



# Scottish Local History Forum

Scottish Charity Number: SCO 15850

## MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

A K Bell Library, Perth

27th OCTOBER – 2018

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### Present

Chris Whatley (Hon President)  
John Irvine (Hon Chair)  
Don Martin (Hon Vice Chair)  
Jan Bateman (Hon Treasurer & Hon Secretary)  
Paul Bishop (Trustee)  
Graham Clark (Trustee)  
Anthony Cook (Trustee)  
Steve Connelly (Trustee)  
James Kennedy (Trustee)  
Douglas Lockhart (Trustee)  
Finlay McKichan (Trustee)  
Bill Sadler (Trustee)  
Diana Webster (Trustee)

John Anderson  
Caroline Boswell  
Alexander Bremner  
Rosemary Calder  
Marie Calder  
Elaine Campbell  
Sybil Cavanagh  
Graham Clark  
Linda Clark  
Hannah Connelly  
Stephen Connelly  
Sarah Dallman  
Jack Davis  
Elaine Edwards  
Jennifer Giles  
Eric Gotts  
Joyce Holt  
Kirstie Holt  
Les Jenkins

Andrew Jones  
Joyce Kelly  
Mr J A R Kerby  
Anne Law  
Pam McLeod  
Moiria McCord  
Iain McIntosh  
Allan McLean  
Nancy McWilliam  
Jenni Meldrum  
Margie Mellis  
Chris Moore  
William Morrison  
David Orr  
Ros Pearson  
Carol Primrose  
Dave Reid  
Linda Riddell  
Eric Simpson  
Nora Solebury  
Michael Taylor  
Ruaridh Wishart

### **Apologies**

Nanette Anderson  
Iona Roberts  
Graeme Cruickshank  
Eric Graham

### **Minutes of Last Meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting (copies available on the website and on request at the AGM) were:

Proposed: Eric Gotts

Seconded: James Kennedy

### **Annual Report – John Irvine (Hon Chair)**

John thanked all the Trustees but particularly Steve Connelly who organized the conference this year. John also announced that he was stepping down as Chair this year, although remaining a Trustee.

In addition to the 2018 conference a regional Walk and Talk events was organized to the Tall Ships/Govan Stones.

Particular thanks were also given to Don Martin and Douglas Lockhart (Editor and Deputy Editor) for their splendid and considerable efforts in continuing the Forum's Journal in its current

format which has been praised by so many of our members. In 2017/18 we have issued Journals in the spring and autumn with another to follow later this year. Douglas' work in attending history fairs to promote the Forum and sell back-issues of the Journal (as well as fulfilling the orders we receive online and from retail outlets) has been key. We continue to be heartened by the take-up by the various select organisations (such as National Library of Scotland, National Galleries of Scotland, and Register House etc) with whom we have retail arrangements.

Thanks were given to Diana Webster, 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 by anyone from our website.

Our website continues to provide an excellent public face of the Forum and has enabled members and non-members alike to register (and pay for) attendance at our events, purchase back issues of the Journal, and pay for membership online. Member societies can promote themselves more widely by submitting a profile and also advertise their own events free of charge. We encourage them to do so. We also allow member societies to promote and sell their publications on our website. We currently have 27 books and a CD for sale as well as our own Journal back issues.

Our major project for the past year was the development and hosting of a comprehensive online Directory of Scottish Local History resources on the Forum's website. The Project is a collaboration between Scottish Local History Forum, the National Library of Scotland and Local Studies Scotland (LOCSCOT) sub-group of CILIP (Chartered Institute of Librarians and Information Professionals). The project has been made possible by work placement students from the Information & Library Studies programme at the University of Strathclyde hosted by the National Library of Scotland and a very generous bequest from Dr Margaret Bainbridge. The Project started in September 2017 and went live in April 2018. In addition to providing an invaluable tool to professional and amateur researchers and historians, the ancestral tourism market, local history societies as well as professional Librarians, Curators and Archivists, the Project is expected to raise the profile of the Forum. We are now promoting the Directory to secure listings. It is free to use and free for organisations to provide details of their resources. We ask all members to encourage their local museums, archives, local history libraries and other organisations which may hold resources to submit a listing.

We also need to focus on expanding membership. We ask all members to encourage friends and family who may have an interest in local history to join, or consider purchasing for them a gift membership online, in time for Christmas!

