

Hebden Bridge Local History Society

Report of the trustees for the year ending 31st August 2023

Objectives and Activities

The purpose of the charity is to advance the education of the public in the history, heritage and culture of Hebden Bridge, the Upper Calder Valley and surrounding areas.

The Society held a series of twelve talks on a wide range of historical topics given by speakers with expert knowledge in the subject. Talks were open to members and visitors in a fully accessible town centre venue and advertised in advance. The talks were also recorded and made available to members after the event. A report of each talk was published in the local paper, in the Society newsletter and on the website.

The Society maintains a local history archive at the Birchcliffe Centre in Hebden Bridge. This has been open to members and visitors on two afternoons each week. Archive staff were on hand to help with general research as well as family history. In addition, archive staff answered queries by email from both members and non-members. The archive is now on the national register of archives. This will allow the Society to make sections of the catalogue available on Archives Hub and the National Archives Discovery Catalogue thereby widening access to the content. Through links with Pennine Heritage, Huddersfield University staff and students also made significant use of the archive.

The Society has a published booklist of 17 books on a wide range of topics relevant to the history of the Upper Calder Valley and surrounding areas. These are available in local outlets and via the Society's website. A new title, *Traditional Food in the South Pennines*, was published this year and work continued in preparing *Little Hill Farm* and the *Heptonstall Court Rolls* for publication in the future. The Society joined with the Halifax Probate Group at Halifax Minster in October to celebrate the completion of the transcription of wills and inventories for all the townships in the Parish of Halifax from 1688 to 1700.

In planning activities for the year, the Society kept in mind the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and fee charging. The membership subscription was kept at £15 per year. Visitors to lectures were charged £4. Use of the archive by members is free but £3 for visitors. Queries by email cost £2 for members and £5 for non-members. The Society's website has been updated and includes a wealth of information on the Society's activities and the history of the local area. The price of books is kept as low as possible to just cover publication costs.

Volunteers

The Society is run entirely by volunteer trustees and members. The trustees were greatly helped during the year by several volunteers. Diana Monahan helped with technical set-up and used her extensive knowledge to answer queries, John Crampton and James Botten assisted with cataloguing in the archive, members of the Family History group supported enquiries and research, John Billingsley kept the Folklore Group alive, and David Shepherd advised members on pre-history matters.

Achievements and Performance

Membership numbers continued to be strong at 223 members.

Talks

A full series of 12 talks took place in the Methodist Church from September to March. With consent from the speakers the talks were recorded, and the recordings were made available to members to view at home. This enabled members who don't live locally or can't attend on a Wednesday evening to watch the talks. An average of 86 people accessed each talk in person or online and a total of 85 visitors attended in person. The response to the talks was very positive –

"I was unable to come along last night but have just watched the video. What an excellent presentation!" (17th century Yeoman Farmhouses)

"Exceptionally interesting historical account of the development of the tea trade. Well presented." (Tea in 18th century Britain)

"Please pass on my congratulations to the speakers for their diligent research and excellent presentation. I watched that one twice as it had so many different aspects and have now been today to the Bankfield Museum to see the pictures on exhibition." (Landscape paintings of John Holland)

Archive

The Society received a number of donations of items for the archive during the year including:

- the papers of Malcolm and Freda Heywood, who were involved in the publication of *Pennine Valley* in 1992 and the *History of Todmorden* in 1996,
- Andrew Bibby's extensive research notes for his book *All Our Own Work* on the co-operative Nutclough Mill,
- The papers of Mary Attack, a nurse, donated by her relative, Barbara Attack,
- Papers from the Hebden Bridge Piano Festival, the Town Twinning Society, Mayroyd Action Group and the early papers of Todmorden Cricket Club.

Preservation and cataloguing of these and other donations continued with help from volunteers. Archive staff answered 14 queries by email and 264 documents were consulted in person by members and visitors.

Exhibitions

Material from the archive was used in the creation of an exhibition at the Town Hall in Hebden Bridge by the Natural History Society.

