



Northumberland  
& Durham  
Family History  
Society

A Charity Registered in England No. 510588

**MINUTES OF THE TRUSTEES MEETING  
HELD AT PERCY HOUSE, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE  
ON TUESDAY 9 APRIL 2019 AT 2PM (04/2019)**

- PRESENT:** Joyce Jackman (Chairman), Douglas Burdon, Richard Calasca (Minutes), Pat Franklin, John Heckels, Ian Hendry, Julie Hewitt, Rhoda Lee, Joan Smith, John Ward.
- APOLOGIES:** Harry Aitchison, Carol Black, Ann Franklin, Dudley George, Glenice Reed, Wendy Stafford.

**4.1 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS (12.3.19)**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12th March 2019 were accepted as a true record – proposed by Julie Hewitt seconded by John Heckels, and signed as a true record by the Chairman Joyce Jackman.

**4.2 MATTERS ARISING**

None

**4.3 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman asked the Trustees to consider before the next meeting a reduction from ten to seven in the number of Council meetings held in the calendar year with no meetings in February, June, and October.

A possible amendment to the Constitution to be put before this year's Annual General Meeting was discussed in relation to the position of Premises Manager.

**4.4 SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Attendances at Percy House during March were 194 of which 106 (54.6%) were volunteers.

**4.5 TREASURER'S REPORT**

Currently the balance of the Unrestricted Fund was higher than expected and there had been an increase in Sales and Royalties.

The members of the Joyce Wakenshaw sub-committee had rejected payment of the annual subscription to *Ancestry*, at least for the next two years until the Society leaves Percy House, from the Restricted Fund. The matter was referred back to the Trustees who voted 9 to 1 in favour of paying this subscription out of the general budget. A possible increase in subscriptions to offset this was discussed.

**4.6 NDFHS ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR 2018**

The accounts had been completed but had not yet been received by the External Auditor. To be discussed at the May meeting with the Auditor in attendance.

#### **4.7 MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT**

The Current Membership is: 1403 UK members, 141 overseas, 7 life members, 1 life member overseas, 10 complimentary and 5 exchange giving a total of 1567 members who receive a copy of the Journal. In addition there are 133 UK joint membership, and 5 joint overseas members. The number of members opting to receive E-Journals has increased to 205.

#### **4.8 EDITOR'S REPORT**

The Editor is deferring taking the next edition of the Journal to the Printers to allow time to include the 2018 Accounts.

#### **4.9 NDFHS WEBSITE/IT**

Ongoing problems concerning access to the Members section of the Website were discussed although the actual cause is uncertain. In the next edition of the E-Journal it may be suggested that any members still having problems contact the Chairman directly via a separate email address to be given in the newsletter. Part of the problem may be that the Society does not hold up to date e-mail addresses for members and some members do not have e-mail addresses.

#### **4.10 OFFICER REPORTS**

##### **A. LIBRARY**

As part of a resorting of the Library some volumes are being moved around.

##### **B. VOLUNTEERS**

No report received.

##### **C. PROJECTS**

Nothing to report.

##### **D. PUBLICITY**

Posters has been distributed for the *Family History Festival* to be held on 11 May at Newcastle City Library.

##### **E. EVENTS**

The *Family History Festival* to be held on 11 May at Newcastle City Library.

#### **4.11 JOB DESCRIPTION – MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY**

Pat Franklin distributed a revised Job Description with only some adjustments. She cannot produce a new Job Description until the current problems with the Membership section of the website have been resolved.

#### **4.12 BRANCH REPORTS**

##### ALNWICK

The meeting on the 5 March 2019 was a talk by Professor Diana Whaley from Newcastle University and which was attended by 46 people. Diana explained how place names are related to original people who founded a place, landscapes, animals, vegetation or social activities. The invasions by Celts, Romans, Anglo Saxons, Vikings and Normans have all contributed words to make up place names. Currently the Professor and team are working on digitising the first Ordnance Survey of Northumberland undertaken in 1860 by the Royal Engineers. This record of transcription and images will be able to shed further information on places and their names.

### BELMONT

The meeting on the 20th March was attended by 21 people, 15 of whom were NDFHS members. Graham Soult gave an enjoyable power point, which included audience participation, about hidden features of north east Architecture.

### BLYTH

We had 14 members present at the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> March. We all had a most interesting talk on three members of Delaval family of Seaton Delaval Hall. This was presented by Ken Hutchinson.

### LONDON

No meeting March

### NEWCASTLE

The 24 present at our March meeting were given a superb talk by Prof John Derry on Queen Victoria. This started by explaining the route by which Victoria acceded to the throne and the family pressures and relationships so important in shaping her character. There was much change during her 64-year reign both in politics as well as in social attitude and the move from rural to industrial employment. Victoria took the throne at the age of 18 as a young innocent and naïve young women who enjoyed dancing and parties which was to change after the death of her husband, Albert. It is well known how her children were to marry into the European royal families which had a major impact on early 20<sup>th</sup> century history.

### NORTH TYNESIDE

The March meeting was attended by 12 members who enjoyed a very informative workshop with Joyce Jackman on Estate Papers.

### SOUTH TYNESIDE

The meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> March was attended by 10 people plus 1 apology, when the speaker was branch member Ann Franklin. The talk titled 'The Stowaway' is the story of a young English woman who, in the 1930s, stowed away on an epic journey from Melbourne to Stockholm aboard a Swedish windjammer and how this is connected to Ann's research into her own family history.

### TYNEDALE

The meeting on 14 March was attended by 10 members and 1 guest, and commenced with the Branch AGM when all existing officers were re-elected. The speaker was Tony Stephenson who gave a talk 'Dunston: Staiths, Steamers and Teemers'. Most of Dunston Staiths has been restored although there are on-going problems with arsonists. Steamers were the boats using the tide to come in with the least use of fuel; teemers organised the transfer of the coal into the boats (teeming means pouring in local dialect) while the trimmers shovelled the coal into place so that the loads were evenly distributed. The development of Dunston as a transport hub began in the 14th century and by 1621 coals were being transferred from wooden waggonways to keel boats, to be taken down river to Newcastle and Gateshead where they could be loaded into sea going vessels. By 1700 Dunston was the biggest port in England by tonnage and most of the population of Dunston were keelmen. The Staiths were closed in the

1970s and the site became derelict. In 1990 the Gateshead Garden Festival was a spur to the restoration of the area, much of which was grossly contaminated.

WANSBECK

A well attended meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup> March to hear Dudley George talking about DNA. This was an interesting talk which included an explanation of DNA as well as how DNA knowledge could influence medical work in the future and also, its use in Family History which has inspired some members to apply for a DNA search for themselves.

**4.13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

None

**4.14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 14 May 2019 at 2.00pm in Percy House.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 3.00 pm.

Signed as a correct record:

Date: