

KENT HISTORY FEDERATION ('KHF')
**DISCUSSION PAPER FOR THE DISSOLUTION OF THE KHF TO BE
CONSIDERED AT ITS MEETING ON MONDAY 4 MARCH 2019**

Background

A few weeks ago a letter was sent from me as KHF President to all affiliated society members of the KHF, the KHF's personal members, and to others interested in the local history scene in Kent. Although the letter was from me it was circulated by both email and post on behalf of KHF by our Chairman and Webmaster, Mrs Jackie Grebby. I want to place on record our warm gratitude to Jackie for undertaking this time-consuming task at a time when she was not at all well. A copy of my letter is attached to this Discussion Paper (Enclosure 1).

My letter flowed out of discussions at our November 2018 executive committee meeting, and the broader discussion at our December 2018 quarterly meeting in Maidstone. The minutes of the December meeting are on the KHF website, but a copy is attached for your ease of reference (Enclosure 2).

About twenty people have been in touch either with Jackie or directly with me, and most say that they understand and sympathise with the difficulties the KHF is experiencing in getting anybody to take a leadership role within our Federation. Some correspondents have stressed that they have this difficulty even where they report growing numbers and levels of enthusiasm among their members who, notwithstanding, are not prepared to help the organisation to keep going by joining its committee or becoming one of its officers. Others have reported that they are experiencing reductions in general membership as well as an unwillingness to help keep the relevant show on the road. Most expressed their thanks for the work done by KHF officers and committee members.

One person offered to become the KHF Treasurer and another its webmaster. In addition, an offer was received from a school which was prepared to help in any way it could. Jackie took forward discussions with the people who had made the offers in respect of being Treasurer and webmaster, and the school, and reported to the KHF committee meeting held on 11 February 2019. The committee decided not to take any of these offers any further until after the 4 March quarterly meeting.

By way of background, I attach a copy of the KHF's constitution (Enclosure 3), which was also considered at the committee meeting (although not found to be particularly helpful in the current circumstances).

Meeting of the executive committee of the KHF held on 11 February 2019

The committee had a full discussion concerning KHF's apparent inability to continue. Jackie and I both stressed to the meeting that we had been trying to step down from our respective posts for nearly two years, for reasons of health and age in both cases, without either of us having received any realistic offers of help which would have enabled us to pass on our accumulated experience to others who would then have been able to keep the KHF going with a new Treasurer, webmaster, and assistance from the school. We both felt that if we agreed to keep going for, say, another year in the probably forlorn hope that our replacements would very shortly appear, we were simply putting off the inevitable. Neither of us felt that we were well enough to risk it. If offers to become chairman, editor, secretary and one or two other things as well had been

received, and those making the offers had been put in post immediately, with our helping them to get well established to the extent that our help was needed, both Jackie and I who value highly both the KHF and the *Journal of Kent History* would gladly have done that. Unfortunately, that is not the position and so the committee agreed to put before the March 2019 quarterly meeting the resolution set out below.

Resolution to be considered at the March 2019 quarterly meeting of the KHF

RESOLVED THAT the Kent History Federation (KHF) cease its activities with effect from the end of its current financial year (31 March 2019) and in due course be formally dissolved, and that

1. A formal resolution for dissolving the KHF be put at the 2019 AGM of the KHF (Monday 3 June 2019), which would be the last meeting of the KHF;
2. The current officers and executive committee of the KHF do have all reasonable powers between now and the said AGM and thereafter to take all necessary steps to give effect to the orderly dissolution of the KHF including, but not limited to,
 - a. ceasing to publish the *Journal of Kent History* (the March 2019 issue of which will be its last issue),
 - b. making arrangements (if any are reasonably practicable) for another publication catering for local historians in the historic County of Kent to continue to publish articles and reviews of books of interest to such local historians, and to contain news of and advertisements concerning local history societies in Kent, provided that no officer or executive committee member of the KHF shall have any ongoing obligations in respect of any such matters,
 - c. making arrangements (if any are reasonably practicable) for another body to maintain the Speakers' List such that that body becomes totally responsible for it in future,
 - d. settling all the KHF's outstanding debts (including sorting out once and for all the non-invoicing of hire charges by County Hall for quarterly meetings held there over several recent years),
 - e. reimbursing any subscribers for copies of the *Journal* whose subscriptions would still have been in place if the publication of the *Journal* were not being discontinued,
 - f. in due course destroying such papers of the KHF which they deem no longer reasonably necessary to retain, and making arrangements for the archiving in an appropriate repository of such papers as they decide are of permanent interest (such as agendas and minutes, and a complete run of the *Journal of Kent History*,
 - g. if any are applied for pursuant to Paragraph 9 of the KHF's constitution, making grants or loans as therein provided to any affiliated society of the KHF, and
 - h. distributing all remaining assets of the KHF to such Kent local history-related charity or charities as the current officers and executive committee of the KHF deem appropriate, giving due consideration to (but not being bound by) any suggestions in that regard made by members of the KHF;
3. There shall be made to those present at the June 2019 AGM a report on behalf of the current officers and executive committee of the KHF concerning all the steps taken or to be taken under the provisions of paragraph 2 of this Resolution. After the statement has

been made and discussed, a resolution shall be put to the AGM formally to adopt and ratify such steps.

Invitation to next quarterly meeting: Monday 4 March 2019 at 1.00 pm in the Archives Centre, Maidstone

I repeat my earlier invitation to as many of you as can manage it to attend our March 2019 quarterly meeting. It begins at 1.00 pm in the Archives Centre, Maidstone, on Monday 4 March 2019. You will note that it is not on a Friday, is not at 2.00 m, and is not in County Hall.

The following details of the venue come from the Kent Archives website:

Kent History and Library Centre

James Whatman Way

Maidstone

Kent ME14 1LQ

Tel: 03000 41 31 31

Email: archives@kent.gov.uk

Travel and parking

Directions: The Centre is on the A229, on the second roundabout between junction 6 of the M20 and Maidstone town centre.

Public transport: Bus routes 101, 150 and 155 stop on the side of the building.

Parking: Free designated parking for Blue Badge holders at the front of the building.

27 Pay & Display spaces by the riverside near the library on James Whatman Way. There is also plenty of cycle parking at the front of the building.

It is also a few minutes' walk from Maidstone East railway station.

Details of Park & Ride arrangements in Maidstone are on

http://www.maidstone.gov.uk/home/primary-services/parking-and-streets/additional-areas/park-And-ride#park_and_ride_sites

Other car parking arrangements in Maidstone are on

http://www.maidstone.gov.uk/home/primary-services/parking-and-streets/primary-areas/car-park-locations#about_our_car_parks

We shall look forward to seeing you at that meeting.

The Revd Dr Peter Rowe

President and Acting Secretary, Kent History Federation

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Enclosures:

1. My letter of 12 January 2019
2. Minutes of KHF quarterly meeting held on Friday 7 December 2018
3. Constitution of the Kent History Federation