

# Bedfordshire Local History Association

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Twenty Sixth Annual General Meeting of the Bedfordshire Local History Association will be on  
Saturday 22 June 2019 at 9.30am  
at Poplars Garden Centre (The Learning Zone) Harlington Rd, Toddington LU5 6HE

BLHA individual members and people from member Societies are entitled to attend the AGM free of charge. Registration for the conference will begin at 9.00am. Parking is available at the Garden Centre.

There is no limit to how many members from member Societies may attend the AGM, but only two members from each Society may vote. A copy of the Minutes from last year's meeting are enclosed with this notice and will be available at the meeting.

## AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the Twenty Fifth Annual General Meeting, held on 2 June 2018
3. Matters arising
4. Chairman's report
5. Treasurer's report
6. Election of Chairman, Officers and Committee
7. Appointment of Independent Examiner of the Association's accounts
8. Any other business
9. Date of Next Year's AGM and Conference

## NOMINATIONS

Nominations are invited for the position of Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, and for up to 12 committee members. Nominations should be submitted to **Clive Makin, 32 Grange Road, Barton-Le-Clay, Bedford, Beds MK45 4RE**, on this form, by Friday 14 June 2019 or scanned and emailed to [secretary@bedfordshire-lha.org.uk](mailto:secretary@bedfordshire-lha.org.uk) Each nomination form should be signed by a proposer and seconder.

Nominees may be individual members or representatives of member Societies. If a person is being nominated to represent a Society, two officers of the Society concerned must sign the nomination form as proposer and seconder. The consent of the person being nominated must be obtained prior to the nomination.

<b>Nominee:</b>	<b>Proposed by:</b>	<b>Seconded by:</b>
1) Name of nominee	1) Name	1) Name
2) Society or individual member	2) Signature	2) Signature
3) Position nominated for		
1)	1)	1)
2)	2)	2)
3)		

This AGM will be followed by the BLHA Conference, organised by the Bedfordshire Gardens Trust on our behalf. Please contact: BLHA AGM and Symposium 2019, c/o The Treasurer, Bedfordshire Gardens Trust, River View, Old Watling Street, Flamstead, Herts AL38HN or via email to: [treasurer@bedsgardenstrust.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@bedsgardenstrust.org.uk) for further details if required.

# **Bedfordshire Local History Association**

Minutes of the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held at  
Clapham Village Hall, 118 High Street, Clapham, Bedford, Beds MK41 6BS  
Saturday 2nd June 2018 at 9.30am

Present: 53 members, including representatives from 15 member societies, 5 individual members and 2 other attendees.

## **1 Apologies for Absence**

Chris Brimblecombe, Felicity Brimblecombe, Ann Cassidy, Ivor Edwards, Brian Lazelle, Louise Mardlin, Trevor Mardlin, Dave Whitfield, Gill Whitfield and Biggleswade History Society.

## **2 Minutes of the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting (Saturday 24th June 2017)**

The Minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated and copies were available in the hall. Acceptance was proposed by Martin Lawrence and seconded by Ted Martin. Carried unanimously, the minutes were approved and signed

## **3 Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

## **4 Chairman's Report**

Copies of the Chairman's report were available in the hall, and it is included below.

The Autumn event in 2017 was a visit to Sulgrave Manor near Banbury. We were given a very interesting tour of the grounds and house with its connection to George Washington. The day was finished off with a cream tea in the restaurant. Unfortunately, the BLHA group consisted of only 10, but this gave the opportunity to have a much more detailed and in-depth afternoon.

The 2017 Conference "Bedford through the Ages" was hosted by the Bedford Architectural, Archaeological and Local History Society. The total attendance was 82 with a further 14 helpers, speakers and guides. Members from sixteen societies and six individual members attended as well as representatives from five other societies. Jeremy Oetgen gave the first talk on the Great Ouse Valley in Early Times. This was followed by a talk on Bedford and its river by Bob Ricketts which set the scene for the pre-lunch walking tour covering Bedford Castle and the Embankment. An alternative to the tour was a presentation of historic films covering work into flight research at the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Thurleigh. A buffet lunch was then provided before the afternoon session. Pamela Birch gave a talk on the recently restored 1-4 St Paul's Square. This was followed by a talk on the struggle to get a Public Library for Bedford and finally David Fowler gave a talk on preserving Bedford's heritage.

The Spring event for 2018 was a visit to Island House, Godmanchester. The party consisted of 22 BLHA members and friends, representing 4 of the association's societies. There was an introduction to the house, tour of the gardens and rooms followed by a cream tea. The current owner gave the tour and was very hospitable. With a beautiful day this thoroughly enjoyed by all attending.

The Autumn event is a trip to the Military Intelligence Museum at Chicksands and planned for Tuesday 25th September.

The Committee hopes that for the Autumn and future events that more societies are represented, otherwise a decision will have to be made as to whether it's worth continuing with such events.

We have been pleased to welcome two new committee members this year. Sandra Peacock of Bedfordshire Garden Trust who took over from Mike Brown as Treasurer and Des Hoar from Sharnbrook Local History Group who has also joined the committee.

Our website continues to perform a very useful service under the control of Liz Makin who is our co-opted secretary's wife. We also continue to provide news updates via email to the contact person in each society and also individual members. We do hope that this is brought to the attention of all society members.

Ted Martin has continued to produce the History in Bedfordshire newsletter on line which contains all the information members need regarding future events and of course local history articles. He has also been heavily involved in the publication of a most interesting book written by Richard Morgan and supported by the BLHA "Henry John Sylvester Stannard and his daughter Theresa Sylvester Stannard". A complimentary copy of this booklet was distributed to all BLHA individual members and all BLHA society contacts in February and March. Copies are still available for sale and well worth reading.

