

**SECRETARY'S REPORT
for the Year June 2022 - May 2023**

(1) Programme during the Past Year

The Programme, as printed for 2022-2023 and distributed to members, was followed as outlined here. Talks by visiting speakers covered the following topics: 'Agecroft Hall' by Christine Herd; and 'The Last Laugh of the Railway King' by Geoff Scargill. Talks by Society Members were 'Cardinal Langley of Middleton Pt. 2', (Peter Briggs); and 'Witchcraft in 17th Century Lancashire', (Mark Johnson and Michael Lawson). Because of confusion in dates Keith Warrender was again unable to attend in April and the talk 'Chadderton's Claims to Fame', first given to members in January 2008, was repeated by Mark Johnson and Michael Lawson.

Visits were made to Milnrow Town Centre – Pt. 2; Middleton Old Grammar School with Middleton Parish Church; St. Thomas' Church, Werneth; whilst the local history ramble was 'Murder Most Foul', retracing a local murder trail from 1927.

In December, members were able to peruse the substantial material on Chadderton's industrial development, which is in the Society's archives. The themed party in March was 'Trouble a' t' Mill', a Lancashire Evening with members coming in appropriate costume.

(2a) Membership and Attendance

Since May 2022, no new members have joined the Society, either Full or Associate. Full Membership is approximately 38. In addition to 11 Associate (Country) members, who don't pay the full subscription, there are also 15 Honorary Members who are no longer able to attend meetings and pay no subscription fees. All these figures need to be verified as soon as possible following this year's AGM as the various membership figures have not been clear following the Coronavirus lockdown.

Average attendance at the two talks given by visiting speakers was 25, down 4 on the pre-Covid year 2019-2020. The three talks by the Society's own members attracted the following numbers of people: 'Cardinal Langley' (Pt. 2) 25; 'Witchcraft in 17th Century Lancashire' 24; and 'Chadderton's Claims to Fame' (replacing Keith Warrender 22. This gave an average of 24, which was a decrease of 3 on 2021-2022, and a decrease of 8 on pre-Covid 2018-19.

The average attendance on the three visits to places of interest was 16, which was a decrease of 2 on last year, and a decrease of 12 on the average attendance in pre-Covid 2018-19. The highest attendance was 20, when the Society visited Middleton Old Grammar School and Middleton Parish Church.

The local history ramble, which was the 'Murder Most Foul', trail, attracted 17 (14 members and 3 guests), which was a decrease of 2 on last year.

The annual themed party in March was a Lancashire Evening 'Trouble a' t' Mill'. Unfortunately, only 12 members (no guests) attended, with a further five who had indicated attendance, being unable to come on the night. This was a decrease of 8 on 2022, and a decrease of 15 on the pre-Covid party held in 2020. Most members came in appropriate costume, with suitable music and a quiz on Lancashire, adding to the evening's enjoyment. As Christine was on holiday, refreshments were bought in from a catering firm. These were meat and potato pie, or cheese and onion pie, followed by apple pie with cream. Members who attended were given 'occupation stickers' indicating their role within a cotton mill, and this was also used as a raffle ticket for a box of chocolate biscuits, this being won by Brian Kennedy, a Drawframe Tenter. The winners of the quiz were the 'Strippers and Grinders' who scored 21 out of a possible 25.

(2b) Honorary Membership and Deceased Members

No-one has been made an Honorary Member during this past year but several members who can no longer attend meetings await this procedure. It is sad to report that during the past year we have had the deaths of members Annice Potts, Alan Clegg, Dougie Farrington and Elsie Lawson, the latter being wife of our Secretary. Members attended Annice's funeral at St. Matthew's Church and Elsie's Requiem Mass at St. Herbert's Church. We were also informed that Associate Member Neville Denson, of St. Bees, Cumbria, who once worked for Chadderton Council, had died in February 2022. Condolences were sent to families of the above. Plaques in memory of deceased members are affixed to our Memorial Lectern.

(2c) Members' Celebratory, Get Well and Condolences Cards

Congratulatory Cards are sent to Members celebrating special occasions, while Sympathy Cards are sent to families of deceased members. All these are also acknowledged in the Society's Newsletter 'The Griffin'.

(2d) Trustees' and Committee Meetings

No meetings have taken place during the past year. Hopefully, this will be remedied before the next AGM. The Coronavirus outbreak and its aftermath, has certainly thrown many things into disarray.



CHADDERTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Founded 1975 Registered Charity Number 1172946

Income and Expenditure Accounts – Year Ended 31st March 2023

Income

Members Subscriptions		532.00
Donations		
Visitors Etc	45.00	
Donations to Party Food	65.00	112.00
Raffles		180.00
Total Income April 1st 2022 – 31st March 2023		<u>824.00</u>

Expenditure

Speakers Fees	90.00	
Donations & Subscriptions		
St Leonard's Middleton Visit	50.00	
Oldham Mayors Charity Appeal	50.00	
St Thomas's Church Werneth Visit	50.00	
Lancashire Local History Federation	8.00	
British Association of Local History	<u>75.00</u>	
	233.00	
Room Rent to Chadderton FC	370.00	
Purchase of Archive Material (Ebay etc)	27.78	
Secretarial Expenses	309.05	
Poppy Wreath (Remembrance Sunday)	20.00	
Catering – Arundel Bakery (Party Night)	85.00	
Total Expenditure April 1st 2022 – 31st March 2023		<u>1134.83</u>
Excess Income over Expenditure		310.83

Examined and found correct:

Independent Examiner.....*R.M. Kennedy*.....

Date.....*25-4-2023*.....

Balance at Bank: £3439.56

NB: Includes £500.00 held 'in trust' for Foxdenton Hall

Chairman: Mark J Johnson

M.J. Johnson

Acting Treasurer: Chairman

M.J. Johnson