

CLEVELAND and TEESIDE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 December 2018

The Cleveland and Teesside Local History Society celebrated its Golden Jubilee in 2018.

The Society was established in 1968, and as a consequence this year has focussed on celebrating our Golden Jubilee.

Highlights of the year have included:

- A Golden Jubilee Celebration Meal, held at Middlesbrough College, with a menu prepared and served by College Catering students which reflected food and drink popular in 1968, an appropriate sound-track, a slide-show of images from the past fifty years, and a presentation about how our tastes have changed over the past fifty years.
- A Golden Jubilee Day School at which we welcomed delegates from across the Cleveland and Teesside area and heard from speakers from some of the local history societies in the area, reflecting on their achievements and the challenges we face in the future.
- The selection of 50 People, Events, Buildings, and Places of significance in the history of the area, and the preparation and publication of descriptions of each – the starting point for a database of factual information about the history of our area.
- A special Packett Prize Competition that attracted no less than nine entries.
- The publication of not one but three special editions of the Society's bulletin.

All this was in addition to our usual activities of providing a programme of varied and interesting speakers on a diverse range of topics, and producing ten editions of The Scroll and three editions of our Newsletter.

It was particularly pleasing that the CTLHS Newsletter, so ably edited by Jenny Braddy, was named 'Newsletter of the Year' by the British Association for Local History.

So, it has been a busy year!

Of course, none of this would have any point if it were not for our Members.

As at 31 December 2018 we had 272 paid-up members including 23 institutional members (by way of comparison, on 31 December 2017 there were 257 Members, including 24 institutions).

Lee Firth, our Membership Secretary, has served the Society in that capacity for an amazing eighteen years, and we are all grateful for the diligent yet friendly way that she manages membership applications and correspondence.

Thanks to Lee, Members feel that their Membership is valued and that their contact details remain up-to-date, thus ensuring that they continue to receive the Newsletter and other communications.

We are also very grateful to someone who is not a Committee Member but who has provided another invaluable service to Members for many years. Dorothy Thomson, working closely with Lee, has been the person who ensures that postal communications, including the Newsletter, are put together and despatched to Members. Dorothy retires from the role this year and we thank her for all her work on behalf of the Society.

At the 2019 AGM, Allan Wilby will retire from the role of Programme Secretary, a role he has occupied for an amazing 37 years!

Thanks to Allan, ably assisted by his wife Margaret, we were able to enjoy another full and varied programme of talks and other activities.

In the twelve months to 31 December 2018, we delivered five Saturday meetings, with ten speakers, supported the annual Elgee Memorial Lecture hosted this year by CIAS, and provided, in conjunction with Teesside University, a Day School.

The programme this year comprised:

- 'The Return of The Rosedale Railway'; Geoffrey Taylor
- 'The Rudd Family of Marton': Charlie Phillips
- 'Personal Recollections of South Bank': Eric Taylor
- '17th Century and 18th Century Northallerton Wills': Dorothy Edwards
- 'The Port of Whitby During Queen Anne's War 1703 to 1714': Christiane Kroebel
- 'A Wise and Humane Regime: The Stockton Workhouses': Martin Peagam
- 'Arncliffe Hall and Estate': Carol Cook
- 'Ingleby Manor, A Unique Example of a Tudor Fortified House': Barry Harrison
- 'Westerdale During the Time of the Knights Templar': Carol Wilson
- 'The WW I Wireless 'Y' Station at Stockton': Alan Betteney

It was particularly pleasing, in our Golden Jubilee Year, that one of our meetings involved two former Society Chairpersons, Barry Harrison and Carol Cook, delivering the outcomes of their latest research.

The Twenty-First Joint Day School, held on Saturday 10 March 2018 at Teesside University, addressed 'Captain Cook's Cleveland, with papers being presented by Paul Menzies, Robin Daniels, Ian Pearce, Ian Lawrence, Tony Nicholson and Phil Philo.

There were also two guided walks: a guided walk around Hutton Rudby, led by Allan Wilby, and a guided tour of Tocketts Mill, near Guisborough.

We are aware that the Society bulletin 'Cleveland History' is greatly valued by Members. In the past year, thanks to Val Harrison, we were able to publish and distribute no less than three special editions of 'Cleveland History': one paid tribute to Barry Harrison with six of the twenty-two articles that this former Society Chairman has contributed over the years, one contained three articles selected by the current Chairman and two of his predecessors, and one contained three articles selected by the current Editor of Cleveland History and two of her predecessors.

The Society's Social Media Strategy continues to develop, led by Martin Peagam with assistance from Matt Falcus. The Facebook site now has approaching 1,000 followers, our web site is developing with the imminent creation of a Members Only area, and our digital bulletin 'The Scroll' is distributed on a monthly basis, keeping Members informed of forthcoming events.

Well-managed finances are essential to the delivery of our services, and we are very grateful to the role played by our Treasurer, Margaret Wilby, who will be retiring at the next AGM. Margaret leave our finances in good order with a healthy balance: she will be a hard act to follow.

Last year we acknowledged the role played by our auditor, Ian Campbell. This year, we take the opportunity to acknowledge the support provided by another auditor, Ian Saul, who has audited our Membership records and subscriptions for over twenty years. We are grateful for his support.

During the year, our Secretary, Martin Peagam took steps to ensure that we are compliant with the General Data Protection Regulation which came into effect on 25 May 2018. We are grateful to everyone who responded to the questionnaire that we issued.

In addition to all those mentioned above, the Society has benefitted from the enthusiasm, expertise and ideas of other Committee Members – Ian Stubbs, Alison Brown, Paul Stephenson, Stewart Ramsdale, Peter Davison, Francine Marshall and Stephanie Green - steered and guided by our Chairman, Geoff Braddy, and Vice-Chairman, Linda Polley.

After the excitement of our Golden Jubilee year, there might be an understandable tendency to relax, but instead the Committee are building upon the foundations of the past fifty years to take the Society forward, fulfilling the aims of the Society as set out fifty years ago.

We endeavour to provide our Members with quality services, and are always open to new ideas as to how we can grow and develop.