

KENT HISTORY FEDERATION

Minutes of the quarterly meeting held at 1.00 pm on Monday 4 March 2019,
in the Kent History and Library Centre, James Whatman Way, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1LQ

Present

Mrs Jackie Grebby (Chairman and Editor), Dr Maurice Raraty (Vice-President and Vice-Chairman), Revd Dr Peter Rowe (President, Acting Secretary and Reviews Editor), Dr Tim Moreton (Kent Portrait Survey), Mr Richard Linning (KHF Executive Committee), Mrs Jenny Blackburn (KHF Executive Committee), Dr Sheila Sweetinburgh (KHF Executive Committee), and 28 representatives of affiliated societies.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Dr John Whyman (Personal Member), Bryan More (Capel), Dr John Bulaitis (Canterbury Christ Church University), Andrew Moffat (Fawkham and Shorne), Norma Crowe (Medway Archives Centre), Anne Hughes (Hadlow), Sylvia Golding (Hawkhurst), Alan Williams (Otford), Jacqui Linning (Sandwich) and Dr Nick Hudd (Tenterden).

2. Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting held on 7 December 2018

These 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 Jackie Grebby thanked Kent Archives for allowing the Federation to meet in its main archive room in the Kent History and Library Centre in Maidstone. She noted that the number of representatives attending this meeting was noticeably larger than at recent quarterly meetings, and was grateful for the interest that this showed as the Federation faced very difficult decisions.

Mrs Grebby went on to say that the last three months had been interesting. There had been quite a number of responses to the 12 January 2019 letter from the Federation's President (The Revd Dr Peter Rowe), many of which expressed thanks to the officers and executive committee for all that they had done, and sympathising with their inability to continue to keep the Federation going because of issues to do with age and increasing ill health, and other commitments. The correspondence also contained a number of suggestions, none of which could not be taken further in the continued absence of offers to replace her as Federation Chairman, Editor of the *Journal of Kent History*, and administrator of both the Federation's data base and website, or Dr Rowe as Federation Secretary, Reviews Editor of the *Journal* or coordinator on behalf of the Federation of One Day Conferences. One person had offered to be Treasurer, and another person had offered to take on the website. A secondary school had offered to help the Federation, but without experienced officers remaining in post it was difficult to see how any these offers could be utilised.

5. Secretary's Report

Dr Rowe concurred with everything that Mrs Grebby had said concerning him in her report, and added only that he had spent quite a lot of time since the last meeting in preparing his letter to the Federation and discussing and the drafting of the dissolution resolution that was to be discussed late in the meeting. He was especially grateful to the executive committee for their input, and for helpful suggestions received from Andrew Moffat, erstwhile Secretary of the Kent Archaeological Society.

6. Treasurer's Report

Mr Robin Thomas was not present at the meeting and had not submitted a report. In the circumstances, Mrs Grebby referred to the minutes of the executive committee's meeting held on 11 February 2019, which read as follows:

Robin reported that he had considered what money would be left in the KHF's bank accounts on its dissolution. The following is a summary:

<i>Money in hand</i>	<i>c £9050.00</i>
<i>Less Outstanding payments due to KCC for County Hall Bookings</i>	<i>Not known</i>
<i>Expenses to be claimed by Jackie, Robin and Peter</i>	<i>c £300.00</i>
<i>Repayment of JKH subscriptions</i>	<i>c £400.00</i>
<i>Registration of website until 2022</i>	<i>c £200.00</i>
<i>Approximate sum available post deduction of known sums</i>	<i>c £8150.00</i>

Robin mentioned that the KHF's subscription to BALH (including insurance cover) expired in December 2019, and would not be renewed if the KHF was in the meantime dissolved.

À propos the outstanding County Hall meeting charges owed to KCC, Richard offered to contact KCC on behalf of KHF, seeking confirmation that there were actually no charges outstanding. It was agreed that he should do so.

[After the meeting, Robin emailed to Richard, Jackie and Peter details of what invoices had been received and paid to KCC in recent years:

We paid £190 for the June 2012 meeting and after that demands and so payments became erratic, with no more payments in the year to 31 March 2013

We paid in the year to March 2014 five payments- £190, £150, £190, £190, and £228. The £228 payment included use of a projector

We made one payment of £190 in the year to March 2015

We made no payments in the year to March 2016

We made no payments in the year to March 2017

We made no payments in the year to March 2018

We have so far made no payments in the year to March 2019.]

7. Journal of Kent History

7.1 Editor's Report

Mrs Grebby said that there had been a dearth of new articles for publication in the March 2019 issue of the *Journal* and that, in the circumstances, she had had to eke out the issue by including articles and other material, some already published many years ago. These included an article by Dr John Whyman on 'The South Eastern Railway raised Folkestone to fashionable heights', first published in the Autumn 1974 issue of *Cantium*; 'Catholic Recusancy in Kent 1559-1800', by Christopher Buckingham, first published in the first issue of *Cantium* (January 1969); a piece on 'Bread ovens and lye' by Pat Winzar who had been founding editor of the *Journal* and 'Routes from Ashford to Maidstone and from there to London, etc', by Arthur Ruderman. The number of book reviews that she had received was also fewer than usual. She felt that the March 2019 issue of the *Journal* would likely be the last.

