



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Date:	13 October 2021
Venue:	Allendale Village Hall, 7.30pm
Committee attending:	Sheila Adams (SA), Gloria Ashman (GA), Dorothy Collier (DC), John Dobson (JD), Valeria Dunn (AVD), Mick Hall (MH), Paul Minyard (PM)
Apologies:	David Bates (DB), Mandy Charlton (MC) would join us later

This meeting was held in October 2021 due to the pandemic-related cancellation of the June 2020 meeting and the delay (to October 2021) of the planned June 2021 meeting.

The annual general meeting (AGM) was poorly attended; other than the current committee there were only three other members in attendance and so a quorum was not achieved.

1. Chair's welcome

DC as Acting Chair welcomed attendees and thanked them for their support in attending the meeting after extraordinary times.

2. Minutes of the last AGM

The minutes from the AGM (June 2019) were not available. The Acting Chair explained the circumstances surrounding this unfortunate situation; the draft minutes having been destroyed in a house fire.

3. Chair's Report

A report by David Bates was presented. DB had been Chair for most of the period since the last AGM (June 2019). Please see attached *Appendix A*.

4. Treasurer's Report

Balance sheets were distributed to those present:

- End of year balance sheet 31 March 2020: £2306.95
- End of year balance sheet 31 March 2021: £3807.89

Please see attached balance sheets, *Appendix B*.

5. Membership Report

JD, as membership secretary, reported a total of 62 members and 100 attendees. DC suggested additional members may have recently joined.

Action: Total membership number to be reconciled (DC, JD)

6. Events and Activities since last AGM

The Acting Vice Chair (AVD) presented a list of events and activities that had been held during the last period. Please see attached *Appendix C*.

7. Election of Officers

No election was held. No nominations had been received from the membership to stand for the committee. In the absence of an election, the current committee agreed to stay in position until the AGM – and an election - could be rescheduled (currently scheduled for June 2022).

The current committee had nominated fellow committee members to each remain in their current roles pending a subsequent election:

- Acting Chair – DC
- Acting Vice Chair – AVD
- Treasurer – MC
- Secretary – MH (minute taker GA)
- Membership Secretary - JD

Action: Nominations for the committee to be re-sought and an election put on the agenda for the next AGM (DC)

8. Any other business

- **Manorial Records:** DC advised of communication with Sue Wood, Head of County Archives with reference to Manorial Records update. Future work will involve scanning records of Allendale papers.
 - Action: DC to keep committee updated
- **Library:** issue of committee members' references is still ongoing.
 - Action: DC to contact Alison Peadon to progress this
- **Website:** PM spoke about the website, and is looking for members to be actively involved (suggested scanning and updating events) with training assistance provided. PM also suggested that people could record their experiences during the pandemic, asking for diaries etc that could be added to our archive.
 - Action: PM to seek members to be involved in the website
- **Newsletter:** newsletter is scheduled to be circulated quarterly.
 - Action: PM to add report of this AGM into the next newsletter.
- **Past committee members:** PM offered thanks to SA for her dedicated work as Treasurer. DC similarly extended thanks to SA and also to David Bates for his work as Chairperson.

9. Date of next AGM

A final date was not identified but it was agreed that it should be held before the end of June 2022.

Action: the committee to schedule a precise date for the AGM.

Minutes approved by:			
Signed	Date	Signed	Date
Chairperson		Secretary	

Appendix A: Chair's Report

David Bates

From: Colonel David C Bates ARRC BN MMedEd MPH FIHM FRSPH MIoD

Honorary Chair of the Allen Valleys Local History Group - May 2017 to July 2021



Langrigg, Warcop, Appleby in Westmorland, Cumbria CA16 6PT

07772 665634

Committee

Membership

10 October 2021

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, OUTGOING HONORARY CHAIR'S REPORT – 2019 to 2021

Greetings to you all from a hot and dusty Abu Dhabi! I hope that you have a great evening at the first Annual General Meeting of your Local History Group for two years. This is part one of a two part report prepared by Dorothy and myself to cover the period from our last AGM in summer 2019 to date.

