



Scottish Local History Forum

Scottish Charity Number: SCO 15850

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Clydebank Town Hall

9th OCTOBER - 2015

Present

Finlay McKichan (Acting Hon Chair)
Jan Bateman (Hon Secretary)
Eric Graham (Hon Treasurer)
Don Martin (Hon Vice Chair & Publications Board Chair)
Diana Webster (Trustee: Events)
Douglas Lockhart (Trustee: Journal Sales)
Anthony Cooke (Trustee)
Graham Clark (Trustee)
John Anderson
Sheena Andrew
Jean Barclay
Paul Bishop
James Boyd
Moirá Brown
Samuel David Carson
Linda Clark
Lynn Corrigan
Graeme Cruickshank
Jack Davis
Jennifer Giles
John Harrison
Ian Holland
Les Jenkins
Helena Koumbouzis
Bill Morrison
Sandra Purves
Bill Purves
Alison Ramsay
George Robertson
Bill Sadler
Eric Simpson
Michael Thomson

Alistair MacKenzie Weir
Chris Whatley

Apologies

John Irvine (Hon Chair)
David Ritchie (Trustee)
Carrie Watt
Louise Boreham

Minutes of Last Meeting

Proposed: Tony Cooke
Seconded: Graham Clark

Annual Report – Finlay McKichan (Acting Hon Chair)

After explaining John Irvine's absence due to back injury and sending wishes for a speedy recovery, Finlay began by extending thanks to the Publications Board, and particularly Don Martin, for their splendid and considerable efforts in continuing the Forum's Journal in its current format which has been complimented by so many of our members. In 2014/5 we have issued journals in the Spring and Autumn with another to follow later this year.

Thanks were given to Diana Webster for her skills and the considerable effort involved in arranging the Forum's conferences. The 2014 Conference was held in the AK Bell in Perth with the subject of "On the Wrong Side of the Law". There were two 2015 Walk and Talk events: one marking the 700th anniversary of Edward Bruce's campaign held in Ayr in conjunction with the Ulster Historical Foundation and the Ayrshire Archeological and Natural History Society; and another marking the 250th anniversary of the birth of Thomas Muir of Huntershill in Edinburgh in conjunction with the Friends of Thomas Muir Society. They were both a resounding success and blessed with good weather.

Diana Webster is also editor of the e-newsletter *Clish-Clash* which provides timely information on local history events and publications. It is produced approximately every 2 months and is sent to all members who have provided us with an email address and can also be downloaded from our website.

Thanks were also given to Eric Graham & Jan Bateman as Hon Treasurer and Hon Secretary respectively. Our finances are in good shape, with an annual surplus, unlike last year when we invested some reserves in our website. Finlay praised the website, thanks to the efforts of Jan and the help and advice of our consultant Jackie Marsh from Ealanta. The website is now a much better public face for the Forum and source of information for members. It is also taking a substantial sum in online credit card payments for events, memberships and back-issues - a total of nearly three and a half thousand pounds up to the end of the current

financial year. During this past year, Finlay reported that we also trialed a service to member societies to promote, take online orders and payments for their publications. Member societies were encouraged to go online to submit details to promote their organisations and events.

Douglas Lockhart was thanked – he has been a great asset helping recruit new members and promoting journal sales. The income from sales of back issues last year reached the remarkable figure of £1907. Douglas has attended several new events to promote the Forum; including fairs of sister organisations. Membership figures remain good, despite the economic climate and cut backs in public bodies. It was particularly gratifying to welcome 58 new members in 2014/15.

Other trustees, in addition to the Chairman John Irvine, are Graham Clark, David Ritchie, Tony Cook and Finlay McKichan, all of whom play an active part.

The Advisory Committee consists of representatives of member organisations, and is designed to facilitate consultation by the Trustees and to ensure that the Forum reflects the needs of this important element of its membership. It meets approximately every six months in Edinburgh. Current members are Linda Clark, Seamus Coleman, Helena Kambousis, Alan Provan, Graham Roberts and David Smith. Finlay welcomed this year Jennifer Giles from the National Library of Scotland as a new member. The Trustees are grateful for their good counsel.

