

Friends of the Centre for English Local History

(Registered Charity no. 1073528)

Draft Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Friends, held on Thursday 16 November 2017 at 12.30pm at 5 Salisbury Road, Leicester.

Present: Noel Tornbohm (Chairman), Robert Mee, Ann Schmidt, Andrew Wager, Phil Batman, Frank Galbraith, Sylvia Pinches, John Parker, Beryl Tracey, Freda Raphael, Pam Fisher, John Goodacre, Mary Bryceland, Chris Dyer, Michael Gilbert, Margaret Hawkins, Delia Richards, Paul Shipman, Alan Fox

- 1. Apologies for absence:** Kate Tiller, Anne Pegg, Mandy de Belin, Heather Flack, Katy Bridger
- 2. Minutes of the AGM held on 23 November 2016:** The minutes were agreed (proposed by Robert Mee, Seconded by Alan Fox).
- 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 Ann Schmidt, seconded by Beryl Tracey).
- 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	Noel Tornbohm
Secretary/I.T. Coordinator	Andrew Wager
Treasurer/Membership Secretary	Robert Mee
Newsletter Editor	Phil Batman
Programme Secretary	
Committee Members:	Ann Schmidt
	Mandy de Belin
	Mary Bryceland
	Beryl Tracey

John Parker is the one student representative.

Kevin Schürer becomes the Centre's representative.

[Post Meeting Note: Lin Mawer joins the Committee as a student representative and Michael Gilbert has offered himself for co-option]

- 7. Appointment of Independent Examiner:** Dr Pam Fisher was re-appointed as Independent Examiner (proposed by Frank Galbraith, seconded by Noel Tornbohm)
- 8. Newsletter Title:** Phil Batman made a plea for suggestions for the title of the 'Newsletter'
- 9. Any other Business:**
 - a) Books of the late Roy Studdard:** Roy's widow, Pat has written offering his books to members of the Friends. Noel Tornbohm has details. The Friends do not have anywhere to store any more books so that is not an option. Freda Raphael suggested that some of the books currently in store could be put in the common room with an honesty box. Frank Galbraith suggested holding the Hoskins Day book sale in the foyer of Ken Edwards building.

Chairman's Report - 16th November 2017

I am pleased to report another successful year of activities and practical assistance to students and the Centre.

Our first event was the Spring Study Weekend at Lincoln. Though not particularly well attended, (perhaps because many thought they already knew the venue), it was both informative and enjoyable. The accommodation marked a departure from recent, more spartan fixtures, in that we were housed in hotel comfort. The whole trip, including a visit to the fascinating Gainsborough Old Hall was most ably organised by Frank Galbraith.

Next came Hoskins Day, rated a great success by all concerned. Our speaker was Professor Dawn Hadley, Head of Archaeology at Sheffield University. Her lecture was entitled 'From Tents to Townhouses: the Viking great Army and the Origins of the Borough of Torksey'. This was followed by the usual tea and book sale, which were well supported. The actual results are in the treasurer's Report.

Thirdly, we went on a day visit to Stoke-on-Trent and two contrasting Industrial museums. Although I was abroad on holiday, all reports were good.

All the above is in some contrast to happenings in the Centre. None of us like change but in September we had to face up to the loss of No. 1 Salisbury Road. We have yet to digest all its implications but for the Friends, we shall sorely miss the facility offered by the large seminar room in particular. Secondly came the somewhat unexpected retirement, (at least in its timing) of Prof. Keith Snell at the end of October. This is not the place for eulogies but Keith has always been a keen and consistent supporter of the Friends and we are most grateful for his encouragement and friendship, which I am sure will continue, albeit somewhat diluted as he enjoys his well-earned rest. Finally, I extend my thanks to the Committee members for their hard work and enthusiastic support. All have to travel, sometimes considerable distances, both for meetings and events and I take my hat off to them. Robert is here for every seminar to do the teas and generally rally round; Andrew too is generally here and both work behind the scenes as Treasurer and Secretary respectively. Phil Batman has transposed seamlessly from Programme to Newsletter Editor; Ann Schmidt from Treasurer to Catering Manager — it's really impressive. While dishing out thanks, I must not forget Past Chairman Dr Pam Fisher, who for several years has kept us on the straight and narrow as Examiner of the accounts.

But now I come to the goodbyes. This is difficult: Frank Galbraith has served for around 15 years, in almost every capacity. As Chairman, he was a firm and inspired leader, combining thoroughness and enthusiasm with Yorkshire grit. True, we had to put up with his shaggy-dog stories, without which no event was complete. He will be sadly missed but remembered with respect and affection.

Also leaving us is Sarah Gilpin, most remembered for her excellent Spring Study Weekend in Sale but also, a real stalwart; and Beryl Tracey, who, in the relatively short time she has been with us, has really got stuck in - and also stimulated, with her critical view of the various scenarios we have faced.