### **Accounts for the Year 2017-2018 – Jan Bateman (Hon Treasurer)**

Jan announced that the accounts had been approved by the Accountant. The expenditure in the last year was higher than usual due to the agreed investment (made possible by the generous bequest last year) in both the website (to support the Directory) and the commemorative "bumper" issue 100 of the Journal. Copies of the draft accounts were available to those present and showed a loss of £7148 (2017 was a surplus of £24811 which

included the bequest). The Forum's policy is to have sufficient funds to produce 2 issues of the journal plus hold an Emergency AGM. The financial year ended with very comfortable reserves of £29,430 (compared with £36,547 last year) and so no immediate action need be taken. Jan confirmed in response to a question from the floor that the increase in website costs was due to the agreed investment in the Directory. Acceptance of the accounts was unanimously agreed by those present.

There had been some discussion at last year's AGM of the Forum offering insurance cover to its organisational members (as part of the membership benefits). In response to a question from the floor, Jan explained that initial enquiries showed that it could be more cost effective than other current arrangements, but that it would need to be included in an (increased) membership fee and would therefore apply to all members (ie they could not opt in or out). Since many organizational members already have insurance in place (eg Libraries through Council arrangements) the Trustees felt that it would not be feasible to implement such a scheme.

### **Changes to the Constitution**

Finlay McKichan explained that the present version of the SLHF Constitution dates from the 2012 AGM. The Trustees at their meeting on 25 June 2018 decided to propose constitutional amendments, the principal effect of which would be to remove the clauses limiting the service of office bearers and committee members. Although it is recognised that it is good practice, if possible, to limit the term of office, it is considered necessary because of the difficulty of recruiting replacements willing and able to perform the now considerable workload involved. For the sake of flexibility the Trustees also wish to name in the constitution only the principal office bearers, ie Chair, Vice Chair, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer. Other positions would be listed in the Standing Orders (which the Trustees have authority to amend under Clause 4.7 of the 2012 constitution).

Accordingly, Finlay McKichan (on behalf of the Trustees) recommended to this AGM (and it was agreed by a majority of 17 of those present with one against and one abstention) the following amendments to the constitution adopted on 26 October 2012:-

Clause 10.1: delete Honorary Editor and Assistant Editor.

Delete Clauses 11.2, 12 and that part of Clause 15 which limits service of committee members.

The Trustees also wish to regularise the situation by which the Forum's accounts are published on its website rather than its journal. They accordingly recommended (and it was unanimously agreed by those present) that:-

The last sentence of Clause 18.3 be amended to read 'A copy of such accounts shall be available to all members attending the AGM and shall be published on the Forum's website'.

### **Subscriptions for 2019 – 2020**

It was proposed by the Hon Treasurer, Jan Bateman and unanimously agreed by those present that there is no change to the annual subscription fees next year. Fees for the year 2019/2020 will therefore 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:

Paul Bishop (Hon Chair)  
Douglas Lockhart (Hon Vice Chair)  
Jan Bateman (Hon Treasurer)  
Bill Sadler (Hon Secretary)  
Steve Connelly (Trustee)  
Graeme Cruickshank (Trustee)  
John Irvine (Trustee)  
James Kennedy (Trustee)  
Don Martin (Trustee)  
Finlay McKichan (Trustee)  
Diana Webster (Trustee)

Anthony Cooke and Graham Clark did not seek re-election as Trustees and were thanked for their considerable contributions.

There was one vacancy for Trustee but no nominations from the floor.

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 (2013 & 2016)  
Helena Koumbouzis (2013 & 2016)  
Graham Roberts (2014 & 2017)  
David Smith (2014 & 2017)  
Jennifer Giles (2015).

Nicola Cowmeadow was unanimously elected to the Advisory Committee.

James Kennedy stepped down from the Advisory Committee to join the Trustees. Alan Proven did not seek re-election to the Advisory Committee and was thanked for his considerable contribution.

### **Appointment of External Examiner**

The External Examiner for the accounts 2017-2018 was Mark Gallagher, EQ Accountants, CA. Jan Bateman (Hon Treasurer) proposed that Mark Gallagher was again appointed as External Examiner for the year 2018-2019. It was agreed unanimously by those present.

### **Any Other Business**

The date and location for the next AGM is to be determined but will be in October 2019. The new Chair, Paul Bishop gave special thanks to John Irvine who stepped down as Chair during the year having taken on the mantle at a difficult time and guided the Forum to its current stable condition. There being no other business raised, the AGM was declared closed by Paul.