



# Lancashire Family History & Heraldry Society Chorley Branch

Web-Site: [www.lfhhschorleybranch.com](http://www.lfhhschorleybranch.com)

President Stephen Williams

Reg. Charity No. 513437

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## **Annual General Meeting Minutes 21 March 2017**

1. Pauline Chapman, Chairman, welcomed all to the AGM.

### **Branch Reports**

2. Pauline Chapman in the Chairman report outlined how busy the 2016 - 2017 had been for the Branch, and praised the committee and all the various volunteers that have contributed to the various projects and events over the year. It was proposed and accepted by the Branch. (Copy attached)

3. Treasurer's Report – Copies of the report including the accounts were available throughout the room. Pauline Chapman proposed it acceptance by the Branch – Accepted.

### **Officials Election**

4. In the absence of Mike Coyle (Chairman of LFH&HS) who was recovering from a knee operation Joan Dickinson (Chairman of Chorley Historical and Archaeological Society) was called upon to hold the election of officers

The committee remains substantially as it was except for Sheila retiring from the position of Sales and the addition of three additional nominees, it was therefore proposed that the existing Committee be elected as per the attached list. Accepted (Copy of nominations / elections attached).

### **Vote of Thanks**

5. Pauline Chapman thanked Joan Dickinson for holding the election of officers.

There being no other business the AGM closed.

## **Chairman's Report, Chorley Branch, 2017**

First of all, many apologies are given from the Society Chairman, Mike Coyle, who's had a knee operation. He sends his best wishes to you all and thanks for being a great branch. I've sent him best wishes for a speedy recovery from us all.

Well, how do you begin a yearly report about the happenings at this great Chorley Branch of the LFHHS? First of all by saying thank you to everyone for your continuing support by coming to meetings, supporting the lending library and the raffle and helping out wherever you can – it is appreciated

Marian, our programme secretary has once again contrived an interesting range of speakers for the last year. We met Betsy once again, but she's now moved up in the world and become a housekeeper, which is why it was decided to hold the meeting at Astley Hall to give added atmosphere to the story. We've visited Chorley Unitarian Chapel, where Doreen Jolly, one of our members, was a very welcoming hostess, followed up by a talk about Sir Henry Tate, son of one of the ministers there. We've kicked a ball around with the Dick Kerr Ladies and emigrated to Australia. We've also seen family heirlooms brought in by members and listened to talks by other members about their families. We joined forces with the Chorley Historical and Archaeological Society and were conducted round Chorley by Joan Dickinson to learn of its criminal past. We're hoping to do something similar again this year, but we will be the hosts this time. Altogether, an interesting year, which the committee hope you've all enjoyed.

Susan, our Publicity Officer, has contacted everyone from the local papers to Radio Lancashire to publicise meetings and events. This month, Radio Lancashire have been running a series called 'Researching your Family History' They were at the Society Research Centre at Astley Hall Farmhouse a week ago talking to visitors and volunteers about their Family History and how to start it &, knowing Sheila, putting an advert in for the Centre to entice people to come and use it. I believe it was a very successful morning. Susan has asked that, if you know of new places where we might put adverts, please see her after the meeting.

Education still holds a firm place in the ethos of the branch. We hold two 10-week Family History courses every year, at a very modest price, tea or coffee and biscuits provided. The two this year have been the Further Steps and Beginners courses. The Further Steps covers such diverse subjects as Quarter Sessions, Catholic records and records associated with Scotland, Wales and Ireland. The Beginners course covers the basic research records such as Census, BMD, Family Search and also includes a look round the Research Centre, showing what facilities are available.

Sheila is running a project at the moment to photograph every grave in Chorley Cemetery, which complements the transcription of the grave registers compiled by Sheila & Steve after they were worked on by members of the Branch. She has been helped in the photographic section by several Branch members, but also by an across-the-generations group from the LDS Church, who apparently had a wonderful time helping out.

