

# **FRIENDS OF THE CENTRE FOR ENGLISH LOCAL HISTORY**

**(Registered charity No. 1073528)**

**Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday, 19 November 2020, at 12.30 pm, by Zoom**

This will be held online using Zoom to give Friends a chance to participate in the conduct of the Society. Please see the Friends website for details of how to attend the AGM ([www.englishlocalhistory.org/wp/](http://www.englishlocalhistory.org/wp/))

## **AGENDA**

- 1. Apologies for absence**
- 2. Approval of the Minutes of the previous AGM held on 21 November 2019 (Copy attached)**
- 3. Matters arising from the Minutes**
- 4. Chairman's Report**  
*This can be found on page 4 of the Newsletter*
- 5. Treasurer's Report, with the Annual Accounts and the Independent Examiner's Report**
- 6. Adoption of the Treasurer's Report**
- 7. Election of Officers and Committee**  
*The Committee welcomes Friends who are willing to become Trustees and to help run the Society. Let the secretary know if you are willing to stand.*
- 8. Appointment of Independent Examiner**
- 9. Any Other business**

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Friends, held on  
Thursday 21 November 2019 at 12.30pm at 5 Salisbury Road,  
Leicester.**

**Present:** Noel Tornbohm (Chairman), Robert Mee, Ann Schmidt, Andrew Wager, Phil Batman, Frank Galbraith, John Parker, Freda Raphael, Pam Fisher, John Goodacre, Chris Dyer, Michael Gilbert, Margaret Hawkins, Paul Shipman, Mandy de Belin, Heather Flack, Alan Fox, Anne Coyne, Karen Domegani, Keith Snell, Graham Jones, John Goodacre

1. **Apologies for absence:** Sarah Gilpin, Sylvia Pinches, Mary Bryceland,
2. **Minutes of the AGM held on 22 November 2018:** The minutes were agreed (proposed by Michael Gilbert, Seconded by Anne Schmidt).
3. **Matters arising:** No items raised
4. **Chairman's Report:** Noel Tornbohm delivered the report, the text of which is appended below.
5. **Treasurer's Report:** The treasurer's report was circulated, discussed briefly and adopted (proposed by Noel Tornbohm, seconded by Mandy de Belin). A copy is attached below.
6. **Election of Officers and Committee:** The Secretary reported that the number of nominations received was such that no election was necessary. The following officers and committee members have been nominated and seconded:

Chairman	Michael Gilbert
Secretary	Andrew Wager
Treasurer/Membership Secretary	Robert Mee
Newsletter Editor	Phil Batman
I.T. Coordinator	John Parker
Programme Secretary	
Committee Members:	Ann Schmidt
	Mandy de Belin
	Mary Bryceland
	Anne Coyne
	Noel Tornbohm

Jeremy Lodge is the one student representative.

Kevin Schürer remains the Centre's representative.

7. **Appointment of Independent Examiner:** Paul Shipman was re-appointed as Independent Examiner (proposed by John Parker, seconded by Freda Raphael)
  8. **Any other Business:** Michael Gilbert proposed a vote of thanks to Noel Tornbohm for his five years as Chairman of the Friends. This was supported by those present.
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## Chairman's Report

I am pleased to present my report for 2018-19. Again, it has been a very satisfactory year in regard to activities. We have held three major events, The Spring Study Weekend, Hoskins Day and the Autumn Visit. First off the blocks was our weekend, which this year was at Norwich, the venue instigated and ably organised by Michael Gilbert. So the 26th April saw us descend upon our headquarters, The Maidshead Hotel, situated in 'Tombland', adjacent to the cathedral. Most of the delegates elected to stay in this excellent hotel but alternative accommodation was conveniently available. Norwich proved to be fascinating, boasting more churches than any other city in the country. As full reports of this and our other events appear in this year's Newsletter, I will not dilate further, save to say that a good time appeared to be had by all and it proved to be a thoroughly worthwhile occasion. Next, on 16th June, came Hoskins Day and I was delighted to invite Prof. Stephen Rippon of Exeter University, who gave a paper entitled 'Kingdom Civitas and County: The Evolution of Territorial Identity in the English Landscape'. We were provided with a fascinating insight into settlement trends and patterns in the early Medieval period and in particular, the contrasts between Anglo-Saxons and the British. Our third event was the Autumn Visit to Newark and the Civil War Centre, both of which were eye-openers for those of us who had not previously visited the town with its many coaching inns and the Centre with its revealing displays. Thanks are especially due to Anne Coyne for her organisation and informed contributions. With the reduction in MA student numbers, we have had only a modest call upon our funds. The future is, of course, always uncertain but as the Centre embraces distance and digital learning, the Friends will no doubt find that there will be different ways in which they may be of assistance to students, perhaps providing them with facilities for study weekends and social experiences. I am aware that my successor, Dr Michael Gilbert is keen to bring new ideas to our approach and in handing over the reins to him, am confident that he will provide just the sort of leadership that is required. In signing-off at the end of my five year term, I should like to pay tribute to all the members of our Committee, without whose talents, hard work and commitment I could not possibly have managed. I would also like to thank and welcome Paul Shipman as our Independent Examiner of Accounts. It's not quite goodbye, as before - or whilst - I slide into my dotage, I have been asked to remain for a year or two in an advisory capacity. Finally, may I thank you, our members, for your continuing support. Noel Tornbohm Chairman

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## **Treasurer's Report**

A summary of the Friends' accounts for the last year are shown overleaf. The current total assets of the Friends stand at £30,618.80 an increase of £937.79 over the starting balance.

Income over the last year is significantly up on the previous year, though this is mainly explained by the Norwich Study Weekend, which saw a corresponding increase in our expenditure. Whilst the Study Weekends and Day Visits do not seek to make a profit, both did so (our target is that they should not lose money); please note that the expenditure for the Newark Day Visit did not reach the bank in time for this year's accounts.

It is hoped that 2019/20 will see a Spotlight (or similar) Conference, and that this will make money for the charity.

Financially, Hoskins Day this year was not successful. With no book stall there was a major reduction in income, and the fact that our speaker travelled up from Exeter meant that our expenses were higher than usual. That said, the Hoskins lecture is not about making money, and I am sure that those attending found it a really enlightening afternoon.

Our investments have dropped slightly in value over the year, but they continue to bring in a modest income.

Our financial position remains sound, and we can meet any financial obligations for the coming year. Whilst we are not in control of requests made for student support, we do decide which applications are accepted, and the amounts given. In view of our lack of contractual commitments, we do not have a reserves policy at the present time.

I am grateful to our Independent Examiner, Paul Shipman, for going through the accounts on our behalf.

Robert Mee 4 November 2019