



### Acting Chairman's Report for 2019/20 AGM

#### 1. Introduction

Since this is my last report as Chairman I thought it would be useful if I provided an overview of what has happened during my five years at the helm. I took over the role at the 2015 AGM which was held in Wickham. For the first year, I was Acting Chairman and then for the next three years, the maximum permitted by the Constitution, I served formally as Chairman. At last year's AGM I agreed to serve for a further year as Acting Chairman. It does not need me to remind you that this year has been blighted by the Covid-19 crisis so after the Annual Lecture the events which had been organised, namely the Community Archive Forum; Spring Symposium; and Summer Outing all had to be postponed. Moreover, it was felt that, due to the ongoing uncertainty, arrangements for the Autumn Outing and 2021 Annual Lecture should be put on hold and that the AGM should be held 'virtually'.

#### 2. Local History events for the period 2015-2020

2.1 Annual Lectures (January) - held at the Hampshire Record Office unless otherwise indicated

Year	Speaker	Title
2016	Barbara Yorke	Anglo-Saxon Saints of Southern Hampshire and the Christianisation of the Solent Region and Germany
2017*	Alistair Dougall	'Blood and misery in this sad tragedie' and 'Deceived people! Deluded countreyemen': the nature and impact of the Civil War in Hampshire.
2018	Amanda Richardson	'Hunting, Hounds and Hospitality in 16 <sup>th</sup> -century English Deer Parks: a social and gendered perspective.'
2019	Joan Tumblety	Napoleon III: ambition, exile and the English
2020	James Thomas	Celebrating George III's birthday: the experience of Hampshire

\* This lecture was held on 18 November 2016 at the Winchester Discovery Centre to coincide with an exhibition.

2.2 Community Archive Forum (March) – held at the Hampshire Record Office

This was an initiative launched by the Hampshire Record Office (HRO) in 2017 to serve as an opportunity for representatives of local history societies and related organisations from all parts of the county to showcase what they had been doing; to network; to share their experiences; and to learn from each other. The inspiration for the Forum came from Matthew Goodwin, a temporary employee of the Record Office. I attended the first Forum and realised its potential. Consequently, I suggested to Matthew that he and I collaborated in organising the 2018 Forum. Following his departure in early 2019, Heather Needham assisted with the arrangements for that year. The 2020 Forum was planned as a joint venture with the Hampshire Archives Trust (HAT). Although oversubscribed, it was unfortunately the first casualty of the lockdown. In order to maintain the momentum, Barry Shurlock, David Roberts and I have been researching and writing a series of articles about local history groups and their activities in Hampshire. To date, three have been published, two in the *Hampshire Archives Trust Newsletter* and the other in the *Hampshire Field Club Newsletter*. It is planned to publish more in the future. In addition, talks by four of those, who would have presented in March, have been streamed during the early autumn and a number are being made available via the Hampshire Archives Trust and Hampshire Field Club websites.

### 2.3 Spring Symposia (March/April) - held at the Hampshire Record Office

Year	Theme
2016	Women: Their Contributions to Hampshire's History
2017	Literary Hampshire: Historical Perspectives
2018	Hampshire and the Wider World
2019	Childhood and Adolescence
(2020)	Anniversaries and Memorialisation

Since 2018 the symposium has been a joint venture with the Wessex Centre at the University of Winchester. Unfortunately, efforts to encourage contributors to write up their presentation as articles for the Newsletter have not been very successful.

### 2.4 Summer Outing (late June/early July)

Year	Location	Host Organisation
2016	Kingsclere*	Kingsclere Heritage Association
2017	Alresford	Alresford Historical and Literary Society
2018	East Meon	East Meon History Group
2019	Lymington	Lymington and District History Society and Milford-on-Sea Historical Record Society
(2020)	East Woodhay	East Woodhay Local History Group

\*This outing was the subject of an article in the Spring 2017 edition of the *Newsletter*, which compared and contrasted our experiences in 2016 with those of Field Club members who had visited Kingsclere back in 1895.

### 2.5 Autumn Outing (late September)

Year	Location	Host Organisation
2016	Gosport	Gosport U3A History Group
2017	Bitterne	Bitterne Local History Society
2018	Christchurch*	Christchurch History Society
2019	Hook	Hook Local History Group

\* Particular help was received from Stephen Lowy, a past chairman of the Local History Section and Committee Member, in organising this outing.

