



**Annual General Meeting**  
**Haverhill Local History Museum**  
**15<sup>th</sup> May 2024, 7.30pm Studio (Arts Centre)**

- 1. Apologies:**
- 2. Minutes of AGM 2023:** (Enclosed)
- 3. Matters arising from the minutes:**
- 4. Chairman's Report:**
  - Trustees (Enclosed)
  - Committee (Enclosed)
- 5. Secretary's Report:** (Enclosed)
- 6. Treasurer's Report:** (Enclosed)
- 7. Nomination and Election of Trustees:**

The Trustees have nominated Julian Hartshorn as a Trustee and seek approval of his appointment.
- 8. Nomination and Election of Officers and Committee members:**

Present members are:-  
Tony Turner (Chairman/Archivist), Dennis Backler, Paul Bond, Christine Howes, Bryan Mills and Madeleine Turner. (Brian Thompson Secretary/Treasurer of Trustees ex-officio on Committee).
- 9. A.O.B.**

# Local & District History Group

## Annual General Meeting

17<sup>th</sup> May 2023, 7pm Studio (Haverhill Arts Centre)

### Minutes

**Members Present:** Dennis Backler, Paul Bond, Roy Brazier, Alan Bumpstead, Patrick Crouch, Judy Good, Charles Gurteen, Ian Hammond, Christine & John Howes, Aaron Luccarini, Greta Mayes, Lauraine McPhee, Bryan Mills, Margaret Milson, Wendy Moore, Ann Morgan, Linda Randall, Basil Rowley, Peter & Gillian Scott, Brian & Charmian Thompson, Tony & Madeleine Turner, Alan Ward, Tony Webb.

**1. Apologies:** Marty House, David & Pat Pearse and Jenny Tyson.

**2. Minutes of AGM 2022:**

These were read and agreed upon to be a true record.

**Proposer:** Charmian Thompson

**Seconder:** Madeleine Turner

**3. Matters arising from the minutes:**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

**4. Chairman's Report:**

- **Trustees** - Aaron Luccarini, Trustees Chair's report was distributed together with the notice of the AGM.
- **Committee** - Tony Turner, Committee Chair's report was distributed together with the notice of the AGM.

**5. Secretary's Report:** Brian Thompson, Secretary's report was distributed together with the notice of the AGM.

**6. Treasurer's Report:** Brian Thompson, Treasurer's report was distributed together with the notice of the AGM.

Following a comment about room hire cost the Secretary and Trustee Chairman explained the background behind increased cost.

The Secretary/Treasurer highlighted the losses that are made when hosting monthly meetings.

**7. Nomination and Election of Trustees:**

By our constitution rules, two Trustees need to step down after the first year. (This is normal practice to stagger periods of service of a Trustee.

Brian Thompson (Secretary/Treasurer) and Tony Turner therefore stood down but sought re-election.

**Proposer:** Paul Bond

**Seconder:** Christine Howes

Agreed by all.

The Trustees have nominated Dick Sisman as a Trustee and seek approval of his appointment.

**Proposer:** Patrick Crouch

**Seconder:** Judy Good

Agreed by all.

**8. Nomination and Election of Officers and Committee members:**

Present members are:-

Tony Turner (Chairman/Archivist) Bryan Mills (Membership and Programme Secretary), Patrick Crouch, Paul Bond, Christine Howes and Madeleine Turner (Committee members). Brian Thompson (Secretary/Treasurer to Trustees ex-officio)

It was Proposed that the above are elected en-bloc.

**Proposer:** Aaron Luccarini

**Seconder:** Judy Good

There were no other nominations/volunteers to stand on the Committee.

**A.O.B.** There was only one item in A.O.B.

**The meeting ended at 7.20 pm**

Chairman.....Date.....

## **TRUSTEE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

It's hard to believe that another year has passed, and I'm sat writing my yearly report again. It's always nice to spend time reflecting on the previous year, as a group we continue to be very active and achieve a lot. From researching and producing exhibitions, putting on talks, manning stalls at community events, hosting sessions at schools, welcoming visitors into the museum, and so much more than I can fit into this list, as you'll see from the Secretaries report. You, our members, volunteers and supporters, have made it happen!

