

KENT HISTORY FEDERATION

Minutes of the quarterly meeting held at about 2.35 pm on Friday 2 June 2017,
in the Darent Room, County Hall, Maidstone

Present

Mrs Jackie Grebby (Chairman and Editor), Dr Maurice Raraty (Vice-President and Vice-Chairman), Revd Dr Peter Rowe (President, Secretary and Reviews Editor), Mr Robin Thomas (Treasurer), Mrs Jenny Blackburn (Member of KHF Executive Committee) and 15 representatives of affiliated societies.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Dr Tim Moreton (Kent Portrait Survey), Mr Richard Linning (KHF Committee and Sandwich), Dr John Bulaitis (Canterbury Christ Church University), Dr Sheila Sweetinburgh (Canterbury Christ Church University), Alan Ridgers and Christoph Bull (Gravesend), Sylvia Golding (Hawkhurst), Dr Mark Bateson (Kent Heritage Services), Irina Fridman (Medway Archive Centre), Jacqui Linning (Sandwich), Dr Nick Hudd (Tenterden), Dr Sandra Dunster (University of Greenwich), Dr Ben Marsh (University of Kent), Dr Mark Hurst (University of Kent), and Dr John Whyman (Personal Member).

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 3 March 2017

Subject to the reference to Mr Alan Williams' society in Minute 1 (Apologies for absence) being corrected from Otham to Otford, the minutes were approved as drawn and signed by Mrs Grebby.

3. Matters arising (not dealt with anywhere else in the Agenda)

None.

4. Chairman's Report

Mrs Grebby had nothing to add to the report she had given to the AGM held immediately before this meeting.

5. Secretary's Report

Dr Rowe explained that he would be 72 by the time of the next AGM, and that he was aware that he was slowing down. He would like to stand down as Secretary while he could still do the job as it needed to be done. He spoke of his part on behalf of the Federation in supporting the Sandwich Society's One Day Conference, and was grateful to the Sandwich Society for all the help they had given him.

6. Treasurer's Report

Mr Thomas explained to the meeting that he was currently unable to give a comprehensive picture of the one Day Conference held in Sandwich on 20 May 2017, because he did not yet have all relevant figures to hand. The income was just in excess of £2200, but he had not received all the bills from the Sandwich society. The day had made a profit, but he could not be more specific at present.

7. *Journal of Kent History*

7.1 Editor's Report

Mrs Grebby said that she was making a start on the September issue of the *Journal*. She had a number of articles, but could always do with more, especially if they were illustrated. The number of copies of each issue of the *Journal* ordered had fallen since she had first become Editor. Perhaps this could be explained by each affiliated society now getting a free copy of each issue as a benefit of membership of the Federation.

She singled out for special mention the fact that the Bearsted Society had already ordered 46 copies of the September issue. This news was met with applause.

7.2 Review Editor's Report

Dr Rowe said that he already had five reviews for the next issue of the Journal, and that he was grateful to those who undertook to write reviews.

8. Sandwich One Day Conference: Saturday 20 May 2017

In the absence of Mr Richard Linning who had masterminded the work of the Sandwich society in hosting the 2017 One Day Conference, it fell to those present to share with others at the meeting their experiences. Guidance to the car parks was felt to be very good, although one or two people had been a bit confused. The food was excellent.

Several people asked after the health of the gentleman who had been taken ill during one of the morning lectures. As far as was known, he was recovering. It was felt, for future reference, that chairs should not be linked together as had been the case at Sandwich. The fact that they were linked had made it more difficult to assist the gentleman taken ill. It also meant that those of a substantial girth were too close to their neighbours. If the chairs had been separate, there would have been more room for the individuals affected.

Mention was made of the afternoon visits, and how some could be completed very quickly. For example, it was pointed out that the visit to the new museum could be accomplished in only a few minutes by anyone already familiar with its predecessor because, apart from Magna Carta and the documents found with it, there did not seem to be much that was new.

