

Hebden Bridge Local History Society

Report of the trustees for the year ending 31st August 2024

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 furthers its charitable purposes for the public benefit through a lecture programme, archive collections, a website, special interest groups and publications.

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

The local history archive at the Birchcliffe Centre in Hebden Bridge is open to members and visitors on two afternoons each week. Archive staff are on hand to help with general research as well as family history. In addition, archive staff answer queries by email from both members and non-members.

The website provides information on all the activities undertaken by the Society as well as access to the archive catalogue, copies of newsletters, and research resources including monumental inscriptions and the work of the Charlestown History Group.

The Society has a published booklist of 18 books on a wide range of topics relevant to the history of the Upper Calder Valley and surrounding areas. These are available to buy in local outlets and via the Society's website and to consult in libraries in Calderdale.

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, Keith Stansfield and other 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 193 members, down on last year but still well above numbers prior to Covid.

Talks

Despite problems with building work and heating at the venue there were eleven talks this year. Subjects ranged from a history of town twinning in Hebden Royd to tents in the landscape and Hebden Hey in Cragg, a local farm that moved. Eight of the talks were given by members of the Society which is testament to the breadth of knowledge amongst the membership. The talks were well attended with an average of 45 members and visitors on the night and 35 members who watched the recordings.

Archive

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

- Fabric sample books for 1903 and 1905. Donated by Rebekah Fozard on behalf of Hebden Bridge Arts Festival.
- Research into the history of the Mytholm area. Donated by James Botten
- Hebden Bridge Arts Festival programmes and photographs. Donated by Graham Packham.
- Boxes of artwork, calendars, portraits of the Farrers and miscellaneous items. Donated by Pam Jordan.
- Video cassettes, slides and paper on the history of Todmorden hospitals. Donated by Gerard Wainwright

Preservation and cataloguing of these and other donations continued with help from volunteers. Archive staff answered 10 queries by email and 427 documents were consulted in person by a total of 29 members and visitors. Through links with Pennine Heritage, Huddersfield University staff and students also made significant use of the archive.

Website

A major addition to the research resources on the website this year was the settlement section. This has information on the history of named settlements, fields in the township of Stansfield in 1805 and buildings and streets in Hebden Bridge and is the result of extensive research undertaken by members of the Society.

Exhibitions

The Society facilitated two exhibitions on historical subjects at the Town Hall in Hebden Bridge.

Publications

439 books were sold during the year - 268 through retail outlets, 88 through the website and 83 directly to members and visitors and at events.

The Society was delighted to publish a revised edition of *The Little Hill Farm* by W.B. Crump, first published in 1951. The book was greatly enhanced by the new illustrations drawn by Peter Brears. The review in the Yorkshire Archaeological Journal said it all: "Hebden Bridge Local History Society has produced another excellent publication, a collaborative and imaginative tribute to the efforts of an important regional historian. Crump rescued much for posterity; the Hebden Bridge group has returned the compliment."

Hebden Bridge and the Railway by David Taylor was reprinted.

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.

At the end of the financial year the Society had £23,303 in unrestricted funds. The main financial risks are the loss of premises to house the archive, damage to archive items and storage space, a 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.

Following the resignation of the Chair at the last AGM none of the existing trustees felt able to take on the role. It was therefore agreed to rotate the position of Chair at meetings and to redistribute the other responsibilities amongst the other trustees. This arrangement has worked well this year.

The Society has continued to develop policies to guide its activities. This year a policy on serious incident reporting has been approved by the trustees.

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 served for the full year.

Barbara Hall – Secretary
Rachel Smith – Treasurer
Nigel Smith – Archivist
Barbara Atack
David Cant
Hilary Fellows
Sheila Graham
Sarah Keates
Anne Mealia

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustee's report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees.

Signature: 

Full name: BARBARA HALL,

Position: Secretary

Signature: 

Full name: RACHEL SMITH

Position: Treasurer

Date: 23.10.24

Hebden Bridge Local History Society

1196787

Receipts and payments accounts

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For the period
from

01/09/2023

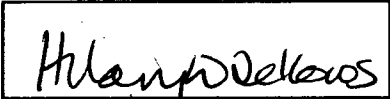
To

31/08/2024

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					
Membership subscriptions	2,524	-	-	2,524	3,071
Visitors to lectures	244			244	340
Donations	57	-	-	57	296
Sale of Publications	3,112	-	-	3,112	3,828
Queries	131	-	-	131	70
Bank interest	371			371	70
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	6,439	-	-	6,439	7,675
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	6,439	-	-	6,439	7,675
A3 Payments					
Cost of lectures	1,058	-	-	1,058	1,440
Administration	1,839	-	-	1,839	710
Archive costs	1,402	-	-	1,402	2,083
Newsletters	49	-	-	49	180
Cost of publications	1,598	-	-	1,598	2,518
Sub total	5,946	-	-	5,946	6,931
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	5,946	-	-	5,946	6,931
Net of receipts/(payments)	493	-	-	493	744
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	22,810	-	-	22,810	22,066
Cash funds this year end	23,303	-	-	23,303	22,810

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	2,119	-	-
	Savings account	10,238		
	32 day account	10,203		
	PayPal account	693	-	-
	Cash account	50	-	-
	Total cash funds (agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	23,303	-	-
		OK Unrestricted funds to nearest £	OK Restricted funds to nearest £	OK Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees		Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
			HILARY W. FELLOWS	23/10/24



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

Charity Name
Hebden Bridge Local History Society

On accounts for the year
ended

31st August 2024

Charity no
(if any)

1196787

Set out on pages

1&2

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 / 08 / 2024.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity's trustees, 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 all 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 in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report 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:

Date:

19.10.24

Name:

DAVID BRYAN

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

ASSOCIATION OF CHARTERED CERTIFIED ACCOUNTANTS

Address:

1 EDWARD STREET, HEBDEN BRIDGE, HX7 8DF