

Bedfordshire Local History Association

Twenty Seventh Annual General Meeting
of the Bedfordshire Local History Association will be on
Saturday 25 June 2022 at 9.30am
at Priory Methodist Church, Newnham Avenue, Bedford MK41 9QJ

There is no limit to how many members from member Societies may attend the AGM, but only two members from each Society may vote.

The documents included here are for items 2, 4 and 5 of the BLHA AGM and are highlighted below in **bold**.

Due to the pandemic, there was no AGM held in 2020 or 2021, Chairman's and Treasurer's reports for these years have been included below..

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. **Minutes of the Twenty-Sixth Annual General Meeting, held on 22 June 2019**
3. Matters arising
4. **Chairman's Reports 2019-2020, 2020-2021 and 2021-2022**
5. **Treasurer's Reports 2019-2020, 2020-2021 and 2021-2022**
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

Bedfordshire Local History Association

Minutes of the 26th Annual General Meeting held at
Poplars Garden Centre (The Learning Zone)
Harlington Rd, Toddington LU5 6HE
Saturday 22 June 2019 at 9.30 am

Present: 53 society members, representing 15 member societies, 5 individual members and 2 other attendees.

1 Apologies for Absence

No apologies were received.

2 Minutes of the 25th Annual General Meeting (Saturday 2nd June 2018)

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 Janet King.

Carried unanimously, the minutes were approved and signed

3 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4 Chairman's Report 2018 - 2019

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

I am delighted to welcome you to our BLHA Conference and I am sure we will all have a very enjoyable day.

Our Autumn event on the 25th September last year was a trip to the Military Intelligence Museum at Chicksands and a very interesting two hour tour of the building. It was well attended and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Colin West, a Committee member for organising an excellent tour.

In April, following on from the interest in mapping historical research at last years' conference, one of our committee members Des Hoar organised and ran a practical workshop entitled 'Using GIS to Support Local History'. Unfortunately only a few attended what was an excellent introduction to the subject and I'd like to thank Des for putting this together. Please take a look at some of the participants' work which is on display here today.

The spring event this year was a visit to the Police Museum in Kempston over two evenings in May. This again was well attended, thanks to Colin, but in my view it was a great pity that the space was unfortunately inadequate for the display and interesting collection of memorabilia etc, which have been gathered by the police over the years.

The Conference last year was hosted by the Clapham Historical Society on the 2nd June and was attended by 54 members. It was an interesting programme starting with Des

Hoar on the use of GIS software to create interactive maps to show the results of historical research, followed by a talk by David Fowler on three local Bedfordshire heroes. We were then split into two groups, either to visit the church and a village talk by John Woods, or a talk by Pamela Birch, BLHA Committee member and county archivist on Sir Albert Richardson.

At lunchtime the members enjoyed a homemade hot lunch of either chicken curry or sweet and sour, plus wine and desserts. It was very enjoyable but from personal experience rather hard work! The afternoon continued with a talk on "The Great North Road" by Sue Jarrett followed by "Amphill's Great Houses" by John Hele. The Conference closed with feedback and tea and coffee.

The Committee remains the same and I would like to thank them for all their hard work and support. Our website still provides a very useful service run by Liz Makin, Clive's wife, and also news updates via email to all societies, which we hope are also circulated to individual members. Ted Martin continues to produce the History in Bedfordshire newsletter with details of future events and tales and stories of old Bedfordshire throughout the ages. Ted would be very happy to include any of your memories of yesteryear.

Please do spread the word about the BLHA Conference and encourage other members to come along. We are always looking for societies to host the annual conference, so do remember that it is a great way to promote your society, meet fellow historians and share interests and ideas.

I hope you enjoy this year's conference and thank you for coming.

Mrs Mollie Foster, Chairman 22nd June 2019

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

5 Treasurer's Report 2018 - 2019

1. Membership monies show the extra amount that came into the account in this financial year. We have also had a few new members.
2. We have updated the signatories on the accounts.
3. Postage is quite high this year which reflects the selling of the Stannard book.
4. There are still, as at 25th May, 87 books to sell and we still need just over £60 to break even. However, books are still being sold.
5. The audit cost of £15 was a donation at the suggestion of Mr Shipman who has signed the accounts and went to Cancer Research.
6. The working total for the 2018/2019 year is very similar to that of the last financial year.