7.2 Review Editor's Report

Dr Rowe said that he had managed to get reviewers for every book he had received up to Christmas 2018, and to get them over to Mrs Grebby for inclusion in the March issue. He had received none since then and, if any were subsequently received, he would return them to the publishers if there were to be no more issues of the *Journal*.

8. One Day Conferences in 2019 and thereafter

Dr Rowe reported that the position remained that no society had offered to host a one day conference in 2019. He added that although Faversham had mooted that it could help in 2020, that would likely not be proceeded with if the Federation decided not to continue in existence.

9. Kent Portrait Survey

Dr Tim Moreton said that he had nothing to report.

Mrs Grebby decided to deal with agenda items 'Reports' and 'Societies Publications' before moving to the discussion about the dissolution of the Federation.

11. Reports

11.1 Kent Archives and Local History Service (KALHS)

A report was received and is attached..

11.2 Medway Archives Centre (MAC)

A report was received and is attached.

11.3 CPRE Kent Historic Buildings Committee

Dr Susan Pittman said that she had nothing to add to the report she made to the previous meeting.

11.4 University of Kent

A report was received and is attached.

11.5 CCCU, Centre for Kent History and Heritage

A report was received and is attached.

11.6 University of Greenwich

No report was received.

11.7 Kent Archaeological Society (KAS)

Mrs Sheila Broomfield referred to a number of future events being organised by KAS. Full details can be found on the KAS website's home page (<https://www.kentarchaeology.org.uk/>), scrolling down to 'Upcoming Events'.

11.8 British Association for Local History

A report was received and is attached.

11.9 Workers' Educational Association

A report was received and it is attached,

12. Societies' publications

Alan Taylor (Folkestone) drew attention to the newly published *A.E. Horton. His Life and Autographs*. It costs £6.00 plus £2.00 p&p and may be obtained from Alan Taylor of the Folkestone Society (E: ALTAYL439@aol.com.) Other currently available books can be found on <https://www.folkestonehistory.org/index.php?page=publications>.

Shiela Broomfield (KAS) told the meeting that *Tonbridge through ten centuries*, originally published in 2015, was still available at the reduced price of £10.00 from Tonbridge Historical Society at <http://www.tonbridgehistory.org.uk/thshthspublications.htm>.

Mrs Grebby then took the meeting back to agenda item 10.

10. Discussion about the dissolution of the Kent History Federation.

Mrs Grebby referred to Dr Rowe's letter to the Federation dated 12 January 2019, and the Discussion Paper concerning the Dissolution of the Federation circulated with the Agenda for

the meeting, as was the current Constitution of the Kent History Federation. She read through the draft Resolution included in the Discussion Paper and there followed a muted and brief discussion.

Two amendments were proposed to the Resolution, as follows:

1. In the first line of the Resolution insert 'day to day' before 'activities'; and
2. Insert a new numbered paragraph 1 (which would affect the numbering of all succeeding numbered paragraphs) reading as follows:

A resolution be put at the 2019 AGM of the KHF (3 June 2019) to the effect that pursuant to paragraph 10 of the Constitution, the Constitution be amended such that a motion to dissolve the KHF may be put at an annual general meeting, and providing further that such a motion to dissolve may be put at the same annual general meeting at which the Constitution was thus amended

These two amendments were agreed by all present.

The thus amended Resolution then read as follows:

'RESOLVED THAT the Kent History Federation (KHF) cease its day to day 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 resolution be put at the 2019 AGM of the KHF (3 June 2019) to the effect that pursuant to paragraph 10 of the Constitution, the Constitution be amended such that a motion to dissolve the KHF may be put at an annual general meeting, and providing further that such a motion to dissolve may be put at the same annual general meeting at which the Constitution was thus amended;
2. 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;
3. 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;
- 4 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 3 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.'

The amended Resolution was then proposed by Shiela Broomfield and seconded by Peter Rate, and approved *nem con*,

13. Any other business

Mrs Grebby told the meeting that as the June AGM would be fairly short, it would be rounded off with presentations on Horatia Nelson by Dr Nick Hudd (Tenterden) and the Graveney Boat by Dr Charles Turner (Faversham).

Gerald Cramp, President of the Kent Archaeology Society reminded the meeting that the KAS was founded in 1857 and has its objectives the promotion of study of archaeology and history in all their branches, especially within the ancient County of Kent. At the time of its foundation, the word 'archaeology' included local history, genealogy and similar subjects, and this broad remit is still adhered to. As the KAS website

<https://www.kentarchaeology.org.uk> puts it: the Society's interests are not confined to fieldwork. Its objectives cover archaeology and local history in the widest sense. They include historic buildings, genealogy, industrial archaeology and local history.

He added that those who mourned the passing of the *Journal of Kent History* should remember the KAS publications, *Archaeologia Cantiana* and the KAS Newsletter, and consider submitting articles and other pieces to them.

Sheila Broomfield proposed a vote of thanks to Mrs Jackie Grebby for all the work she had done to keep the Federation going until now. This was met with prolonged applause.

14. Date of next meeting

Monday 3 June 2019, in the Archives Centre, Maidstone, at 1.00 pm.

The meeting closed at about 2.15 pm

.....
Chairman

Date:

Reports:

- Minute 11.1 Kent Archives and Local History Service
- Minute 11.2 Medway Archives Centre
- Minute 11.4 University of Kent
- Minute 11.5 CCCU, Centre for Kent History and Heritage
- Minute 11.8 British Association for Local History Report
- Minute 11.9 Workers' Educational Association Report