Some had found the walk difficult, because pavements were narrow and ambient traffic noise had made it difficult to hear what the guides were saying.

There was general agreement that apart from such relatively minor hiccups the day had been a great success, and that all in Sandwich were to be congratulated for 'putting on such an excellent show.'

9. Canterbury Christ Church University Tudors and Stuarts One Day Conference on Saturday 12 May 2018, and ODCs thereafter

Dr Sheila Sweetinburgh was not able to attend the meeting. Dr Rowe said that he had spoken to her in Sandwich, and that she had confirmed to him that she had made a start on the necessary arrangements. She would be invited to Executive Committee meetings in the next twelve months, to keep the Federation up to date.

No Society had yet offered to host the 2019 One Day Conference. Mrs Grebby urged all present to think about the possibility of their own society, either alone or with one or two other societies, offering a programme for 2019.

10. Kent Portrait Survey

Dr Tim Moreton had sent his apologies to the meeting on the grounds of illness, and had added that he had nothing to report on the Kent Portrait Survey

11. Reports

11.1 Kent Heritage Services (KHS)

A report was summarised by Dr Rowe on behalf of KHS. It is attached.

11.2 Medway Archives Centre (MAC)

A report was read by Dr Rowe on behalf of MALSC. It is attached.

11.3 CPRE Kent Historic Buildings Committee

No report was received.

11.4 University of Kent

No report had been received by the time of the meeting, but one was sent subsequently. It is attached.

11.5 Canterbury Christ Church University

A report was summarised by Dr Rowe on behalf of the university. It is attached.

11.6 University of Greenwich

The university had been in touch to say that it had nothing to report.

11.7 Kent Archaeological Society (KAS)

Mr Jonathan Fryer reported that at its recent AGM KAS had become a new legal entity and had adopted a new constitution as a result.

KAS had set up a £1000 annual bursary for schools to encourage local history or archaeological projects. This was in memory of Ian Coulson.

Work was being done to prepare a strategy to support archaeology in Kent which would include collaboration with organisations with similar aims.

Cataloguing of some 30,000 illustrations in the KAS Archive is underway.

It was hoped that KAS would have a new, clearer, and user-friendly website shortly.

Three conferences were planned for the end of the year. Mr Fryer would give further details at the next meeting, but some information was already available on the KAS website (<http://www.kentarchaeology.org.uk/>)

11.8 British Association for Local History

A report was read by Miss Susan Lavender on behalf of BALH. It is attached.

11.9 Workers' Educational Association

Mrs Marion Pont said that WEA had nothing to report. She went on to report the death of Richard Filmer. His funeral was to be private, but it was hoped that there would be a memorial service later.

12. Societies' publications

None were reported.

13. Any other business

Penny Duggan, the new Secretary of the Bexley Historical Society, had emailed Mrs Grebby to ask if anyone knew the contact details of John Logan Short who was due to give a talk to her society in September. If anybody had any information, please would they contact Penny Duggan on pennyduggan@yahoo.co.uk.

Mrs Grebby told the meeting that she had just changed the password to access the Federation's speakers' list on the website. It would be given to any society which had renewed its subscription for 2016-17, if they emailed her to ask for it.

Mr Alan Taylor (Folkestone) told the meeting that Folkestone Town Council had received a £1.95 million Heritage Lottery grant in October 2015 to turn part of the Town Hall in Guildhall Street into a museum to house the collection formerly housed in the Library on Grace Hill, and more recently in the care of KCC. The museum, on two floors, covered five main themes of Folkestone's history: ancient, frontline, natural, fashion and maritime. The museum would be open daily from May to September between 10 am and 4 pm.

14. Date of next meeting

Friday 1 September 2017, in County Hall, Maidstone, at 2.00pm.

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Date:

Chairman

Attachments:

Minute 11.1 KHS Report

Minute 11.2 MAC Report

Minute 11.4 University of Kent Report

Minute 11.5 Canterbury Christ Church University Report

Minute 11.8 British Association for Local History Report