Publications

The Society published *Traditional Food in the South Pennines* by Peter Brears, with beautiful hand drawn illustrations by the author. *The Medieval Park of Erringden* and *City in the Hills* were both reprinted, the latter for the third time.

Financial Review

The Society's aim is to fund the talks, administration of the society and the running of the archive from income other than that received from book sales. This allows the proceeds of current book sales to be used to fund the publication of future titles. This arrangement allows the Society to remain viable if there are no new books published. Major expenditure on work like the redesign of the website and the purchase of new shelving for the archive has been funded from legacy income that the Society had built up prior to becoming a charity.

The Society had £22,800 in unrestricted funds at the end of the financial year. The main financial risks to the Society are loss of premises to house the archive, damage to archive items and storage space, reduction in membership numbers, loss of premises to hold the talks and an inability to recruit sufficient trustees and other volunteers. The Society aims to keep £10,000 in reserves to cover the risks.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Society is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). It is administered by a management committee of trustees, which can have up to 12 members. The committee meets every 2 months. In accordance with the constitution one third of trustees retire each year at the annual general meeting but they are eligible for re-election. New trustees can be elected at the AGM to fill vacancies or can be appointed by the trustees during the year. All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no remuneration or other benefit.

As a new charity the Society is in the process of developing policies to guide its activities. This year policies on financial controls, trustee conflicts of interests and trustee expenses have been approved by the trustees. Work is ongoing on a risk register which should identify any other policies that are required.

The Society works in partnership with Pennine Heritage Ltd (registered charity no: 509974) as South Pennine Archives. The Society follows relevant policies of Pennine Heritage and Hebden Bridge Methodist Church for its activities at the archives and lecture hall respectively.

Reference and Administrative Details

Hebden Bridge Local History Society (HBLHS), charity No. 1196787, is registered at The Birchcliffe Centre, Birchcliffe Road, Hebden Bridge, HX7 8DG.

Trustees

All trustees were appointed at the AGM of 26th October 2022

Murray Seccombe – Chair
Barbara Hall – Secretary
Rachel Smith – Treasurer
Nigel Smith – Archivist
Barbara Attack

David Cant
Hilary Fellows
Sheila Graham
Sarah Keates
Anne Mealia

Hebden Bridge Local History Society **1196787**

Receipts and payments accounts

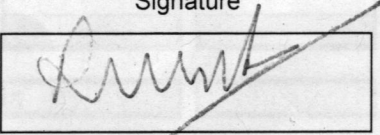
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For the period from	01/09/2022	To	31/08/2023
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Transfer from unincorporated association - Hebden Bridge Local History Society					21,914
Membership subscriptions	3,071	-	-	3,071	600
Visitors to lectures	340			340	
Donations	296	-	-	296	2,500
Sale of Publications	3,828	-	-	3,828	424
Queries	70	-	-	70	47
Bank interest	70			70	
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	7,675	-	-	7,675	25,485
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	7,675	-	-	7,675	25,485
A3 Payments					
Cost of lectures	1,440	-	-	1,440	386
Administration	710	-	-	710	603
Archive costs	2,083	-	-	2,083	886
Newsletters	180	-	-	180	223
Cost of publications	2,518	-	-	2,518	1,322
Sub total	6,931	-	-	6,931	3,420
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	6,931	-	-	6,931	3,420
Net of receipts/(payments)	744	-	-	744	22,065
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	22,066	-	-	22,066	-
Cash funds this year end	22,810	-	-	22,810	22,065

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Current account	7,594	-	-
	Savings account	15,069		
	PayPal account	97	-	-
	Cash account	50	-	-
	Total cash funds	22,810	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	-	-	-
	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
		Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities	Details		-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees		Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
			R M SECCOMBE	25/10/23



CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

HERBEN BRIDGE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

On accounts for the year
ended

31/08/2023

Charity no
(if any)

1196787

Set out on pages

1 & 2

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 08 2023

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent
examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (~~other than that disclosed below~~ *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

David Bryan

Date:

14.10.23

Name:

DAVID BRYAN

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

ACCA

Address:

1 EDWARD STREET

HERBEN BRIDGE

HX7 8DF