Finlay was delighted to report that during the past year Prof Chris Whatley had accepted our nomination to become our first Honorary President. The Forum is proud to honour in this way one of the leading figures in the world of Scottish history and believe that his very considerable contribution to local history makes his nomination particularly appropriate. From his chairmanship of the conference, Chris was thanked as having already begun to make a contribution to the work of the Forum.

In June this year the Scottish Local History Forum lobbied the Scottish Parliament regarding the threats to Scotland's Historical Resources, such as local libraries, museums and archive services. This was in the form of a letter to the Convener of the Education and Culture Committee. There has been no response to date!

Finlay then went on to present plans for the coming year. The Forum had to increase the cost of membership for the coming year (as approved by last year's AGM) to contribute to increases in the cost of printing and postage. This was the first increase for many years.

The Trustees hope to increase the number of outlets for retail sales of the Journal. Following the trial last year, the service of taking orders and online payments for publications of member societies will be expanded. It also earns the Forum a small commission. The Trustees have also agreed to seek appropriate sponsors for the conference in future years. The successful "walk and talk" smaller events in different areas of the country are to be continued and the Trustees are currently considering one for spring 2016 in Inverness, thus increasing our visibility well beyond the Central Belt, and in Edinburgh. The 2016 conference on 7 October

will be on the topic of defensive houses, for which the Forum will be revisiting the AK Bell Centre in Perth.

Accounts for the Year 2014-2015 – Eric Graham (Hon Treasurer)

Copies of the accounts were distributed to those present and are available online on the Forum's website. The reserves (depleted somewhat last year to invest in the website) have been almost restored to their previous level and are more than adequate (Forum policy is to have sufficient funds to produce 2 issues of the journal plus hold an Emergency AGM). The revenue for the year was about the same as last year at £14,638 (£14,845 for 2013/4) but expenditure was much lower (£11,917 compared with £17,962) so that the financial year (31st July) ended with comfortable reserves of £10,843 (compared with £8,122 last year and £11,239 the year before). Acceptance of the accounts were proposed by Sheena Andrew, seconded by John Harrison and unanimously agreed by those present.

Subscriptions for 2016 – 2017

It was proposed by the Hon Treasurer, Eric Graham, seconded by John Harrison and George Robertson (and unanimously agreed by those present) that the annual subscription fee stay the same for the current year. Fees for the year 2016/2017 will remain as follows:

Individual member: £23
Organisational member: £29
Organisational member (2 copies): £37
Student member: £13
Overseas member: £43.

Election of Officers and Trustees

The following were unanimously re-elected as officers and Trustees of the Scottish Local History Forum:

John Irvine (Hon Chair)
Eric Graham (Hon Treasurer)
Jan Bateman (Hon Secretary)
Don Martin (Hon Vice Chair)
Finlay McKichan (Trustee)
Diana Webster (Trustee)
Douglas Lockhart (Trustee)
David Ritchie (Trustee)
Anthony Cooke (Trustee)
Graham Clark (Trustee).

The following were unanimously elected as new Trustees:
Graeme Cruickshank (proposed Don Martin, seconded Eric Graham)
Bill Sadler (proposed George Dixon, seconded Don Martin).

The members of the Advisory Committee do not need to stand for re-election until they have completed 3 years service. The current members of the Advisory Committee are:

Linda Clark
Seamus (James) Coleman
Helena Koumbouzis
Alan Provan
Graham Roberts
David Smith.

The following was proposed by Finlay McKichan, seconded by Diana Webster and unanimously elected as a new member of the Advisory Committee:
Jennifer Giles.

The following was proposed by Finlay McKichan, seconded by Douglas Lockhart and unanimously elected as Honorary President:
Prof Chris Whatley.

Appointment of External Examiner

The External Examiner for the accounts 2014-2015 was Mark Gallagher, EQ Accountants, CA. Eric Graham (Hon Treasurer) proposed that Mark Gallagher was again appointed as External Examiner for the year 2015-2016. It was seconded by Graham Clark and John Harrison and agreed unanimously.

Any Other Business

The date for the next AGM will be 7th October 2016. There being no other business raised, the AGM was declared closed by the Acting Chair, Finlay McKichan.