BEDFORDSHIRE LOCAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

Accounts Year end 31st March 2019

	Receipts		Payments	
	£	£	£	£
	2018-19	2017-18	2018-19	2017-18
Subscriptions	726.00	345.00		
Stannard Books	539.37			
Events	647.00	356.00	647.00	263.50
Committee inc a/c t/frs		1062.00		
Committee inc a/c t/frs				1037.27
Website			86.40	86.40
Postage			218.60	
Insurance			75.00	75.00
Audit			15.00	
	1912.37	1763.59	1042.00	1455.17

Opening balance on Treasurers A/c	759.72
Surplus/deficit for yr 2018-19	870.37
Balance year end 31st March 2019-05-21	1630.09

Represented by: Lloyds Bank Treasurers A/C 1630.09

Working Total £1,630.09

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 2019 and of the Receipts and Payments for the year ended on that date.

Signed  date 31 May 2019

Name JOHN SHIPMAN

Sandra Peacock, Honorary Treasurer 22nd June 2019

Acceptance of the Treasurer's Report was proposed by Martin Lawrence and

seconded by Angela Hillyard. Carried unanimously.

6 Election of Chairman, Officers and Committee

Chairman & Officers

Mollie Foster - proposed by Mr A Foster and seconded by Sandra Carter

Honorary Treasurer

Sandra Peacock - proposed by Kevin Levitt and Chris Brimblecombe

Honorary Secretary

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

Committee

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

Mike Turner – proposed by Clive Makin and seconded by Des Hoar

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 Stuart Martin and seconded by George Howe 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 2019-2020.

Proposed by Tom Foster and Martin Lawrence. Carried unanimously

8 Any Other Business

Bob Ricketts – on behalf of the Bedford Historical Record Society wished to congratulate Dorothy Jamieson on the publication of her new book ‘Willington and the Mowbrys: After the Peasants’ Revolt’. Copies are on sale today.

9 Date of next year’s AGM and Conference

Bob Ricketts, Chairman of the Bedford Historical Record Society, announced that the 27th BLHA AGM and Conference would be on Saturday June 20th 2020 at Priory Methodist Church Bedford. The theme will be ‘The Home Front in Both World Wars’.

The meeting closed at 10.04am

Confirmed as an accurate record

Chairman:

Date:

Chairman's Reports 2019-2020, 2020-2021 and 2021-2022

First, I would like to welcome you all to the 2022 BLHA AGM and Conference hosted by the Bedford Historical Record Society (BHRS). Since we last met in June 2019 the Covid pandemic has affected us all as individuals and societies in different ways. This Conference was originally planned for 2020 and has been postponed twice, but I'm pleased to say that all of the work put into planning has finally come to fruition and we can meet as historians once again.

As we have been unable to get together to hold the past two AGMs and Conferences, I have included a brief report for each of these below.

Chairman's Report - 2019-2020

The Conference in 2019 was hosted by the Bedfordshire Gardens Trust on the 22nd of June and held at Poplars Garden Centre. The theme was 'The Designed landscapes of Bedfordshire' and was attended by 54 members, representing 15 societies.

Tom Williamson began the programme by talking about Orchards in the Historic Landscape, followed by Caroline Bowdler showing the evolution of designed landscapes in Bedfordshire. The unique AGAS map of Toddington was the next subject by John Little. The afternoon session began with Felicity Brimblecome who gave a talk about Gertrude Jekyll in Bedfordshire. The Head Gardeners Network in Bedfordshire was the subject of Corinne Price's talk, and the last topic was Flitwick Manor Park and Grounds by Stephen Coleman.

The Autumn Event was held on Wednesday 11th September at the Walled Garden at Luton Hoo Estate. This afternoon visit began with lunch in the Woodyard Restaurant, followed by a tour of the dairy and magnificent gardens. Unfortunately, only 4 members took the opportunity to join this event.

In October the Association was pleased to welcome the Shillington History Society as a member. However, in November the Association lost the Carlton and Chellington Historical Society which had been formed in 1993, which closed as it was unable to recruit new committee members.

The Stannard book written by Richard Morgan was published by the BLHA in March 2018. All printing costs were recovered in December 2019, all future sales represent a profit.