So to the future, something of a challenge, for so long as we are under-manned. we shall no doubt have to cut our cloth according to the workers available — but will do our best!

Noel Tornbohm

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

Annual General Meeting – 16 November 2017

Treasurer's Report

The past year has been rather busy, with a change of treasurer at the last AGM. As if learning the ropes wasn't enough, our bankers (Nat West) did everything they could to make life as difficult as possible, losing our paperwork not once but twice!

The full annual accounts are available at the AGM. I am grateful to our Independent Examiner, Pam Fisher, for her work in going through them, and for the advice she has given, which will hopefully make it easier next year.

The current total assets of the Friends stand at £28,449, down from £31,140 last year.

Without a doubt, this has been the most expensive year in relation to student support for some time, with over £6,300 being paid out (though over £1,000 of this was subsequently refunded). But that is what we are here for. This figure also includes the 2016 Harold Fox Award. It has been decided, for the time being, not to continue with this award due to the small number of applicants.

This year we made a £1000, one-off contribution to the publication of the East Midlands History and Heritage Magazine, as being a fine vehicle for promoting the study of local history across the board, which fits in with our charity objectives. This action also resulted in some good publicity for us, and our logo continues to appear on the back cover of the magazine, which is free and not profit-making.

During the course of the year, we have introduced a system for allocating small grants (under £100) to students to help with specific issues rather than funding tuition fees. Access to these grants is through a much simpler application form.

Our trips, to Castor, Lincoln, and Stoke on Trent, were successful, and between them made a small profit. The numbers attending weren't large though, and we would seek feedback from members as to what would be more popular. I will always aim that our events do not make a loss, as that would take money away from our primary objectives.

Our investments are pretty flat, though better than in recent years. It will be a long time before our investments and bank interest will reach the stage where this pays for student support. We must continue to look for new ways of raising money, and, more importantly, of gaining new members, particularly making sure that those who have recently graduated from the Centre continue as members for the years to come.

Robert Mee
16 November 2017

Friends of the Centre for English Local History

(Registered Charity no.1073528)

Receipts and Payments Account for the year to 30 September 2017

		<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
<u>Receipts</u>			
	Subscriptions and donations	£2,380.00	£1,614.00
	Trip Income	£3,910.00	£210.00
	Book Sales	£0.00	£50.00
	Conference Income	£0.00	£1,021.07
	Publications	£0.00	£63.28
	Refunds on Student Support	£1,095.83	£0.00
	Dividends/Interest (C&C, CAF)	£478.60	£523.00
	Gift Aid	£259.12	£0.00
	Hoskins Day	£369.59	£222.60
	Credit note re overpaid printing	£0.00	£132.05
	<u>Total Receipts</u>	<u>£8,493.14</u>	<u>£3,836.00</u>
<u>Payments</u>			
	Student Support & Harold Fox Award	£6,326.75	£3,500.00
	Hoskins Day	£71.25	£101.62
	Newsletter	£333.77	£333.77
	East Midlands History and Heritage	£1,000.00	£0.00
	Conference Expenditure	£0.00	£333.28
	Trip Expenditure	£3,478.80	£0.00
	Printing & Publications	£0.00	£72.00
	Administrative Costs	£184.04	£150.05
	AGM Expenses	£71.25	£0.00
	<u>Total Payments</u>	<u>£11,465.86</u>	<u>£4,490.72</u>
<u>Excess of income over expenditure</u>			
	<u>Excess of expenditure over income</u>	<u>-£2,972.72</u>	<u>-£654.72</u>
<u>Opening Funds at 1st October 2016</u>			
		£29,055.63	£29,710.35
<u>Deficit/surplus</u>			
		<u>-£2,972.72</u>	<u>-£654.72</u>
<u>Closing Funds at 30th September 2017</u>			
		<u><u>£26,082.91</u></u>	<u><u>£29,055.63</u></u>
<u>Comprising</u>			
<u>Bank Balances</u>			
	CAF Bank - Gold Account	£1,835.55	£1,534.59
	Natwest Bank	£2,266.01	£3,717.33
	NatWest Investment Account	£0.00	£0.00
	Cambridge & Counties savings	£13,522.40	£15,344.76
		<u>£17,623.96</u>	<u>£20,596.68</u>
<u>Investment Assets at cost</u>			
	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
		<u>£26,082.91</u>	<u>£29,055.63</u>
<u>Market value of investments</u>			
	FP CAF UK Equity Fund B Income	£6,586.20	£6,155.32
	FP CAF Fixed Interest Fund B Income	£4,239.58	£4,388.19
		<u>£10,825.78</u>	<u>£10,543.51</u>
<u>Total assets (including current investment value)</u>		<u>£28,449.74</u>	<u>£31,140.19</u>

Robert M Mee (Treasurer)

31 October 2017