Thanks are also given to Jenny Cree for her very interesting newsletters and being our link to the link to Chorley Heritage Centre.



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Viv has received new donations of books for the lending library, for which she says thank you very much. Please continue to use the lending library as much as possible and if you have finished reading a book about history – local & national – or how to research your Family History, if you wish, please give it to the lending library.

The raffle and refreshments help to fund speakers so please continue to bring prizes and buy tickets & coffee or tea & biscuits – it helps in so many ways. Our thanks go to Christine for running the raffle and Lucille for providing the refreshments.

Sheila continues to run the Research Centre on behalf of the Society, and feels that, with the work involved and also running the Chorley graves project she can no longer run the sales. If anyone feels they would like to do it, please see Sheila after the meeting, otherwise there might be a press-ganging – it is not an onerous job

Once again, I think a very successful year for Chorley Branch of the LFHHS. We couldn't do it, though, without help from the Committee, Chorley Borough Council, staff here and at Astley Hall and, as Leonard Sachs used to say 'Chiefly, yourselves'

## **Committee Members elected.**

Chairman	Pauline CHAPMAN
Vice Chairmen	Ron CHAPMAN Steve WILLIAMS
Treasurer	Kathryn CARTER
Corres. Sec., Webmaster, Mailing List, Exec Rep & Society Trustee	Steve WILLIAMS
Research Centre Co-ordinator	Sheila GIBBONS
Minutes Sec.	Catherine LIGHTBOWNE
Education Rep.	Pauline CHAPMAN
Programme Sec	Marian CROSSLEY
Raffle Co-ord.	Christine JONES
Publicity	Susan RILEY
Newsletter	Jenny CREE
Lending Library	Vivienne ROSS
Committee Members	Christine JONES Ann LOWE Bernard CLIFT
Auditor	Ian NEARY
Refreshments	Lucille PORTER

**LANCASHIRE FAMILY HISTORY & HERALDRY SOCIETY**  
**Chorley Branch**  
**Income and Expenditure Account**

Year Ending 31 December 2016

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Raffles	381.02 ✓	371.26
Education Classes	320.70 ✓	282.50
Refreshments	99.05 ✓	68.50
Donations	48.95 ✓	88.50
Repayment of part of loan to Research Centr	500.00 ✓	
Sales	37.00 ✓	59.15
	<b><u>1386.72</u></b> ✓	<b><u>869.91</u></b>

<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Speakers	320.00 ✓	481.00
Room Hire - Committee Mtgs	110.00 ✓	110.00
Project costs	35.29 ✓	
Refreshments (Wine and strawberries)	77.54 ✓	135.64
Printing of Newsletter	50.80 ✓	55.00
Purchase of Stock	0.00	42.50
Out Visits	40.00 ✓	20.00
Miscellaneous		12.00
Website	28.00 ✓	26.49
Postage		3.18
Subs for Lucille	12.00 ✓	
Subs for Lanc Parish Reg Soc		35.00
	<b><u>673.63</u></b> ✓	<b><u>920.81</u></b>
Surplus (Deficit)	<b>713.09</b>	<b>-50.90</b>

Year Ending 31 December 2016

<b>BALANCE SHEET</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Brought Forward		
Cash	61.02	71.31
Bank	589.57	630.18
Total	<u>650.59</u>	<u>701.49</u>
Surplus (Deficit)	713.09	-50.90
Carried Forward	<b><u>1363.7</u></b> ✓	<b><u>650.59</u></b>

Represented by:

	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Cash	100.00	61.02
Bank	1263.68	589.57
	<b><u>1363.7</u></b> ✓	<b><u>650.59</u></b>

Signed:

Treasurer



Signed:

Independent Examiner



The other £500 of the loan to the Research Centre was used to purchase 2 laptops.



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## **Programme Secretary Report April 2016 – March 2017**

During this last year the Branch has had another successful year of activities. At our normal meetings held at Chorley Library we continue to get attendance figures between 30 – 40 members per meeting.

