



Supporting, developing and promoting the county's heritage.

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 12 December 2023 at 17.00 online

1. **Present:** Julia Knight (Chair), Heather Hughes (Vice Chair), Alison Fairman, Mark Bamford, Martin Fairman, Richard Wood, Sarah Grundy, Jackie Woodall, Paul Baguley, Natalie Brimecome-Mills, Ellie Baumber.
Apologies: Deborah Thomas, Catherine Wilson, David Radford, Jonathan Smith, Anita Hollinshead, Stephen Roe.
2. **Minutes of the 2022 AGM, held 17 March:** proposed Martin Fairman, seconded Mark Bamford as an accurate account of the meeting; carried. No matters arising.
3. **Chair's report (Julia Knight):**

Thank you all for attending this evening, it's lovely to see you all.

Firstly, my apologies for the delay in holding this AGM- our constitution states that they will be held in Autumn, so we're stretching it slightly to hold it in December, but better late than never.

2022-2023 has seen our new website going live, with the initial information included ([Lincolnshire Heritage Forum \(lincsheritageforum.org.uk\)](https://lincsheritageforum.org.uk)). We will rely on you to send us your information and pictures, so please email them over to me in the first instance and I'll start the ball rolling.

We hosted our first face to face conference since the Covid pandemic in Lincoln in November 2022, and it was great to see you there! I hope that you enjoyed the day, and found it really useful.

We're in the process of planning a conference to take place in Lincoln in February 2024- it will be held on a Saturday, and we'll confirm the date with you as soon as we can.

The conference in 2024 will have a theme of oral history- collecting oral histories is a vital part of our work in heritage, and gives a unique insight into our shared history and heritage, collecting stories of normal people and their lives. I'm sure that you all carry out oral history research to some degree, even if it's as simple as making notes on conversations you have with visitors. Hopefully the conference will give you some helpful tips and inspiration to collect more stories- including your own! The people who work with and care for heritage are often not recorded, but we have stories to tell too!

For those of you who attended our Conference in 2022, you'll hopefully remember that we awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award to Catherine Wilson OBE, for her many years of work in Lincolnshire and supporting the county's heritage. We'd like this award to be an annual celebration at our conference, and are in the process of pulling together nominations, with the final award being decided by the committee. If you have any nominations, or know of someone who works tirelessly to support and develop Lincolnshire's heritage, please do get in touch with me directly, and I'll add their name to our shortlist.

The main focus for the year ahead from the Forum is reconnecting and supporting you, our members, to getting back to some form of normality and growing again!

As with last year, as a volunteer committee we know that we have struggled to keep connected, and to provide much support to you. We promise that we've been working in the background, and that in 2024 we'll be much more visible.

Our Student Forum is going from strength to strength, and we have new co-opted committee member, Paul, who is our link with the Student Forum. Paul will be giving his report on the student forum in a few minutes, and I'm sure you'll be interested and impressed with all his work!

I appreciate that our membership admin has been slightly lacking in the past year. We're going to be circulating membership forms and subscription requests in the new year, to hopefully tie in with the financial year. This will hopefully help those of you who work to a traditional financial year (April to March).

We will be holding our current membership fees, at the same rate as previously (£11 individual/ £26 organisational). We hope you feel that this will still be value for money, and will continue to support the Forum.

As the current Chair, I'd like to thank the whole committee for their continued support over the last year, particularly when work pressures and illness have meant I've stepped back at times. Thank you all, and if anyone else would like to stand, please do so. I do recommend it as a development opportunity, and our meetings are genuinely enjoyable- even if we have unexpected participants at times!

I'd like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, and a healthy, successful and enjoyable 2024!

4. **Membership:** we are in the process of compiling a list for purposes of contacting members about fees as well as the 2024 conference. Alison noted that Boston had paid its fees; Jackie notes same for Sir Joseph Banks Society. From the Boston group, Alison reported that Richard Austen and David Radford had a new book out. There is now a Centre for Fenland Studies, which will probably take on the role of communicating between heritage groups in South Holland, Norfolk and Cambridgeshire. There may be individual sites in S Holland that could join the Boston cluster. The education cluster no longer functions.
5. **Student Forum report:** Paul reported that his efforts had gone into organising the first event of the current cycle; the hope was that it would attract a large audience and hence a good base for future events. The first talk would be on 25 January 2024 at 18.30, and would be hosted at Bishop Grosseteste University as well as available

online. A panel of great speakers was confirmed. Thereafter, talks would be once a month on the last Thursday. Paul was in contact with various local groups to offer these. He had also set up a facebook group. The MA students were keen to participate in the conference and he would contribute to a student page on the LHF website.

6. Elections:

- a. Chair: Julia Knight proposed Richard Wood, seconded Alison Fairman; elected.
 - b. Vice Chair: Heather Hughes proposed Sarah Grundy, seconded Mark Bamford ; elected.
 - c. Secretary: Deborah Thomas proposed Alison Fairman, seconded Mark Bamford; elected.
 - d. Treasurer: Stephen Roe proposed Julia Knight, seconded Mark Bamford' elected.
 - e. Membership Secretary Jackie Goodall proposed Heather Hughes, seconded Julia Knight; elected.
 - f. Communication/social media: Natalie Brimecome-Mills proposed Heather Hughes, seconded Sarah Grundy; elected.
 - g. Student Forum: Paul Baguley proposed Julia Knight, seconded Heather Hughes; elected.
 - h. Committee members elected: Sarah Grundy, Eleanor Baumber, Alison Fairman, Will Mason, Mark Bamford (Independent Museums rep).
7. **Website:** members were invited to suggest content. Action Heather to circulate web address to committee for comment.
8. **Constitution:** Julia pointed out that it was time to review our constitution; this would be an action through 2024.
9. **AOB:**
- a. the AGM received an update that Catherine Wilson had had surgery and was now recovering.
 - b. it was proposed that there should be a session at the conference on the Arts Council National Portfolio Organisations in Lincolnshire.

Meeting closed 17.50.