Roger Ottewill

## **Secretary's Report for 2019/20**

Activity this year has involved the regular meetings – and I am grateful to Val Ottewill for covering when I haven't been able to attend – and preparations for the Community Archive Forum and the Symposium. Much of the leg work of arranging speakers and booking rooms has been done by others, but I have, with assistance from a friend, put together the programmes for the CAF and the Symposium. Finding images for the programmes has been challenging and interesting; it can be difficult to express visually a concept such as “memorialisation”. I hope to continue working with a new Chair or rotating Chair in the coming year.

Georgia Corrick

## Newsletter Editor's Report for 2019/20

The Local History section of the Newsletter has relied in recent years on both regular and occasional contributors. Apart from the regular update from HRO on its accessions and activities, and one or more book reviews (mostly by the editor), each issue usually contains two articles on aspects of the county's history. Regular contributors in the period 2015-20 have included Roger Ottewill (5 articles), Jane Hurst and Mark Page (3 articles each), Chris Corcoran, Alec Samuels and Pat Thompson (2 articles each), together providing 17 articles in all. A further 7 articles were written by one-off contributors. These figures point to the importance of regular contributors in providing enough copy to fill the section's allotted 7 pages per issue. Since I took over as editor in 1997, however, filling the space has rarely been a problem despite the loss of some earlier stalwarts, of whom George Watts is especially missed. I have little doubt that some recent one-off contributors will provide additional articles in the future.

Mark Page

## Appointment of Officers and Committee Members for 2020/21

Current officer holders and committee members and their future intentions are shown below:

Name	Office	Intentions for 2020/21
Richard Aldous	Treasurer	Wishes to wait until the pandemic is over before indicating his intentions
Sam Butcher		Willing to continue as committee member
Georgia Corrick	Secretary	Willing to continue as office holder and committee member
Michael Hicks		Willing to continue as committee member
Stephen Lowy		Willing to continue as committee member
Val Ottewill		Retiring from committee
Roger Ottewill	Acting Chairman	Retiring as Chairman but willing to continue as committee member
Mark Page	Newsletter Editor	Willing to continue as office holder and committee member
David Roberts		Willing to continue as committee member
Simon Sandall		Willing to continue as committee member
Barry Shurlock		Willing to continue as committee member
Mary South		Retiring from committee

We are very grateful to Val Ottewill and Mary South for their services to the Committee and Section.

Mary Harris, Edward Fennell and Barry Jolly have expressed their willingness to join the committee for 2020/21.

## Briefing notes: The Way Ahead

In view of the uncertainties and difficulties associated with the pandemic it is felt that this would be a good opportunity to review the activities and possibly the constitution of the Local History Section. To this end when circumstances permit it is hoped to arrange a 'socially distanced' brainstorming session to which all committee members and other interested parties will be invited to attend. Some briefing notes to guide the discussion are set out below for comment.

### Back to Basics: Extract from Local History Section Constitution

1. THE aims of the Section are
  - 1.1 The encouragement of research, investigation of historical evidence, both documentary and physical relating to the history of Hampshire and its component parts, such as parishes, towns and families.
  - 1.2 The promotion of information on the county's history by means of lectures, seminars, day schools, exhibitions, guided visits and excursions.
  - 1.3 The dissemination of historical knowledge and awareness throughout the county for the benefit of all.
  - 1.4 Co-operation with other bodies whose aims are similar to those of the Section.
2. THE Section shall support the Society by providing contributions under the Section's head for the Society Newsletter and any other relevant publication produced by the Society.

### Pre-Covid Annual Programme of Activities

January (Friday evening at Hampshire Record Office): **Annual Lecture**.

March (Saturday half day at Hampshire Record Office): **Community Archive Forum** (organised jointly with the Hampshire Archives Trust).

Late April/early May (whole day at Hampshire Record Office): **Spring Symposium** (organised jointly with the Wessex Centre at the University of Winchester).

Late June/early July: **Summer Outing** (usually organised in collaboration with a local history society).

Late September/early October: **Autumn Outing** (usually organised in collaboration with a local history society) combined with the AGM.

### Questions for Consideration

1. Do these activities fit with the aims as set out in the Constitution?
2. Does the content and/or wording of the constitution need to be amended?
3. How might the co-operation mentioned in aim 1.4 be strengthened?
4. Are there too many/too few activities?
5. What would be an appropriate mix of activities?
6. How should the responsibility for organising each activity be distributed amongst Committee members?
7. Who does what?
8. How often should the Committee meet and where?

Roger Ottewill (ex-chairman)