We started this year's programme with the story of the Dick Kerr Ladies Football Team, who were far more successful at attracting supporters than the men so the FA banned women from playing on their pitches until the 1970s! We then progressed to a talk from Steve Williams and Sheila Gibbons which focused on the skills needed to track immigration, and the topics covered over the year have varied from developing the skills needed for family history research to some of our own members giving us short talks in October.

In the previous years we have heard about Betsy the Sculley Maid and her life below stairs, this year we followed her progress in becoming housekeeper. In order to make it a more appropriate setting for promotion we changed our normal July visit to Astley Hall from to June. Again another very successful event was held, and we are grateful to Chorley Council who allow us this free privilege each year.

Our out visit in August was to Chorley Unitarian Church which has links with the Tate family and we were welcomed there by yet another of our members Doreen Jolly, who very kindly followed this up with an interesting in depth talk on Sir Henry Tate for our February meeting.

In January we held another 'Bring an heirloom' evening' which are proving to be a very popular event with our members, who are enjoying the interaction (getting to talk to each other) within the branch. The committee is looking at other ways to involve the members in the meeting. We are proposing that in December 2017 instead of the speaker / mince pies and wine we normally have we, that we change this and have a quiz and hot pot supper.

Our last meeting of the year will be the AGM and the speaker will be Steve Williams "A mothers tears".

Overall I think another good year.

Marian Crossley  
Programme Secretary

5<sup>th</sup> March 2017

## Publicity Report - 2017 AGM

In the past year Chorley Branch meetings have been well attended by our own members, and on occasions some from other branches. We also see new faces now and again, not Society members but people who perhaps have an interest in our publicised speaker. We hope the latter will be encouraged by our members to take the plunge, ask for a membership form, and join the Society.

We remain keen to spread the word about Family History and the Society, and would appreciate knowing new places for publicity, and for current members to introduce friends to our activities.

During the year regular press releases detailing our Branch Meetings, Education Courses etc. have been sent to local newspapers, Chorley and Leyland Guardians; Lancashire Evening Post; Lancashire Telegraph; the Citizen group; and to publications such as Chorley Borough's 'What's Happening' magazine, and Local Life.

Postings of the same information has been made using social media such as local Facebook groups and the 'WhereCanWeGo' website, therefore hopefully reaching those who prefer their information on-line rather than in print.

Our press releases are also sent to local radio stations, and we are very grateful to them for their support.

We have been fortunate in that Radio Lancashire particularly has shown great interest in both Chorley Branch, and the Research Centre in Astley Hall Farmhouse where branch members continue to volunteer. This interest has resulted in broadcast interviews on the subject of Family History, and what the LFHHS and the Chorley branch have to offer to family historians in the way of help.



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## Publicity 2017 Addendum

As part of their March campaign, 'Researching Your Family History', we were asked by the production team at Radio Lancashire to participate in the morning programme, with presenters Sally Naden and Brett Davison.

Broadcasting live from the Research Centre in Astley Hall Farmhouse, Monday 13 March, from 9:30am till 12noon, Sally is looking forward to learning more about the facilities in our Research Centre, and what we have to offer anyone who visits us, or who contacts us from afar.

During the morning Sally will be talking to our visitors and volunteers; discover how their research started and progresses; and listen to their stories of successes, or quite often, those brick walls which we all come across. If you can make it, why not come and join in, the more the merrier.

## Education Report 2017

This year we have run 2 Family History courses – Further Steps & the Beginners' Course. The Further Steps Course was very well attended. We cover topics as diverse as Quarter Sessions, Catholic records, Manorial records and records associated with Scotland, Ireland & Wales

The Beginners Course covers the basic sources to help us get back to 1837 – Census, BMD, Parish Registers, Family Search, etc. We also introduce the students to the Research Centre and the facilities available there and encourage them to come and use them.

Pauline Chapman

Education Rep