The next society to join the Association was Invisible Folk in January 2020.

In March planning for the Spring and the Summer Conference was well underway, but like many societies, these plans were either cancelled or postponed, in the case of the Conference it was postponed until today.

Chairman's Report - 2020-2021

The report would normally begin with a summary of the previous conference but due to the ongoing pandemic it was thought the event could be postponed to October, but it soon became clear that the likely earliest that the BHRS could host the event would be June 2021.

As no 2020 Conference could be held, an additional issue of History in Bedfordshire was published in July as a Summer Special.

With ongoing restrictions, the plan for the Autumn Event usually held in September was cancelled.

In such uncertain times regarding future restrictions, the decision was taken in February by the BLHA and BHRS to cancel the 2021 AGM and Conference, with the hope of holding it in 2022. A conference through Zoom would have been an option but it was felt it would not do the subject justice. Stuart Antrobus had been writing a book that would have complemented the conference entitled Life in Bedford during the Second World War, published by the Bedford Architectural, Archaeological and Local History Society. To mark the planned 2021 conference this book was very kindly made available for free by the BHRS to those who requested a copy.

The next event planned in the calendar was the Spring 2021 event held on 27th March. This was a Zoom presentation entitled Local History in a Pandemic and given by Geoff Saunders and Matt Tuohy from Bedford Borough. The presentation covered the complications faced during the pandemic by the Bedford Borough Historic Environment Team and the archaeology along the route of the A428 bypass in the east of Bedford Borough. It was attended by 36 members and guests.

Stuart Antrobus had been writing a book that would have complemented the conference entitled Life in Bedford during the Second World War, published by the Bedford Architectural, Archaeological and Local History Society. To mark the planned 2021 conference this book was very kindly made available for free by the BHRS to those who requested a copy.

In June the Tempsford Museum and Archives became the latest society to join the BLHA.

Chairman's Report - 2021-2022

With restrictions continuing there was no AGM and Conference in June 2021, and there were no plans made for the BLHA Autumn or Spring Events.

A date was once again set in June for the BHRS hosted Conference and fortunately, this has become after the third time of trying a reality.

The digital aspect of the BLHA has been maintained throughout the pandemic. The email newsletter distributed by our secretary to all member societies and individual members has been an important means of keeping in touch, bringing to our attention local history events across the county. Amongst the local news, there are now regular items from outside the county making connections with The Cambridgeshire Association of Local History and the Northamptonshire Heritage Forum.

A significant number of local history enquiries come via our website which is maintained by Liz, our secretary's wife. These have been included in our email newsletter and many answered by our membership. Particular thanks should go to Pamela Birch at Bedfordshire Archives and Bob Ricketts of the BHRS who have been regular contributors to answering the queries.

The History in Bedfordshire newsletter, edited by Ted Martin remains a very popular source of articles on local history. Many thanks to Ted for keeping the newsletter published four times a year. I'm sure he would always welcome new articles for publication.

Thanks also to our Treasurer Sandra Peacock who has looked after our accounts. Colin West organises our outdoor excursions, although these have by necessity have been limited during the last couple of years, the Autumn and Spring events for 2022/23 are booked and planned. Thank you also to Des Hoar, Mike Turner and Pamela Birch (ex-officio) for your work within the committee.

Lastly, a thank you to all of you attending here today. With a good programme and good company, I'm sure the BHRS hosted Conference that we have had to wait three years for will be a great success.

Mrs Mollie Foster, Chairman 25th June 2022

Treasurer's Reports 2019-2020, 2020-2021 and 2021-2022

Treasurer's Report - 2019-2020

1. The variation in subscription amounts is due to the timings of the standing orders.
2. The Stannard Book sales are now in profit.
3. Due to the unusual circumstances we are living in I was unable to get the Accounts countersigned prior to the end of the financial year therefore the audit fee will appear in the 2020/2021 accounts.
4. There was just one event held during the year.
5. Postage costs reflect the costs of sending out the Stannard Books.
6. Insurance costs are high due to my not cancelling the standing order, this has now been cancelled and our insurers the British Association for Local History have been informed and the £65 has been reimbursed and will show in next year's accounts.
7. The working total for the year is £1,974.65.