Please accept my profuse apologies for not being with you this evening but I have decided to resign early as Chair of your Group following our move from Hindley Wrae across the border into Cumbria. Therefore, it is with a heavy heart that I have handed responsibility over to the very capable hands of Dorothy pending election of a new Chair during this AGM. I lobby you to support this very successful team and re-elect those who wish to 'stag on' as they are a highly successful leadership and management team which delivers even in times of adversity.

As you know AVLHG activity has been limited since the March 2020 'lockdown' imposed to control the spread of CoViD-19 in our communities. To date this has been very successful in the Allen Valleys which is a credit to all (that from a Public Health Specialist!). Having said that our activity has been limited but your Committee has not been idle. As I said, this committee delivers even in times of adversity.

David Coverdale has worked hard for us within his role in the Resilient Allen Valleys Project¹, which unfortunately is now concluded, and his major achievement was to successfully bid for a grant from the Lottery Heritage Fund (£788) to offset our lack of revenue from membership fees and events

¹ RAV was set to enable local community-heritage sector groups like ours to capitalise on all of our work. It was an 18 months' project but extended out to end of Dec 20 due to the CoViD crisis. We have had no indication of what will follow if anything.

over the last ten months. That has allowed us to freeze membership fees until May next year. Thank you very much David for that and the other projects that you have identified including on-line events for fund raising, socially distanced first aid training and a very successful on-line networking event in Jun 20. We have recommended that RAV should be extended or a successor developed to continue its works as we believe it has been a 'battle-winner' during this crisis. Thus far there is no indication that this will become reality.

The committee considered on-line events during the lockdown and some other groups such as the very successful Northumberland Name Books event organised by Dr Diana Whaley last Autumn with a great contribution made by Stuart White was brilliant. Alston Moor Historical Society have also run some very successful Zoom meetings but as not all of our members and followers have access to IT or want to use IT we erred on the side of caution and decided to conserve our energies for when almost normal service can safely be resumed. The recent 'Hidden in Plain Sight' exhibition/presentation was proof that our concept was sound. Having raised the resources for the event during lockdown the Committee was in a strong position to deliver when the time was right. The relaying of the Wesley Plaque at Dale House was another example of where patience has paid off. This outcome was planned in summer 2017 and your committee executed it at the end of September. Other events and projects are in the pipeline so you can look forward to an exciting program over the next membership year.

Other members have been active including Valeria Dunn who has raised funding bids with the Parish Council and other stalwarts including Dorothy Collier and Roger Morris have been active in organising socially distanced events to commemorate the 75th Anniversaries of VE and VJ Day last year along with Paul Mingard recording the events on camera. Mick Hall, Gloria Ashman, Sheila Adams, Mandy Charlton and John Dobson have all been working hard to keep your Group buoyant during this period of crisis.

Thank you for your understanding and patience during this turbulent time and for continuing to support your Group. Please get in touch with the Committee if you have any thoughts about how we can reset ourselves in the short and medium term and what our priorities should be. Another Strategy Group Meeting is due as we need to refresh the Constitution and to continue developing the strategy that we drafted back in 2018.

Helen and I wish you the best of fortune. You are a vibrant community and a progressive Local History Group that is the envy of others in the Region, the country and Globally. We will not be strangers as I have volunteered to support Alex Dunston and her small team to form the 'Friends Of Keenley Chapel' which will maintain our presence in the Allen Valleys. We will also continue our membership and I have volunteered for the guardroom to deliver a presentation at some point! So we will stay in touch.

Thank you for your faithfulness and dedication to the cause. I am just upset that we couldn't invite you all to Hindley Wrae to celebrate a really lovely five and a half years before we left but it was not to be. I know that you will continue to support Dorothy and the team so that the Group goes from strength to strength. Please volunteer to support them and encourage new members to join the Group. Because of you, history is alive and well in the Allen Valleys.

Fare thee well!

