

HUNTINGDONSHIRE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

67th Annual General Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 8th May 2024

In the Methodist Church Hall, Huntingdon

1. Apologies for absence. Apologies were received from Shirley Firth, Julie Trolove, Rod Kerr, Ellen Kemp, David and Rosemary Smith, Beryl Durant, Anthony Withers, Alan and Lesley Akeroyd, David Joy, Jennifer Liddell, Heather McLoone, Ashley Mather, Judith and Roger Merritt, Susan Mortlock Rajasinghe, Gillian Rayment, Christopher Thorpe.

2. Minutes of 2023 AGM. The Minutes of the 2023 AGM were circulated and signed as correct by the Chairman, Philip Saunders.

3. Matters Arising. There were no Matters arising.

4. Treasurer's Report. A copy of the accounts was circulated. PS gave the Treasurers Report in the absence of DS. He reported that the Society continues to be in a sound financial position. Kathy Ray, the Independent Inspector of the Society's accounts, having checked them, has certified them as an accurate representation of our financial affairs and a copy had been approved by email by the committee. During the course of 2023 the Society's net worth increased from £224,427 to £239,599 due to an increase in the value of our investments. Our income of £3095 came mostly from our membership, interest on accounts and Gift Aid. Our expenditure included £5947 in Goodliff awards.

5. Goodliff Report. Awards had been made in full to six applicants, awards had been made in part to five applicants and three had been turned down. The total awarded was slightly less than usual.

6. Editor's Report. Insufficient material had been received for a new edition of Records of Huntingdonshire. An appeal was made for contributions.

7. Chairman's Report.

2023 was a significant year in the life of the society. Most sadly, we lost David Cozens, M.B.E., our chairman 1974-2009 and president from 2021 until a few days before his sudden death. Astonishingly, he had been an active member of the committee for more than 50 years, and had himself made the suggestion, ultimately successful, that he might be succeeded by Julie Montagu, Viscountess Hinchinbrooke. The latter accepted the invitation to do so and gave a memorable address on Alberta wife of the 9th earl of Sandwich, like her an American, in the Town Hall in November, having presented the Goodliff awards.

Other talks during the year are detailed in the society's *Almanack*, previously circulated to members and available on the website. Once again the January and February talks were held by *Zoom*, though by cruel irony the March meeting in person coincided with the snowiest evening of the year. A new departure was to complement these winter evening online sessions with daytime meetings, a visit to Huntingdonshire Archives to see landscape history sources and a workshop on small finds by the A14 Archaeology team from Museum of London Archaeology. These proved very popular and the formula has been repeated in 2024. The April talk took the form of a joint meeting with the

Cambridge Antiquarian Society as one of its occasional *Ladds Lectures* and enabled us to host from Oxford the historian Professor Nicholas Orme for a gala meeting in the Town Hall including also representatives from *Waterstones* of St Neots to sell his books.

Excursions are also detailed in the *Almanack* and included the usual variety of village walks and historic churches, but the stand-out event was perhaps the visit to the Grantham Canal in course of restoration and including a boat trip. Additionally the society participated in the coach excursion to Lincoln Cathedral organised jointly with CHCT and CALH,

Three issues of the *Almanack* were produced and circulated. Printed copies are useful publicity. I am aware we could do more in this respect but there is no point in my producing posters unless they will be displayed in suitable places. I am grateful to Lesley Akeroyd for quickly mounting material on *Facebook* but plainly we could be doing more there and in social media generally. No issue of *Records of Huntingdonshire* appeared, but the editor cannot be blamed if he is not sent material, so please think about what you might write. Publication in print remains the core vehicle by which our knowledge of Huntingdonshire history advances.

In addition to the organisation of events, to serving on bookstalls and serving refreshments, and to the advertising for, processing and reviewing of Goodliff award applications, members of the committee continued to serve on the County Advisory Group on Archives and Local Studies, the Council of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society (where our membership is at last enshrined in the constitution) and Cambridgeshire Records Society. and informally connections are maintained with the Huntingdon Association for Tourism; the Cambridgeshire Association for Local History and Huntingdonshire History Festival. Enquiries of a wide range continue to be received via the website and answered. Invitations are received from Huntingdon Town Council to attend community events. I could go on But suffice to say a lot goes on behind the scenes for which I am grateful to my fellow members of committee.

8. Election of Officers.

Philip Saunders was proposed as Chairman by Caroline Clifford and seconded by Jean Burbidge. There were no other candidates and he was elected *nem. con.*

All current committee members were prepared to stand for re-election apart from Heather Mcloone who has resigned and on the proposition of Jean Burbidge, seconded by Robin Bowman, they were elected *en bloc.*

Gill Rayment was elected to the committee, nominated by Caroline Clifford and seconded by Jean Burbidge.

Liz Davies was elected to the committee proposed by Caroline Clifford and seconded by Caroline Kessler.

Peter Downes proposed that The Friends of Hinchbrooke House be added to the list of organisations that have representatives on the committee. This was seconded by Caroline Clifford. With this addition it was agreed all the present organisations should again be invited to send a representative to the committee.

9. Election of Independent Person to inspect the accounts

Susan Ray, nominated by the committee was once again elected to inspect the accounts.

10. Any other business.

There being no other business and in the absence of a speaker the meeting closed at 8.20pm

Richard Cook 20240521