held at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday 25th May 2017
in the Town Hall, Huntingdon

1. Apologies for Absence:

Anna & Clive Best, Alan Butler, David & Mary Cozens, Val & Richard Halliday, Angela White Horan, Graham & Frances Humphries, Margaret McGregor, Rachel Thurley.

2. Minutes of the last Meeting:

The Minutes of the 2016 AGM were signed as correct by the Chairman, Philip Saunders.

3. Matters arising – not otherwise on the Agenda: None

4. Membership Secretary's Report

Jean Burbidge reported that the Society has 204 Facebook and email contacts – and this is a very positive way of keeping the Society in touch with its members. She awarded stars: Kate Hadley for being the Society member who has encouraged the greatest number of visitors to become members. Rosemary & David Smith for being so welcoming and friendly to everyone. Beryl Durant for helping with refreshments after the lectures. Jean recommended the May Weekend to everyone as being good value, very sociable and full of interest.

5. Excursions Report

Philip Saunders read a note, sent by David Cozens in his absence, which reported on the successful and very enjoyable summer excursions. Overall these were well supported and had financially broken even

6. Treasurer's Report

David Smith presented his report, and full copies of the audited Annual accounts were made available to members. His presentation – with pie charts and colourful graphs - demonstrated the continuing sound financial position of the Society. The Society's assets had risen by c £10,000 over the year due to the strong FTSE. There were no questions to the accounts, David was thanked for his work over the year.

7. The Goodliff Bequest

Kate Hadley reported that there were 14 applications from which there were 13 Awards. The total amount granted was £6,360.00 of a recommended 'ceiling' of £7,000. Philip explained that this sum was reviewed each year on the advice of the

Society's Treasurer. We had also deliberately held back from allocating all £7,000 mindful that the society expected to support publication of an enhanced edition of Richard Hewlings' *History of Huntingdon Town Hall* in 2018.

The successful applicants were:

Dr Charles Beresford: A book to illustrate and describe the angel roof and medieval carvings and angels and painted roof of Hemingford Abbots Church.

Jane Brown: A book about the history of All Saints Church, Elton as a mirror of life in the village c.900 to c.2000.

St Neots Museum: Funding for six information panels to tell the story of the local Iron Age hoard - the Kimbolton Coin Hoard. (The hoard was purchased by St Neots Museum with help from the Goodliff Fund.)

Herbert Goodwin: To bind volumes of transcripts of documents relating to St Neots, Great Paxton and Toseland, and personal reminiscences of the parishes.

Ramsey Rural Museum: For purchase of film from East Anglia Film Archive. (Last year's Goodliff Award provided audio visual equipment for display areas throughout the museum.) The EAFA films will show farming through the seasons, how the Fens were drained, and a selection of rural trades. The film will enhance the visitor experience.

St Neots Community Archive Group: Funding for one Poppy Plaque and Poppy Trail in St Neots. It is proposed to place a sculptured poppy plaque by each of the 25 St Neots war graves (both WW1 and WW2) and publish a leaflet Poppy Trail around the town to show where the Commonwealth War Graves are.

Jonathan Latter: Support for an illustrated book about local and national events mirrored in the history of St Thomas a Becket Church, Ramsey.

Karen Pauley: Financial help to produce a book as part of the 'Godmanchester Remembers the Somme' Poppy Project, updated this year with Passchendaele. This community project researched 14 Godmanchester men who lost their lives at the Battle of the Somme.

Huntingdon Town Council: Contribution towards development of Huntingdon Heritage Centre project. The proposal is for production of a programme of exhibitions in the Town Hall and across the town of Huntingdon over a 3-5 year period. Huntingdon Town Council will apply for a Heritage Lottery Grant, which would allow the appointment of a Heritage Officer.

The Norris Museum, St Ives: For purchase of specialist racking for storage of farming equipment.

Ermine Street Church Academy: For a project for this new school to capture and the history of the foundation of this new school and the surrounding new development at Alconbury Weald.

Dr Ken Sneath: Financial help towards production of a scholarly monograph on 'The Consumer Revolution' based upon Huntingdonshire.

Friends of Ramsey Mortuary Chapels: Assistance with the purchase of a roller banner, interpretation boards and leaflets.

Simon Thurley, the Society's President, will present the Awards at the October meeting.

Applications for awards for 2018 are invited by 31st March 2018.

8. Editor's Report

Philip Saunders regretted the continuing non-appearance *Records of Huntingdonshire* but showed the draft which is nearing completion.

9. The Chairman's Address

Philip said he would forego this item on the agenda

10. Election of Officers and members of the Committee

Retiring Committee:

<u>Officers</u>	Chairman	Philip Saunders (also Editor)
	Vice-chairman	David Cozens
	Secretary	<i>Vacancy</i>
	Assistant Secretary (Membership)	Jean Burbidge
	Assistant Secretary (Minutes)	Bridget Flanagan
	Treasurer	David Smith (also Webmaster)

<u>Ordinary</u>	David Bowers	Kate Hadley	Rosemary Smith
<u>Members</u>	Alan Butler	Pat Jones	Christopher Vane-Percy
	Richard Cook	Jennifer Liddell	

Representatives of Organisations

Norris Museum Sarah Russell
(attendance rotating with other Hunts Museums)

Huntingdonshire Archives: Sue Sampson

Huntingdonshire Collection: Caroline Clifford

St Neots Museum: Liz Davies

Bridget Flanagan took the Chair. On behalf of the Society, she thanked PS for his leadership in ensuring the success, vitality and friendliness of the Society during the last year.

Jean Burbidge proposed and David Smith seconded Philip Saunders as Chairman. There were no other nominations, and Philip was elected chairman for 2017-18. Philip resumed the Chair.

He asked if all the Officers were willing to continue to serve for 2017-18 and, with their agreement, on behalf of the committee he proposed that they be re-elected *en bloc*. This was agreed. He asked if there was anyone willing to fill the vacancy of Secretary – nobody was

Caroline Clifford proposed, and Beryl Durant seconded that the Ordinary members of the committee be re-elected *en bloc*; this was agreed. The same was agreed for Representatives of other Organisations for attendance on the committee.

11. Election of a person qualified to inspect the Accounts

Kathy Ray had been nominated by the committee to inspect the accounts. Philip Saunders proposed and Ashley Mather seconded that this nomination be approved. This was agreed.

12. Any Other Business. None

Beryl Durant gave a warm vote of thanks for all the work of the officers and committee.

Philip outlined the summer excursions and then these were described in enticing detail by Jean and Ashley: Elton, Leicester, St Neots and Strawberry Hill House.

This was followed by a presentation by Philip Hill on the methods and interpretation of recent geophysical surveys of the site of Sawtry Abbey by the Sawtry Archaeological and Historical History Society.

Members then socialised and enjoyed light refreshments organised by David and Rosemary Smith.