



Scottish Local History Forum

Scottish Charity Number: SCO 15850

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

A K Bell Library, Perth

27th OCTOBER - 2017

Present

Chris Whatley (Hon President)
John Irvine (Hon Chair)
Don Martin (Hon Vice Chair & Publications Board Chair)
Jan Bateman (Hon Secretary & Hon Treasurer)
Paul Bishop (Trustee)
Graham Clark (Trustee)
Steve Connelly (Trustee)
Anthony Cooke (Trustee)
Graeme Cruickshank (Trustee)
Douglas Lockhart (Trustee)
Finlay McKichan (Trustee)
Bill Sadler (Trustee)
Diana Webster (Trustee)

John Anderson
Sadie Archibald
Jim Beck
Robert Beck
Linda Clark
Lynn Corrigan
Ian Cowie
Jack Davis
Jennifer Giles
Eric Gotts
Eric Graham
Margaret Hubble
Les Jenkins
James Kennedy
Naomi Kenny
Mr Kenby
Dorothy Kidd
Moir McCord
Marion McDonald

Alan McLaren
Bill Morrison
Fiona Mulgrew
Rosalind Pearson
Peter Pearson
Sandra Purves
Heather Robertson
Marjorie Robertson
Eric Simpson
Edward Stewart

Apologies

Nanette Anderson
Iona Roberts

Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting (copies available on the website and on request at the AGM) were:

Proposed: Steve Connelly
Seconded: Eric Graham

Annual Report – John Irvine (Hon Chair)

John began by extending thanks to all the Trustees but particularly Graham Clark who organized the conference this year. In addition to the 2016 conference "Safe as Houses - Scotland's Defensive Buildings Through Time" in Perth, two smaller regional Walk and Talk events were organised: a very successful one in Milngavie and the other in Dumfries which sadly had to be cancelled through lack of take-up. Plans are already being made for a similar "walk and talk" in the early summer of 2018 at the Tall Ships/Fairfield Heritage Centre.

Particular thanks were also given to Don Martin and the Editorial Committee, for their splendid and considerable efforts in continuing the Forum's Journal in its current format which has been complimented by so many of our members. In 2016/17 we have issued journals in the spring and autumn with another to follow later this year.

Thanks were given to Diana Webster, editor of the e-newsletter *Clish-Clash*, which provides timely information on local history events and publications. It is produced approximately every 2 months and is sent to all members who have provided us with an email address and can also be downloaded by anyone from our website.

Douglas Lockhart's work in attending history fayres and fayres of sister organisations to promote the Forum and sell back-issues of the Forum (as well as fulfilling the orders we receive online and from retail outlets) has been key. We continue to be heartened by the take-up by the various select organisations (such as National Library of Scotland, National Galleries of Scotland, and Register House etc) with whom we have retail arrangements.

Our website continues to provide an excellent public face of the Forum and has enabled members and non-members alike to register (and pay for) attendance at our events, purchase back issues of the Journal, and pay for membership online. Member societies can promote themselves more widely by submitting a profile and also advertise their own events free of charge. We encourage them to do so. We also allow member societies to promote and sell their publications on our website. We currently have 27 books and a CD for sale as well as our own Journal back issues.

Our major project for the coming year is to update the invaluable publication "Exploring Scottish History" by Michael Cox (last published in 1999) by hosting a comprehensive online Directory of Scottish Local History resources on the Forum's website. The website has been further developed to support the Directory. The Project is a collaboration between Scottish Local History Forum, the National Library of Scotland and Local Studies Scotland (LOCSCOT) sub-group of CILIP (Chartered Institute of Librarians and Information Professionals). The project has been made possible by work placement students from the Information & Library Studies programme at the University of Strathclyde hosted by the National Library of Scotland and a very generous bequest from Dr Margaret Bainbridge. The Project started in September 2017 and is expected to go live in April 2018. In addition to providing an invaluable tool to professional and amateur researchers and historians, the ancestral tourism market, local history societies as well as professional Librarians, Curators and Archivists, the Project is expected to raise the profile of the Forum.

We also need to focus on expanding membership. We ask all members to encourage friends and family who may have an interest in local history to join, or consider purchasing for them a gift membership online, in time for Christmas!

Accounts for the Year 2016-2017 – Jan Bateman (Hon Treasurer)

Jan announced that the accounts had been prepared but not yet approved by the Accountant. Copies of the draft accounts were available to those present and show a surplus of £24811 (2016 was a surplus of £924).

The Forum was the recipient of a very generous bequest of £22,668 by a member. Excluding that bequest, revenue for the year was slightly higher (£14727 compared with £14176 last year) whilst expenditure was also slightly lower (£12604 compared with £13252 last year) despite the paying of book commission relating to income posted to the previous year and the paying of postbox fees for five years in advance) so that the Forum ended the financial year contributing further to the reserves, even without taking the bequest into account.

The Forum's policy is to have sufficient funds to produce 2 issues of the journal plus hold an Emergency AGM.

However it is now the case that subscriptions no longer cover the cost of journal production, which has risen steadily, due in part to the significant increase in postage. Jan re-iterated the need to increase membership and encouraged those present to promote the Forum to friends and family with an interested in local history. However, because of the bequest the financial year (31st July) ended with very comfortable reserves of £36,547 (compared with £11,767 last

year and £10,843 the year before) and so no immediate action need be taken. Acceptance of the accounts were unanimously agreed by those present.

There was some discussion of the Forum offering insurance cover to its organizational members (as part of the membership benefits). Jan explained that initial enquiries showed that it could be more cost effective than other current arrangements, but that it would need to be included in an (increased) membership fee and would therefore apply to all members (ie they could not opt in or out). Those present thought that it was worth looking into further and Jan agreed to circulate details of a potential plan to society members.

Subscriptions for 2017 – 2018

It was proposed by the Hon Treasurer, Jan Bateman and unanimously agreed by those present that the annual subscription fee stay the same for the current year. Fees for the year 2018/2019 will remain as follows:

Individual member: £23
Organisational member: £29
Organisational member (2 copies): £37
Student member: £13
Overseas member: £43.

Election of Officers and Trustees

The following were unanimously re-elected as officers and Trustees of the Scottish Local History Forum:

John Irvine (Hon Chair)
Jan Bateman (Hon Secretary & Hon Treasurer)
Don Martin (Hon Vice Chair)
Graham Clark (Events Secretary)
Finlay McKichan (Trustee)
Diana Webster (Trustee)
Douglas Lockhart (Trustee)
Anthony Cooke (Trustee)
Graeme Cruickshank (Trustee)
Bill Sadler (Trustee)
Paul Bishop (Trustee)
Steve Connelly (Trustee).

The members of the Advisory Committee do not need to stand for re-election until they have completed 3 years service. The current members of the Advisory Committee are:

Linda Clark (2013 & 2016)
Helena Koumbouzis (2013 & 2016)
Alan Provan (2013 & 2016)
Graham Roberts (2014 & 2017)
David Smith (2014 & 2017)
Jennifer Giles (2015)

James Kennedy (2017).

Graham and David were re-elected unanimously for a further 3 years.

Appointment of External Examiner

The External Examiner for the accounts 2016-2017 was Mark Gallagher, EQ Accountants, CA. Jan Bateman (Hon Treasurer) proposed that Mark Gallagher was again appointed as External Examiner for the year 2017-2018. It was agreed unanimously by those present.

Any Other Business

The date and location for the next AGM is to be determined but will be in October 2018. There being no other business raised, the AGM was declared closed by the Chair, John Irvine.