It is important that we carry on with these annual conferences which provide a good opportunity for people to learn what goes on in other parts of the county and renew acquaintances they may not have seen during the year. It is difficult to persuade some societies to host a conference especially if they only have one or two active members, but they could consider liaising with a neighbouring society to co-host a conference. Please give it some thought, and I hope you enjoy this year's conference here at Clapham.

Mrs Mollie Foster, Chairman 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2018

Acceptance of the Chairman's Report was proposed by Martin Lawrence and Janet King.  
Carried unanimously

## **5 Treasurer's Report**

1. Membership monies are down simply because more standing orders were received in 2018/19 accounting year. Membership remains steady.
2. Expenses are covered by a paper trail and monies paid out via internet banking are all itemised on the Statements. There has been comparatively little movement on the accounts.
3. It has been agreed that the 'Business Instant' savings account be closed, and monies transferred to the 'Treasurers' current account, as soon as the paperwork is completed this will be done. Interest received is minimal.
4. An amount of £442.00 was due in this year's accounts but due to a bank error this will be shown in the accounts ending 31st March 2019. This amount is our cost of the publication of the Stannard Book, however it is hoped that this cost will be covered and a profit in 2018/2019 will be made as sales of the book continue.
5. An amount of £500 was received from the Bedfordshire Borough Council which was then paid out to Signs of the Times towards the cost of two Blue Plaques for the Stannards (no cost to the BLHA).
6. Insurance costs rose by £10.
7. The working total for the year is £1,563.21.

**BEDFORDSHIRE LOCAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION**

Accounts Yr End 1st April 20 31st March 2018 @ 31-03-2018

	RECEIPTS		PAYMENTS	
	2017-18	2016-17	2017-18	2016-17
	£	£	£	£
Subscriptions	345.00	567.00		
Advance Subscription		0.00		
Net Interest	0.59	0.55		
<u>Committee incl acct t/frs</u>	<u>1062.00</u>	<u>202.70</u>		
Events	356.00	608.00	263.50	1156.50
Newsletter				0.00
Committee incl acct t/frs			1030.27	372.83
BALH Sub & Insurance			75.00	65.00
Hall hire for committee				0.00
Web Site			86.40	86.40
Autumn Lecture				
<b>total</b>	<b>1763.59</b>	<b>1378.25</b>	<b>1455.17</b>	<b>1680.73</b>

Opening balance on both a/c's		1,254.59
Surplus/deficit for yr 2017/18		308.42
<b>Balance year end 31 March</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>1563.01</b>

Represented by:		
	Lloyds Bank Treasurers acct. Curr	759.72
plus	Lloyds Bk. Bus. Inst. Acc. acct. Sa	803.29

**Working total 1,563.01**

**Hon Treasurer** ..... date .....

**Chair** ..... date .....

I have examined the accounts of the Bedfordshire Local History association shown above which are the responsibility of the Committee of the Association to prepare. In my opinion the accounts give a true and fair view, as shown by the books and vouchers presented to me and information and explanations given, of the Balance of Funds at March 31st, 2018 and of the Receipts and Payments for the year ended on that date.

Signed: ..... *John M Shipman* ..... date 12/5/18

Name: JOHN M SHIPMAN .....

Sandra Peacock, Honorary Treasurer 03/05/2018

Acceptance of the Treasurer's Report was proposed by George Howe and seconded by Martin Lawrence. Carried unanimously.

**6 Election of Chairman, Officers and Committee**

**Chairman & Officers**

Mollie Foster - proposed by Rosemary Evans and seconded by Maureen Circuit

**Honorary Treasurer**

Sandra Peacock - proposed by Kevin Levitt and Chris Brimblecombe

**Honorary Secretary**

No nominations

**Committee**

Des Hoar – proposed by June Barnes and seconded by Ann Paynter

Clive Makin – proposed by Ann Cassidy and seconded by Ivor Edwards

Mike Turner – proposed by Clive Makin and seconded by Colin West

Colin West – proposed by Pamela Ann Birch and seconded by Charles Norman

Pamela Birch, Bedfordshire Archives and Records Service representative (ex officio)

It was proposed by Angela Hilliard and seconded by Martin Lawrence that the present committee be re-elected en bloc. Carried unanimously.

**7 Appointment of Independent Examiner of the Association’s Accounts**

John Shipman was thanked for examining the Association’s accounts and was put forward for appointment 2018-2019.

Proposed by Ted Martin and Martin Lawrence. Carried unanimously

**8 Any Other Business**

Ted Martin - As editor of the BLHA newsletter History in Bedfordshire he would like to see more material submitted for publication by from local groups.

Martin Lawrence – Wished to thank the Clapham Historical Society and the BLHA Committee for taking on the conference this year.

Colin West – Promoted the forthcoming BLHA trip to the Military Intelligence Museum at Chicksands.

A request was made that at future conferences the BLHA Annual Accounts are made available to the delegates on the day as a paper handout.

**9 Date of next year’s AGM and Conference**

Kevin Levitt, Chairman of the Bedfordshire Gardens Trust, announced that the 26<sup>th</sup> BLHA AGM and Conference would be on June 22<sup>nd</sup> 2019 at Poplars Garden Centre, Toddington. The theme will be ‘The Designed landscapes of Bedfordshire’, further details in February 2019.

The meeting closed at 10.07am

Confirmed as an accurate record

Chairman: .....

Date: .....