

May 2015

The Hadleigh Society

YOUR COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU

We are losing several of our committee members this year so it is more important than usual that you should consider helping to keep the Society going. If you're interested in becoming a member of the Executive Committee and would like to talk about what is involved then please phone the Honorary Secretary, Graham Panton or any other committee member. Contact details are on the back page.

NOTICE OF THE 33RD AGM, 2015

The 33rd Annual General Meeting of The Hadleigh Society is to be held in Hadleigh Old Town Hall on Wednesday 10th June 2015 at 8 p.m. and all members are invited to attend.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 32nd AGM
3. Treasurer's Report
4. History Group Report
5. Planning Report
6. Chair's Review
7. Election of Officers and Executive Committee Members

This will be followed by a picture show, presented by Jan Byrne and Sue Angland and then to finish, wine and nibbles.

The 2014 AGM Minutes are on page 7 and the document can also be found on our website at

http://www.hadsoc.org.uk/AGM/agm_2014_mins.htm . Copies will be available at the Meeting, together with the Annual Accounts.

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THE HADLEIGH LOCAL BOARD OF 1871 – PART 3

From an original presentation by the Hadleigh Society History Group in November 1990

N.B. Paragraphs in italics are direct quotes from the 1871 Board minutes or correspondence.

Business continues with the Hadleigh Local Board in 1871

Families of any standing in the town would have a pony stabled near the house, & a large number of families kept pigs & some a house cow; this keeping of livestock could be another source of 'nuisance'.

Letters of complaint had been received in December 1870 regarding Mr Elliot's pigs & he had not responded to the requests for the abatement of the nuisance. In July 1871 the Inspector took action: *'To Hadleigh Local Board, The Local Authority – I, the Inspector of Nuisances of the Hadleigh Local Board hereby give you notice that there exists in or upon the yard belonging to the dwelling house in the occupation of Mr John Elliot of Hadleigh in Suffolk, pig dealer & shoe-maker, situate in the George Street in the parish of Hadleigh in your district under the Nuisances Removal Act 1855 the following nuisance in which swine so kept as to be a nuisance or injurious to health & that such nuisance is caused by the said John Elliot dated this third day of July 1871. Signed E.S. Downs. Whereupon the Inspector of Nuisances was directed to take the necessary steps for abating the nuisance. This he did & at the next meeting reported that the Bench of magistrates had ordered the nuisance to*

be abated in 21 days & that the defendant should pay the court fees of 19s.

At the same meeting the Inspector reported that he had given notices to Mr W.C. Golding & Mr Benjamin Last of their having caused a nuisance by allowing house refuse to flow upon the highway but that such nuisance had not been repeated since such notices were given. Mr Golding, however, was not happy about the way he had been treated & had written to the Clerk asking how he could complain to the Board. The clerk responded to him: *'In reply to your letter of yesterday I beg to inform you that if you have any complaint to make to the Board, you can do so either by letter or by personal attendance at the next Board meeting which will take place on Monday evening next. The Board meets at 7pm but the regular routine business takes about an hour so it will not be worth your coming before 8pm'*. Three days later he had to write again to clarify the meaning of the above!!! Mr W.C. Golding attended & complained: *'that the Surveyor had threatened to stop up his drainage & had sent 2 men who took up his pipes & threw them into the public road & stopped up his drainage. Mr B. Last also complained that the surveyor had caused to be informed whether the Surveyor had the authority of the Board in so acting. The Board having heard the Surveyor in reply, a committee consisting of Mr T.W. Wilson, Mr J. Cook & Mr J.T. Muriel was appointed to inspect the premises & to do what they may think fit in the matter & report to the next meeting'*. From the Board's minutes of the following month: *'The Committee appointed to decide what was to be done as to the drain from Mr Last's & Mr Golding's*

houses & taken up by the Surveyor reported that they had inspected the premises & heard statements on both sides & decided that the Surveyor had not exceeded his duty, & that nothing needed to be done'.

Other residents were more cooperative: 'The subject of the cesspool outside the gate of Hill Farm was brought forward by Mr Wilson & Mr W. Kersey, the occupier promised to do whatever the surveyor recommended'.

One of the reasons for the higher rate in the town centre was the cost of street lighting. Gas lighting had arrived in Hadleigh comparatively early in the 19th century. In 1834 Brown & Moy built their silk mill in Duke Street & to enable them to work long shifts, the factory had its own coal gas lighting installed. In 1836 the ratepayers of Hadleigh requested Brown & Moy to extend their gas supply pipes to light the town & £54. 17s. 6d was raised to pay for the works. By 1839 fifteen lamps lit Hadleigh & twelve inspectors were employed to ensure they were properly lit & maintained. A dispute over money caused an interruption in the supply between 1853 & 1861 when the Gas Consumers Company was formed with capital of £5000, & a gasworks was built by the iron bridge. The town's gas fittings, which had been in store since 1853, were brought back into use. In 1871 the Board was twice involved with the lighting. In December 1870 the Reverend Wheeler had asked for a lamp to be placed between the Rectory & the Hall; the Board had written to the Gas Company & in January had a reply: 'the Directors would place the lamp & light it as requested, if a guarantee would be given that

the Company might remove the lamp when the Board ceased to light the same'.