BEDFORDSHIRE LOCAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

Accounts year end 31st March 2020

	RECEIPTS		PAYMENTS	
	2019-2020	2018-19	2019-2020	2018-19
	£	£	£	£
Subscriptions	530.00	726.00		
Stannard Books	117.00	539.37		
Events	105.00	647.00	105.00	647.00
Net interest		0.59		
Committee inc a/c t/frs		1,062.00		
Committee inc a/c t/frs				1030.27
Website			98.35	86.40
Postage			64.09	217.90
Insurance			140.00	75.00
Audit				15.00
	752.00	2,974.96	407.44	2,071.57

Open balance on Treasurers a/c	1,630.09
Surplus/deficit for yr 2019/20	344.56
Balance as at year end March 31st 2020	1,974.65

Represented by: Lloyds Bank Treasurers Account 1974.65

Working Total £1,974.65

Hon Treasurer

Sandra Pearce

Chair

Mollie Foster

I have examined the Accounts of the Bedfordshire Local History Association shown above w/ the Committee of the Association to prepare, in my opinion the Accounts give a true and fair and vouchers presented to me and information and explanations given, of the Balance of funds of the receipts and payments for the year ended on that date.

Signed *J M Shipman* *18/7/2020* date

Name *J M SHIPMAN*

Treasurer's Report - 2020-2021

1. Due to circumstances well beyond our control, there has been very little movement in the accounts during the financial year 2020/2021.
2. We are now in profit with the Stannard books sold.
3. Website costs are as normal and the insurance cost is down due to a mistake by the Insurance Company and will show up in the 2021/2022 accounts.
4. Postage was minimal and the audit cost was as usual.

BEDFORDSHIRE LOCAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

Accounts Year End 31 March 2021

	RECEIPTS		PAYMENTS	
	2020-21	2019-2020	2020-21	2019-2020
		£		£
Subscriptions	465.00	530.00		
Stannard Books	7.03	117.00		
Events		105.00		105.00
Net interest				
Committee inc a/c t/frs				
Committee inc a/c t/frs				
Website			98.39	98.35
Postage			2.40	64.09
Insurance			10.00	140.00
Audit			15.00	
	472.03	752.00	125.79	407.44

Open balance on Treasurers a/c	1,974.55
Surplus/deficit for yr 2020/2021	346.24
Balance year end 31st March 2021	2,320.79

Represented by: Lloyds Bank Treasures Account £1,974.55

Working Total £2,320.79

Hon Treasurer S. Pearce date 20/06/21
 Chair Mohi F. Foster date 20/06/21

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 bo books and vouchers presented to me and information and explanations given, of the Balance of Funds as at 31st March 2021 and of the receipts and payments for year ended on that date.

Signed John Shipman date 7/6/2021
 Name JOHN SHIPMAN

Treasurer's Report - 2021-2022

1. Again this year very little movement in the Accounts.
2. The higher cost on the insurance was due to an error on my part and has been rectified in this year's accounts.
3. Membership has remained much the same with subscriptions coming in during the two accounting years.
4. Website costs have not changed, postage is minimal and only for postage of the Stannard books.
5. Audit charge is given to Cancer Research as usual.

BEDFORDSHIRE LOCAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

Accounts Year End 31st March 2022

	RECEIPTS		PAYMENTS	
	2021-22	2020-21	2021-22	2020-21
Subscriptions	450.00	465.00		
Stannard Books	15.03	7.03		
Events				
Net interest				
Committee inc a/c t/frs				
Committee inc a/c t/frs				
Website			94.99	98.39
Postage			3.06	2.40
Insurance			212.00	10.00
Audit			15.00	15.00
	<u>465.03</u>	<u>472.03</u>	<u>325.05</u>	<u>125.79</u>

Open balance on Treasurers a/c	2,320.79
Surplus/deficit for yr 2021/2022	139.98
Balance year end 31st March 2022	2,460.77

Represented by: Lloyds Bank Treasurers Account £2,320.79

Working Total £2,460.77

Hon Treasurer S. Peacock date 10/05/2022
 Chair Melvin Foster date 12/05/2022

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 bo books and vouchers presented to me and information and explanations given, of the Balance of Funds as at 31st March 2022 and of the receipts and payments for year ended on that date.

Signed John M Shipman Date 8/5/2022
 Name JOHN M SHIPMAN