



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 14 MAY 2019 AT 2PM (05/2019)**

**PRESENT:** Joyce Jackman (Chairman), Douglas Burdon, Richard Calasca, Pat Franklin, John Heckels, Ian Hickey, Julie Hewitt, Rhoda Lee, John Ward, Joan Smith, Ann Franklin, Harry Aitchison

**APOLOGIES:** Carol Black, Dudley George, Wendy Stafford, Glenice Reed

**5.2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS (9.4..19)**

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> April 2019 were accepted as a true record – proposed by Julie Hewitt, seconded by Douglas Burdon, and signed as a true record by the Chairman Joyce Jackman.

**5.2 MATTERS ARISING**

It was noted Ian Hickey had been incorrectly named in the Minutes and apologies were extended to him for the error.

**5.3 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

It was suggested by the Chairman that when attending Family History events, it would be beneficial to have a laptop which would be linked to accept new memberships and which would give immediate access to the Members Section of the website.

**5.4 FREQUENCY OF NDFHS COUNCIL MEETINGS**

As reported in the April minutes, the Trustees were asked to give consideration to reducing the number of Council meetings held each year. It was confirmed the Constitution requires that a minimum 6 meetings are held per annum. Discussion ensued, during which the point was raised that if meetings are held bi-monthly, then there would be instances when Trustees could miss several meetings. However, it was agreed by a majority decision that following the AGM, Trustee Meetings will be held in September, November, January, March, April, May and July with additional meetings being called for urgent business.

**5.5 SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Attendances at Percy House during April were 192 of which 94 (48.9%) were volunteers. The Secretary also advised that e-mails have been sent out to Elected Trustees ahead of the AGM.

**5.6 TREASURER'S REPORT**

Unfortunately no monthly accounts were available as not all figures had been received. The Acting Treasurer commented it had been necessary to transfer funds from the Investment to Reserve Account.

## **5.7 NDFHS ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR 2018**

The Chairman introduced Niamh Cunningham, who was attending the meeting on behalf of Pete O'Hara, the Independent Auditor for NDFHS. The Auditors reported our bookkeeping is of a good standard and there are no major issues. The 2018 income was some £4,000 less than the previous year, and expenditure was on a par. It was recommended that over the next few years, the Society develop or expand upon a strategy on expenditure for the restricted fund. In conclusion the balance sheet is strong and the Society is "cash rich".

In response to queries raised, it was confirmed Dudley George has been re-appointed as a Trustee and on the question of reserves, the Society currently need to hold £88,000 to meet its obligations but this will reduce by continuing income and also obligations such as rent will reduce in the next few years.

## **5.8 MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT**

The Membership Secretary reported that whilst the membership is climbing steadily, it was still down on last year. Current Membership is: 1428 UK members, 150 overseas, 7 life members, 1 life member overseas, 10 complimentary and 5 exchange giving a total of 1601 members who receive a copy of the Journal. In addition there are 137 UK joint memberships, and 5 joint overseas members. The number of members opting to receive E-Journals has increased to 220.

## **5.9 EDITOR'S REPORT**

The Editor will be sending the Journal to the printers within the week, the delay being due to waiting for the Financial Accounts

## **5.10 NDFHS WEBSITE/IT**

Nothing new to report.

## **5.11 OFFICER REPORTS**

### **A. LIBRARY**

As part of re-sorting the Library, some books have been removed and taken to the auctioneers Anderson & Garland for valuation and subsequent re-sale.

### **B. VOLUNTEERS**

No report received.

### **C. PROJECTS**

MI and Wills projects are on-going. Work is currently being carried out on MIs in St Mary's Church, Heworth.

### **D. PUBLICITY**

Nothing new to report.

### **E. EVENTS**

The Family History Fair held at Newcastle City Library on the 11 May went well and the NDFHS have been asked to do this again on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2020. The Society will be attending the York Family History Event on the 22 June 2019.

## **5.12 JOB DESCRIPTION – LIBRARIAN**

It was confirmed there are no changes to be made to the Job Description for the Librarian.

## 5.13 BRANCH REPORTS

### ALNWICK

As part of the summer of fashion at Bailiffgate, Hilary Waugh gave a talk entitled "100 Years of Family Fashion", which was attended by 25 people. Beginning with a review of underwear, Hilary's talk continued with how fashion has always been dictated by men, such as in the Middle Ages a wife was only entitled to wear the cloth and style allowed by a husband's status, and there were punishments for transgressing this. Another major issue was how much greater almost everyone's body size is now than in previous generations. WW1 was a time of radical change in the lives of men and women, with another fashion liberation occurring in the 1950s, when the teenager was invented as a free entity not bounded by convention. Moving on to the 1960's, male dress became even more extreme, with brightly patterned Hippyshirts, which could not have been further from their fathers' dress code

### BELMONT

At the meeting on the 17th April 2019 Joyce Jackman gave an interesting and well received PowerPoint Presentation entitled 'The Parish Chest'; in her talk she discussed what researchers may discover such as Church Warden records. 26 people attended of which 18 were NDFHS members.

### BLYTH

No report received.

### LONDON

No report received for March/April.

### NEWCASTLE

There were 30 members present at our April meeting when the speaker was John Boothroyd; his subject was "Central Gateshead Disappears": John was a librarian at Gateshead Library when a local photographer, Steve Woods, deposited a large number of slides with the library. A selection of these photos covering the central area was the basis of this presentation which centered on the 1960s huge redevelopment which took place mainly due to slum clearance and new transport links. The talk was well delivered and should be of general interest to other Branches

### NORTH TYNESIDE

12 members enjoyed a talk by Susan Lynn entitled 'Dockwray Square, Rise, Fall and Renaissance'. Dockwray Square in North Shields was situated above the Quayside overlooking the mouth of the Tyne. It was home to merchants, shipowners, Stan Laurel and many more interesting families. Over the years it fell into disrepair and the houses became multi occupied even though there was no water supply to them, only a well in the yard. They were eventually pulled down and the area cleared. In recent years new houses have been built on the site resembling the old ones with a statue of Stan Laurel in the centre and the area has once again become a desirable place to live.

### SOUTH TYNESIDE

15 people, with 1 apology, attended the meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> May when Anthea Lang gave an in-depth and informative talk on the Holborn area of South Shields and its history.

### TYNEDALE

The meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> April, attended by 11 members, was a talk by Janet Goodridge on 'Houses of Correction'. Currently Museums Officer for West Northumberland, Janet talked about the history of Houses of Correction, with particular reference to the one on Burn Lane in Hexham. Houses of Correction began under the Tudors with the intention of being able to improve and retrain petty offenders so that they would mend their ways, rather than place them in gaols with hardened offenders. The House of Correction in Hexham opened in 1784 – it had night cells above and 3 yards – one small one for women, one for men and one for the keeper who had a small house there. It was extended in the 1820s. Male prisoners could be chained or locked up when the keeper was out. Offenders could be held for 8 days for a first offence and 14 for a second offence. It closed in 1843 when it was decided such prisoners should go to Morpeth gaol. Subsequently it had various uses until a large part was demolished in the early 1970s. The remainder is now listed as a Grade 2 building.

### WANSBECK

23 people attended the meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> April to hear Janet Goodridge talking about the Border Reivers. Janet told us about the Reivers in a wide ranging, interesting and informative way. Although she was talking about terrible times she brought humour to her talk. She brought a selection of artefacts which included maps, pictures, clothes and court records.

#### **5.14 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

None

#### **5.15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 11 June 2019 at 2.00pm in Percy House.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 2.40 pm.

Signed as a correct record:

Date: