

## **COUNTY DURHAM FORUM FOR HISTORY AND HERITAGE**

### **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY 29 OCTOBER 2016 AT THE SEVEN HILLS CENTRE, DURHAM GATE**

**Apologies:** John Grundy, Gill Wetherell, Jim Coxon, David Blair, Helen Barker, Cliff Brown, John Moreels, Shincliffe, Sedgfield, Brancepeth LHSs, Northern Archaeology.

Gill Kirkbride on behalf of Seven Hills welcomed everyone.

Chairman's Report: Win apologised for John Grundy our President who very much regretted that he and we had not realised that the date of the AGM coincided with a family celebration of his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday arranged for that date at the other end of the country.

Chairman referred to the events organised by the Forum during the past year including What is happening Twixt Tyne and Tees, today's privileged visit to Seven Hills and forward planning of Yesterday Belongs to You in July 2017. There is continued collaboration with Durham County Record Office, and the Bowes and Beamish Museums. Forum members participated in the training workshops at Auckland Castle run by Bowes and Beamish and attended the very successful Sunderland History Fair. In planning 2017 Yesterday Belongs to You the Committee keeps in close contact with the organisers of the event. As a member of the council of the national British Association for Local History, the Chair continues to raise issues relating to the interests of the Forum and its members. The Forum provides a quarterly electronic newsletter to all its members and is anxious to promote this more proactively to promote members' activities and interests. In general, while very pleased by the interest shown by today's attendees despite the problems of location she had been somewhat disappointed by the level of involvement shown by the wider membership over the past year. In addition to recruiting new members the Forum needed more support and participation from existing members if it was to continue to provide and extend its services. She thanked the members of the Committee for their continuing hard work and support and pointed out that the Committee was always happy to welcome new members.

Membership Secretary's Report: we have had an increase in membership from 63 to 68 which includes 48 group memberships,

Treasurer's Report: this was circulated and is attached. Proposed increase in membership fees to £20 and individual to £6 from March 2017. Seconded and approved. To be included in next newsletter. He indicated his wish to stand down as Treasurer but would reluctantly carry on.

Election of Officers: all are willing to stand again. Proposed by Keith Pounder and seconded by Ian Finlayson. Chair reiterated we would always welcome new committee members.

Yesterday Belongs to You: this would be held at Beamish in two marquees on Saturday 15 July 2017 and planning with Museum was well in hand. It was pointed out groups may need to take account of the different type of attendance implied by the venue with more children and families attending.

Meeting was followed by a tour of the DLI Collection to see the exhibits and an explanation of the outreach work which would enable a wider public to appreciate the facilities offered. This will be reported in the next newsletter.