The Museum has had another successful year. We've seen an increase in the number of visitors to the Museum, and as a result our membership has increased too. This is great news as it's our members that keeps this group alive, and it's your passion and dedication to the History of Haverhill that draws people into the Museum; so, a big thank you to all our members and volunteers!

I'd also like to say thank you to our Trustees, Brian Thompson, Charles Gurteen, Dick Sisman, Julian Hartshorn, and Tony Turner for all the work they do in the background, overseeing the management of the museum. The trustees help ensure, amongst many things, that we have effective budgets, long term plans/goals, policies in place that makes us an accredited museum, and ensure the group has a long and bright future ahead.

It is with sadness that I report Patrick Crouch has decided to step down as a Trustee; I'd like to thank him for all his work as a Trustee.

Another big thank you goes to our Committee, Tony Turner (Group Chairman), Brian Thompson (Secretary/Treasurer), Patrick Crouch, Dennis Backler, Paul Bond, Christine Howes, Bryan Mills, Madeleine Turner, not only do they do a great job overseeing the day-to-day running of the museum but also organise our well attended talks, exhibitions, and publications.

Our monthly meetings have been well attended and I'd like to thank everyone that comes along to support our speakers. The monthly meetings have covered a range of different and interesting topics, and I'm thankful to all our speakers for making the meetings possible.

The Museum remains indebted to Haverhill Town Council who provide the space for the Museum as well as giving us a substantial grant to cover the rent and running costs. We have also been fortunate to receive support from Councillors David Roach, who gave a grant for heritage events, Pat Hanlon, who gave a grant for school projects, and John Burns, who donated IT equipment. We are truly grateful for their support.

A special mention and thank you goes to our 2 corporate members, Tait and Mansols, it's great to see local companies supporting the Museum. Both companies have given us extremely generous donations, which is helping to upgrade our technical equipment, and we are very grateful of their support.

Finally, we look forward to our 50th Anniversary Celebration and I hope to see many of you at our official Celebration evening later in May.

**AARON LUCCARINI**

## COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This has been quite a busy year with a few changes to the way we work. Hopefully these are all good changes as they are made to make life easier for the volunteers as well as the committee.

A couple more volunteers have retired this year, both of whom will be missed. Roy Brazier can no longer get to the "Centre" as he could and obviously no longer volunteers, although short articles occasionally drop on to my doormat for the Historian. Roy had several posts through his association with the group; Committee from 1984; Asst Secretary 1988; Vice Chair 1991; Chair/Editor 1995; Editor 1998; Chair/Archivist 2001 and Chair from 2007. Following in his footsteps, so to speak, I now know what all that involved and how much you are supposed to remember. I hope the articles will continue to drop on the mat from time to time.

Another volunteer who has done much for the group is Marty House. With her move to Ely we have lost a regular contributor of ideas and much else. With her library training she became a very good archivist and taught me a great deal during our wrestling with the modes programme whilst trying to digitise the collection.

Another person who I am hopeful will continue to research, contribute and volunteer for us is our founder member, Patrick Crouch. This year he has decided that he will stand down from both committee and trustees. He is another person who has held most of the committee posts during his 50 years with us and we will miss his steadying hand in our discussions. I also have noted what he says in his article, you can research all you want but it needs to be published for following generations to be able to see the results.

I would like to thank all our volunteers for their hard work and adapting to the changes. We are trying to make things simpler in a gradual way.

Special thanks must go to our Secretary and Treasurer, Brian, who I feel sure will achieve the new bank account with on-line banking, soon. I don't know where you get the patience from!

If any members would like to join us on the committee please let one of us know.

**TONY TURNER**

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

Following an agreement by Trustees at the 27th April 2023 meeting, I was asked to administer the name change of our organisation from Local & District History Group to that of Haverhill Local History Museum. Although there were some minor reservations about changing our name, the change has created more interest from the general public and I think it is fair to say that it has encouraged more visitors. However there is still work to do as we still hear the comment, 'I didn't know you existed'!

For those of you who wonder what the Trustees do, they oversee the management of museum. For example amongst other responsibilities they regularly review our Five Year plan, consider budgets and assist with obtaining accreditation. The Committee, who do a great job, manage the day-to-day operations in the centre.

We don't have an outreach policy as such, but I am extremely pleased to say that we have been able to reach out to various groups within the local community.

In April 2023, Charmian Thompson gave a talk at Weaver's Lodge (Churchill Retirement homes), 'A virtual walk round Haverhill'. The following month she led a workshop/meeting in the centre with adults with additional Needs from 'Thrive' and then a session at New Cangle School, Reception Class, assisted by Christine Howes and Lauraine MacPhee, where children heard how schooling had changed for those attending the 'Old' Cangle compared to that of 'New' Cangle.

During the month of May, Paul Bond gave a talk to the Haverhill Hard of Hearing group in Haverhill and also to the Kedington Breakfast club.

Later in the year Charmian gave talks to both the Kedington and Sturmer Women Institutes and followed this up by going to Coupals Primary School to give a talk on the 'Great Fire of Haverhill'.

I would like to personally thank both Charmian and Paul who have given up their time on behalf of our group. Some of the talks resulted in donations to our funds and this has helped to fund our 50th Anniversary celebration this year.

I was pleased that we once again had a presence at the Armed Forces Day in June 2023 and the Haverhill Show in July 2023. These are great events and increase our exposure in the town.

In September there were a series of heritage events. We joined the Family History Group to host an event at Chantry Mills. As well as having the opportunity to see the steam engine 'Caroline' working, the public were treated to an exhibition of posters as well as artefacts from the Gurteen's private collection. Also on show during the day was a demonstration of a rope making machine from Haverhill Rope works. We were indebted to Charles Gurteen for opening Chantry Mills for the public and Paul Sadler for demonstrating the art of rope making. Shortly after, as part of the series of events, we hosted a presentation about the Town Hall/Arts Centre which included a tour of the centre. Both these events were extremely well received by the public.

Incidentally the public were able to attend the Heritage events free of charge due to the generosity of Suffolk County Council Councillor, David Roach, who provided funding from his Locality Budget.

Earlier this year we were asked to provide a small display at a recent model railway exhibition in Kedington. A hugely successful day for the organisers who collected over £500 for Prostate Cancer.

I would just like to take this opportunity to thank everyone, too numerous to mention by name, who gave up their time to assist and help out at all the events during the past year. It is truly appreciated.

One of the attractions in our small museum, besides the Echo newspapers, photographs and many items of interest are our exhibitions. Over the past year we have displayed a Barnabus/John Webb exhibition, Images of Haverhill which included paintings and pictures of Haverhill scenes, Stereo photography and more recently Sport and Pastimes in

Haverhill. Our present exhibition highlights artefacts that have been donated to us over the past 50 years and is well worth a look. Come and see what you can find!

One of the displays in the Gillian Young Gallery contained all the poems that were submitted for our poetry competition. Daniel Schumann (Arts Centre Manager), Sara Marsh (Arts Centre staff) and Amanda Williams (Get Suffolk Reading) adjudicated and chose Kaley Newsome as winner who received a book, 'John Webb's Poetry' and a year's membership to the group.

We continue to progress with projects in the background with Paul Bond continuing with the long-term digitising project and Tony Turner typing up John Webb's biography.

The Historian still proves to be very popular. Thanks to Tony Turner, our Archivist, we have managed to maintain the quality articles which are enjoyed by our readership. Always a stressful time putting this together, if anyone would like to contribute an article however long or short or even an idea for an article we would be delighted to hear from you.

As usual we occasionally received artefacts from the public as a donation. One that stands out this year was a donation from the son of Rev. Graves which included an album of old photographs. Because of its historical importance it was agreed that we should have this re-bound professionally.

I am delighted to report that membership was particularly strong this year. As at the end of the Membership year (31st March 2024) we had 76 members which I am sure is higher than it has been for several years. I am hopeful that we will exceed that number during 2024/25.

Since we considered the idea of having Corporate members, we now have three who have signed up. I was thrilled to report to the Trustees that we had received very generous donations from two companies in the town. I had written to Mansols (Performs) Ltd to remind them that their Corporate membership had expired and Adam Kimber, Managing Director replied stating that they would put £200.00 into our account and thanked us all for the work we do for the community. I then had the pleasure of meeting up with Lee Wade, MD of TAIT to see how they could help the Local History Museum and following the meeting they agreed to become a Corporate member and they transferred £500.00 into our account. Bearing in mind that we suggest that the fee should be £50.00 these are substantial donations for which we should be very grateful. Also joining as a Corporate member are the history group in Withersfield with whom we have been advising on how to complete a project they have in mind for the village.

Following discussions with the local Town Council we were able to secure a grant to assist with the rental cost of the Museum. With their support and after receiving a grant of £4,400 we were able to pay for the rent of the premises and still have a little left over to help towards our running costs including hosting monthly meetings. The Trustees and Committee are truly thankful for this substantial funding and appreciate the support given to us by the Town Councillors.

Continuing with the grant theme it is pleasing to note that we were awarded a grant of £200 from the AfSM (Association for Suffolk Museums) which will help fund the purchases of storage boxes and clear sleeves for photographs etc.

Sadly, and I know a lot of you will also be affected by it, we received details stating that Lloyds bank will be closing in June 2024. The Trustees agreed that this was the perfect opportunity to change to online banking. Any group Treasurer will empathise when I say that this has been a long drawn-out process. However I am still hopeful that we will have transferred our present account to an online account in the near future.

Our monthly programme of talks continues to be well received and I am pleased to see a healthy number of members attending and supporting these. Sadly with the room hire fee and increasing speaker expenses we find it very difficult to justify the losses on a monthly basis hence the reason for having in the main, presentations by our own members.

Unfortunately though, this puts tremendous pressure on a few to deliver so I put out this plea to everyone when I ask members to consider putting together a presentation for a meeting night. Help will be given if required.

We recently held a successful open day at the centre focusing on trying to recruit more volunteers. There was certainly some interest shown so all being well we may see some new faces around in the future.

As you are probably aware things have been very busy and at times demanding during the past twelve months. Our main aim has been to try and showcase our small museum and encourage the public to visit. I think slowly we have been relatively successful because the perception is that visitor numbers have increased this past year.

Looking forward to the next twelve months, you are probably all aware by now that in 2024 we are celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. There can't be many groups in the town that have continued for so long. It is a tremendous achievement. To mark the milestone, we are having a celebration in May at which all our members and various guests have been invited. Certainly, an evening to look forward to.

As part of the celebration, we are also hosting the AGM of the Association of Suffolk Museums which is to be held in the Haverhill Arts Centre early in June. Members from other museums in the County such as the 'The Long Shop', 'Food Museum', 'Ipswich Transport Museum' etc. will be given the opportunity to look around our humble surroundings and view our displays in the Museum and in the café area of the centre.

Finally I would like to thank the Trustees, Committee and Volunteers for all for your dedication and time, ensuring that we offer the best experience for the local community. Whether it is when they visit or via our outreach programme, I am sure that it is truly appreciated.

**BRIAN THOMPSON**



# HAVERHILL & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

## Financial Statements for the year from the 1st April 2023 to the 31st March 2024

	Income	Expenditure
<b><u>Brought Forward 2022/23</u></b>	<b>£9,808.98</b>	
Unpresented Cheques 2022/23		£68.00
<b><u>History Centre</u></b>		
Donations rec'd	£197.00	
Grants:HTC	£4,400.00	
Grants:Other	£200.00	
H/W & S/W Equipment		£372.64
Insurance		£215.60
Maintenance/fixtures		£27.00
Rent		£3,192.00
Stationery (paper/ink/printing etc.)		£286.49
Subscriptions		£220.39
Acquisitions		£27.70
Postage (Other)		£6.00
Misc		£336.68
<b><u>Members</u></b>		
Annual Subscriptions	£1,709.00	
Postage & stationery		£43.65
<b><u>Events/Meetings</u></b>		
Entrance fee	£250.80	
Room hire		£405.00
Speakers		£135.00
Refreshments/Raffle		£52.78
Raffle	£202.90	
Misc		£8.00
<b><u>Publications</u></b>		
Book sales (incl. CDs)	£577.70	
Production of 'Haverhill Historian'		£182.00
Postage (Publications)		£4.55
Totals	<b>£7,537.40</b>	<b>£5,583.48</b>
Income (Incl. Carried Fwd 22/23)	£17,346.38	
Expenditure	£5,583.48	
	Total	£11,762.90
	Float	£30.00
	<b>Balance</b>	<b>£11,792.90</b>