

**Subscription Reminder** – For those who do not pay by Standing Order, subs of £12 are now due and should be sent to Robert Mee at 12 Walton Court, West Hallam, Ilkeston, DE7 6NS, payable to *Friends of the Centre for English Local History*

**A.G.M.**  
**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 Tuesday, 16 November 2021, at 19:00 pm, by Zoom<sup>1</sup>**

**AGENDA**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Approval of the Minutes of the previous AGM held on 19 November 2020 (Copy attached)
3. Matters arising from the Minutes
4. Chair's Report (Copy attached}
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<sup>2</sup>
8. Appointment of Independent Examiner
9. Any Other business
10. Professor Krista Cowman, the new Head of History, Politics and International Relations will discuss the future of history at Leicester and the role of the School and the Centre

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<sup>1</sup> The Zoom link for the meeting is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89042530788> and the session will open at 6.30pm ready for a prompt start at 7.00pm. Passcode:234290 (if required). Please contact the Secretary for help if required.

<sup>2</sup> Nominations for Officers, duly signed by the nominee, a proposer and a seconder must be in the hands of the Secretary at least seven days before the Annual General Meeting. If an election is necessary, voting will be by secret ballot. Please contact the Secretary for further information.

# Friends of the Centre for English Local History

(Registered Charity no. 1073528)

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Friends held on Thursday 19 November 2020 at 12.30pm by Zoom

**Present:** Michael Gilbert, Robert Mee, Andrew Wager, Freda Raphael, Margaret Hawkins, Philip Ramsey, Ann Schmidt, Mary Bryceland, John Parker, Noel Tornbohm, Paul Shipman, Heather Flack, Graham Jones, Jeremy Lodge, Mandy de Belin. Anne Coyne, Carol Cambers, John Goodacre, Phil Batman

- 1. Apologies for absence:** Peter Diplock
- 2. Minutes of the AGM held on 21 November 2019:** The minutes were agreed without dissent.
- 3. Matters arising:** None
- 4. Chairman's Report:** This had previously been included in the November 2020 Newsletter, so had been widely read. A copy is attached. In summary it had been a disrupted year with the announcement by the University of the proposed sale of Marc Fitch House, followed by the outbreak of Covid-19. The Friends obtained a commitment from the Vice-Chancellor that the move would provide equal or better facilities for the Centre. The committee and Friends have kept going without face-to-face events and there is an intention to return to an active programme as soon as possible. Phil Batman produced an excellent Newsletter which provided a welcome focus. The Friends will support the Centre and its students, grow the membership and engage members in both on-line and live events.
- 5. Treasurer's Report, with the Annual Accounts and the Independent Examiner's Report**  
The draft accounts and reports are available on the website, and copies are appended to these minutes. They were adopted without dissent.
- 6. Appointment of Independent Examiner:** Paul Shipman was re-appointed as Independent Examiner without dissent.
- 7. 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 proposed and seconded by Michael Gilbert, Andrew Wager and Robert Mee

Chairman	Michael Gilbert
Secretary	Andrew Wager
Treasurer/Membership Secretary	Robert Mee
Newsletter Editor	Phil Batman
I.T. Coordinator	John Parker
Programme Secretary	Vacant
Committee Members:	Jeremy Lodge
	Mandy de Belin
	Mary Bryceland
	Anne Coyne
	Noel Tornbohm
	Linda Harrison
Student representative.	Sam Thompson
Student representative.	Vacant
Kevin Schürer remains the Centre's representative.	

The nominations were accepted without dissent.

Ann Schmidt has retired from the Committee after many years and received the thanks and best wishes of those attending.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for 4 January at 2:00pm.

#### **8. Any other Business:**

Noel Tornbohm publicized the planned local history based quiz arranged by Richard Jones. This will be online on 15 December at 7:00 pm. Mandy de Belin has prepared a poster to go out by email and social media. MG will liaise with RJ about the link to the session and pass it to Mandy.

MG reported that AH is supportive of the proposed online Spotlight. This is to go on the agenda for the next Management Committee meeting.

Phil Batman was thanked for producing an excellent newsletter.

Andrew Wager 24 November 2020

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### **Chair's Report**

In September the Centre for English Local History finally moved from our old home at Marc Fitch House in Salisbury Road onto the main campus. It will now be based on the eighth floor of the Attenborough Building with the library, collections and other facilities in the conference area. Although it is very sad to be leaving our base of many years it may yet present new opportunities for the Centre and for the Friends. Discussions are well advanced with Leicester City for a potential new site in the city centre for a 'Heritage Hub'. This would provide a home for the Centre as well as space for meetings, lectures and exhibitions. Although this is still at the early stages of planning if successful it would give a chance to revitalise the Centre and to provide new opportunities for the Friends.

We have recently held an online meeting for members to discuss the future of the Friends with over 30 people joining the session. The new Director of the Centre for English Local History, Dr Angela Muir, outlined her vision for the future and how the Centre and the Friends could work more closely together to promote the teaching of local history at Leicester. There were three very clear messages that came out of the session.

- There is total support that the Friends should continue as long as the Centre is in existence.
- That we should expand our activities in support of the Centre and to increase our engagement with local history groups in Leicester and across the country.
- We should expand our range of social activities and the services we provide to members of the Friends.

Sadly during the year we have seen two members of the Centre's academic staff leave with the retirement of Professor Kevin Shurer and the appointment of Professor Andy Hopper to Oxford

University. We wish them both well, thanks them for their work with the Centre and hope they will continue to keep in touch with and involved in the work of the Friends. Hopefully the University will soon be in the position to recruit new academics to work alongside Angela and Richard delivering teaching and research.

The next few years have the potential for transforming both the role of the Centre and the Friends but as always this will depend on the active involvement and commitment of the members. The opportunities presented by the 'Heritage Hub' can only be realised with the support of volunteers to help organised events and activities and for members to come along. The past two years have been a challenge but we have endeavoured to continue to deliver activities online throughout the pandemic with the Spotlight Conference as well as the programme of evening talks during the summer. As we (hopefully) move out of the pandemic we will be able to begin to return to face-to-face events to support the online activities.

Finally, I think there are several key objectives for the Friends in the coming year.

- To increase our membership and improve the service we provide to our members,
- To work ever more closely with and to support the work of the Centre, and
- To continue to support the teaching of local history at Leicester.

I look forward to working with everybody to achieve these aims.

Dr Michael Gilbert  
Chair, FCELH