**The Origins of the Society**

The first general meeting of the Society took place on Friday 9th February 1968 at 37 Harrow Road.

Mr. Zeeland of the Dorman Museum took the chair and there were twenty-two people present.

The original idea was to concentrate on research, publication and organising seminars and conferences and to keep an eye on documents - their whereabouts and condition. It was moved that a society should be formed and a preliminary meeting was held there and then.

Tom Sowler was elected Chairman, Barry Harrison as Secretary, Dave Pattenden as Treausurer and Norman Moorsom took charge of publicity.

The original committee consisted of those officers plus Mr. M.Ashcroft, Mr. G.Watson, Mr. G.Fletcher, Mr. R.Pickles, Mrs. M.de Wardt, Mr. P.Ramage and Mrs. I.Atkins. The first committee meeting took place at Harrow Road on February 23rd 1968. At this meeting the name of the Society was chosen, the aims were established as being to encourage research and publishing, to encourage the preservation of documents, to provide an information service and to provide courses, lectures, etc. Most importantly, the Membership Fee was agreed: £1 per annum.

Further committee meetings quickly followed – at the third meeting on 22nd March Barry Harrison suggested publishing a regular Bulletin, at the fourth meeting on 4th April the first programme was drafted, at the fifth meeting on 25th April it was decided that the programme should include single evening lectures as well as day schools and at the sixth meeting on 16th May it was decided to associate with the Cleveland Archaeological Co-ordinating Committee

By the time the second general meeting was held on Thursday 12th June, at which 44 people were present, the first Bulletin had been published.

By the end of July the Society had 68 Members and an Editor for the Bulletin had been appointed (W.Ramage). The first Day School was held at the Dorman Museum on 21st September 21st 1968 – twenty-three people attended.

Just over twelve months after the meeting at which the idea for a society had been first discussed, on 21st March 1969 the first AGM of the Cleveland and Teesside Local History Society was held, by which time there were over 100 Members. Within a few years, the membership of the Cleveland and Teesside Local History Society would double, but I suspect that few of those present at that first meeting would have imagined that fifty years later the Society would be celebrating its Golden Jubilee