

# Friends of the Centre for English Local History

(Registered Charity no. 1073528)

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Friends held on Tuesday 16 November 2021 at 19:00pm by Zoom

### 1. Present:

Michael Gilbert, Yvonne Cresswell, Karen Donegani, Kate Tiller, Mary Bryceland, Mandy de Belin, Graham Jones, Martin Watkinson, Celia Cotton, John Parker, Phil Batman, Alan Fox, Anne Coyne, Deidre Higgins, Trixie Gadd, Robert Mee, Heather Flack, John Goodacre, Noel Tornbohm, Pam Fisher, Diana Musgrave, John & Lydia Pye, Ann Stones, Andrew Wager.

Also three unidentified participants and Oliver the cat

### 2. Apologies for absence:

Sylvia Pinches, Jeremy Lodge, Margaret Hawkins, Keith Turner, Marion Hardy.

### 3. Minutes of the AGM held on 19 November 2020:

The minutes were agreed without dissent.

### 4. Matters arising

None

### 5. Chairman's Report

This has been circulated and a copy is attached. Michael Gilbert noted that since September the Centre was no longer in Marc Fitch House but was relocated to the Attenborough Tower. Andy Hopper has left for Oxford and Angela Muir has taken over as Director. The Friends are seeking closer involvement with the Centre and its staff to offer help and support, particularly if the Centre subsequently moves to a property in the centre of Leicester. The Friends will continue as long as the Centre exists and there is much to be positive about.

The position regarding alternative accommodation in the city centre was discussed and reported as 'ongoing'.

Activities will continue on-line into the New year, and Hoskins Day will be planned for as a face-to-face meeting with facilities for remote participation.

### 6. Treasurer's Report, with the Annual Accounts and the Independent Examiner's Report

Robert Mee presented the report and financial statement. copies of which are attached. Technical problems prevented the independent examiner from signing the statement earlier, but he has reviewed the accounts and his signed letter of approval is in the post.

The treasurer's report was accepted without dissent.

### 7. Appointment of Independent Examiner

Paul Shipman has agreed to remain as independent examiner and his appointment was approved.

### 8. 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 offered themselves for election and were proposed and seconded as noted below. Robert Mee is actively seeking a student representative, and Michael Gilbert will seek a programme secretary in the new year. The appointments were agreed without dissent. Thanks were proposed to those officers and committee members who were standing down.

Officer	Standing	Proposed	Seconded
Chairman	Michael Gilbert	Mary Bryceland	Andrew Wager
Secretary	Mary Bryceland	Michael Gilbert	Andrew Wager
Treasurer	Karen Donegani	Michael Gilbert	Andrew Wager
Membership Secretary	Karen Donegani	Michael Gilbert	Andrew Wager
Editor of the Newsletter	Mandy de Belin	Michael Gilbert	Andrew Wager

<b>Officer</b>	<b>Standing</b>	<b>Proposed</b>	<b>Seconded</b>
Programme Secretary	Vacant		
IT Coordinator	John Parker	Michael Gilbert	Andrew Wager
Committee	Vacant		
Committee	Anne Coyne	Michael Gilbert	Andrew Wager
Committee	Linda Harrison	Michael Gilbert	Andrew Wager
Committee	Jeremy Lodge	Michael Gilbert	Andrew Wager
Committee	Robert Mee	Michael Gilbert	Andrew Wager
Committee	Andrew Wager	Mary Bryceland	Michael Gilbert
Student Representative	Vacant		
Student Representative	Vacant		
Centre Representative			

The nominations were accepted without dissent.

### **9. Any other Business**

Anne Coyne asked whether access to online materials through the University library could be offered to Friends. Alternatively, Friends themselves may be able to offer assistance with access to research materials. The new committee will pursue this. Martin Watkinson supported this initiative.

It is hoped that the Centre's seminar series will restart in the next semester. Friends may be able to step in and present these without incurring the boycott which applies to the university. Hoskins Day can go ahead with a non-UoL speaker and an off-campus venue which could be de Montford University or Nottingham Trent.

There is a move to change the name of the Centre in the near future which will have administrative consequences for the Friends.

Mary Bryceland has a few paper copies of the Newsletter if requested by email, which John Parker will put on the website.

### **10. Head of School**

Krista Cowman was not available as proposed and Michael Gilbert suggested asking her to speak to all members at an evening session. He will pursue this with Krista.

Andrew Wager 22 November 2021

## 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

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**Friends of the Centre for English Local History  
(Registered Charity no 1073528)**

**Annual General Meeting – 16 November 2021**

**Treasurer's Report**

A summary of the Friends' accounts for the last year are attached. The current total assets of the Friends stand at £32,874.59 an increase of £3,147.99 over the starting balance.

The reasons for the increase are a mix of an improvement in the value of our investments, combined with a lack of expenditure due to the ongoing pandemic. While our income, excluding investments, fell a little, our expenditure was minimal.

We have had no requests for student support during the past year, but there are one or two potential requests which will be assessed when submitted.

I can make no predictions as to likely budgeting for the year ahead, but our financial position remains sound, and we can meet any potential financial obligations for the coming year.

Robert Mee  
2 November 2020

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# Friends of the Centre for English Local History

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## Receipts and Payments Account for the year to 30 September 2021

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
<b>Receipts</b>		
Subscriptions and donations	£1,448.00	£1,898.00
Dividends/Interest (C&C, CAF)	£347.69	£463.41
Book Sales	£7.00	£5.00
Day Visit		
Study Weekend		
Conference Income		
Hoskins Day		
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>£1,802.69</b>	<b>£2,366.41</b>
<b>Payments</b>		
Administrative Costs	£146.88	£157.37
Student Support & Harold Fox Award	£0.00	£1,200.00
Day Visits costs	£0.00	£412.50
Newsletter	£0.00	£404.83
AGM Expenses	£0.00	£74.75
Study Weekend costs		
Hoskins Day		
Conference Expenditure		
Student Amenities		
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>£146.88</b>	<b>£2,249.45</b>
<b>Excess of income over expenditure</b>	<b>£1,655.81</b>	<b>£116.96</b>
Opening Funds at 1st October	£28,434.37	£28,317.41
Deficit/surplus	£1,655.81	£116.96
Closing Funds at 30th September 2019	<b>£30,090.18</b>	<b>£28,434.37</b>
<b>Comprising</b>		
<b>Bank Balances</b> Cash	£0.00	£0.00
CAF Bank - Gold Account	£2,857.93	£2,637.14
Natwest Bank	£4,540.70	£3,232.58
Cambridge & Counties savings	£14,232.60	£14,105.70
	<b>£21,631.23</b>	<b>£19,975.42</b>
<b>Investment Assets at cost</b>		
FP CAF UK Equity Fund B Income	£4,278.61	£4,278.61
FP CAF Fixed Interest Fund B Income	£4,180.34	£4,180.34
	<b>£30,090.18</b>	<b>£28,434.37</b>
<b>Market value of investments</b>		
FP CAF UK Equity Fund B Income	£7,039.61	£5,483.05
FP CAF Fixed Interest Fund B Income	£4,203.75	£4,268.13
	<b>£11,243.36</b>	<b>£9,751.18</b>
<b>Total assets (including current investment value)</b>	<b>£32,874.59</b>	<b>£29,726.60</b>

Robert M Mee (Treasurer)

11 October 2021