DCB

Abu Dhabi

Appendix B: Balance sheets

Dorothy Collier

Balance Sheet AVLHG Year Ending 31st March 2021

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Building Society Interest	12.94	Nil	0.00
Sustainable AV; Compensatory grant for loss of revenue from Membership Fees and Events	788.00		
Sustainable AV; Compensatory grant towards staging photographic glass plate exhibition	500.00		
Allendale Parish Council; grant towards photographic glass plate exhibition	200.00		
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	£ 1500.94		£ 0.00

<u>Totals</u>	£
Income	1500.94
Less expenditure	<hr/> 0.00
	£ 1500.94
Account balance to 31 st March 2020	2307.02
plus income to 31 st March 2021	<hr/> 1500.94
Account balance at 31 st March 2021	£ 3807.96
Held in Building Society at 31 st March 2021	3778.79
plus Cash Float at 31 st March 2021	<hr/> 29.17
	£ 3807.96

Balance Sheet AVLHG Year Ending 31st March 2020

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Membership fees	505.00	Talks & events; venue/speaker fees and refreshments	229.35
Talks and events	610.00	Capital expenditure; projector	607.99
Building Society interest	19.12	Archive project; restoration and scanning of photographic plates	195.00
Donations	17.00	Archiving materials	326.28
		BALH membership subscription	75.00
		Stationery, printing & postage	55.48
		Bank fees	12.00
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	£ 1151.12		£ 1501.10

<u>Totals</u>	£
Income	1151.12
Less expenditure	<hr/> 1501.10
	-349.98
Account balance to 31 st March 2019	2657.00
plus Income to 31 st March 2020	<hr/> -349.98
Account balance at 31 st March 2020	£2307.02
Held in Building Society at 31 st March 2020	2277.85
plus Cash Float at 31 st March 2020	<hr/> 29.17
	£ 2307.02

Appendix C: Report on Events and Activities (June 2019 – October 2021)

Valeria Dunn

The period covered by this report runs from the date of the last AGM, in June 2019, up to October 2021.

As you are only too aware, the period covered was impacted by the restrictions imposed by Covid-19 so the programme of events and activities was curtailed, as was the opportunity to hold another AGM until now.

Way back in the late spring and summer of 2019, **several walks** were organised around Allendale, Allenheads and Carrshield. This gave members the opportunity to become familiar with aspects of the historical heritage on their doorstep.

Three entertaining talks were also in the programme, one on the construction of the **Newcastle to Carlisle railway** and the other on the **working life of a local farmer**. *'Treasures in the Attic'* gave an unusual but very entertaining insight into viewing historical artefacts.

Ever-conscious of seeking to preserve the historical monuments in the area, a representative from Heritage at Risk was invited in September 2019, to present their plans around the **maintenance of the lead flues**. Although they were applying for necessary funding, we are not aware of any obvious action to-date.

'Postcards from Home' was a **photographic event** designed for the audience to witness the initial unveiling of the photographs of 1930s Allendale portrayed on the glass plates that had recently come into the possession of AVLHG.

2019 was rounded off with a **visit to Bellingham Heritage Centre**. The few that attended gained lots of inspiring ideas related to highlighting and exhibiting the North Tyne's local history. One day, perhaps, Allendale will have such a dedicated site?

Despite the COVID related restrictions during the spring of 2020, AVLHG were determined to recognise the **VE Day Celebrations** in May. Joining with other like-minded groups and working within the limitations imposed, the day was marked appropriately. It was particularly fitting that the ceremony included Lawrence Smith, an Allendonian who fought in the Second World War.

In 2021, once things began to return to normal, the History Group started to plan the **major photographic exhibition** centred on the 1930s photos of Allendale that had featured previously in *'Postcards from Home'*.

The exhibition, held over the August Bank Holiday weekend, was very successful. It is proposed to exhibit these prints again, within the community, in the near future.

An event originally planned for March 2019, did eventually take place a few weeks ago, when Mrs Evelyn Charlton unveiled the **Methodist Plaque** in the Market Place. It is good that the plaque has been returned to its original position on the wall of the Dale building.

Looking ahead, we aim to organise a range of stimulating talks and activities and would very much welcome your input. The committee of any organisation is obviously there to facilitate activities but, to be entirely successful, its total membership should be involved. I appeal to you all to "get involved" and together we can work to learn more about our local history and make sure that it is readily accessible to others.