Discussion on this matter was postponed until the following meeting on 6th February when 'it was proposed by Mr Robinson & seconded by Mr J.T. Muriel that Mr Wheeler be asked to give a guarantee in the terms of the latter to the secretary of the Gas Company of 15th December 1870 with reference to the erecting of a lamp between the Rectory & the Hall.' The following month in the minutes:

'Letters as to the proposed lamp in the churchyard near the Rectory were read, whereby it appeared that the Rector had given the Gas Company the required guarantee & that they had given directions for the erecting of the lamp & that the Rectory undertook to bear half the cost of lighting'. The total cost of lighting the lamp for the year was 55s – so the Reverend Wheeler's contribution would have amounted to 27s 6d.

At a meeting of the Local Board on 7th August the Rate Collector asked directions concerning the rates due from the Gas Company. As it was said that an appeal was to be made by the Directors of the company, the matter was left until the next meeting on 2nd October. By that day the 'manifestly excessive' assessment of the Gas Company's rateable value had been reduced by the committee. It dropped from £150 to £118. 10s but the Gas Company still remained dissatisfied & decided to appeal to the Quarter Sessions. The Board then resolved that the Gas Company's assessment had been reduced further to £75 on appeal to the Quarter Sessions.

Local Boards were supervised by the London based Local Government Board as also from 1871 were the Work Houses & Poor Law Guardians.

Hadleigh was one of the 10 parishes in Babergh Hundred & 18 in the Cosford Hundred that in 1834 had formed the Cosford Union. Mr Farnall, a Local Government Board Inspector had drawn the Guardians attention to the fact that between 1860 & 1870 the annual expenditure on poor relief had increased by £1378. The Guardians appointed a committee of their number to investigate & in September reported 'The Committee thus appointed have met & agreed the following report:...' that the comparison is a fair one as regards the 2 years – the average price of flour for the 4 quarters being within a farthing a stone the same. They have arrived at the following conclusions, remarking at the same time, that there may exist other reasons for the increase of charge which they failed to discover.

1. *Under the old system of management of highways which prevailed in 1860, numbers of old men were ... employed ... in the winter months in order to help the poor rate, but since the new Highway Act has come into operation the demand for old men has almost ceased. The District Surveyor, seeking the labour of the able-bodied, thus the old & infirm are thrown upon the rates in greater numbers*
2. *... in 1869/70 the harvest of 1869 was early & the 'general failure of the root crop acted*

injuriously towards the poor & tended to swell the application for relief'.

3. *Before Union rating became the law of the land, employers of labour felt a special interest in their several parishes in providing work for their settled poor, whether the work was remunerating or not, now that the ... Union had become one parish for purpose of relief, that interest had diminished.*
4. *But the cause above all others to which the committee attribute the increase of expenditure has reference to the operation of the Union Chargeability Act in its relation to the proceedings of the Board.*

Under the old system of parochial responsibility the guardians were wont to exercise a strict supervision over applications for relief, especially in the parishes they represented, but now ... they exhibit less interest in general expenditure & less discrimination in their grants for relief ... it can afford no surprise that the rates have increased!

The matter did not end there. A further committee was appointed & reported on 15 December. It re-iterated the loss of local responsibility as the underlying cause of increased expenditure but went on to recommend specific measures to tighten up on the granting of outdoor relief & suggested that consideration should be given to increased committal of applicants to the Union House. More in the next newsletter.

NOMINATION FORM

Society members are invited to make nominations for service on the Society’s **Executive Committee** for the year following the Annual General Meeting in the following capacities:

Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary
or as one of our Committee members.

All posts are honorary and seconded nominations must be sent to the Society’s Secretary.

To: The Honorary Secretary, The Hadleigh Society, c/o 94 Benton Street, Hadleigh,
Ipswich, Suffolk IP7 5AY (Telephone: 01473 823503)

I nominate the following for service on the Executive Committee of The Hadleigh Society
for the year 2015/2016.

Name	Position Nominated	Name of Seconder
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Signed

Name

Date

In each case the nominee has agreed to stand.

You may copy this form or write your own letter to The Honorary Secretary so long as you include the necessary details.

MINUTES OF THE 32ND AGM OF THE HADLEIGH SOCIETY

Held in Hadleigh Old Town Hall on Monday 16th June 2014 at 8 p.m.

32 members attended.

Apologies for absence

Mr & Mrs Bloomfield.

Minutes of the 31st A.G.M.

Agreed by all.

Treasurers Report. – Chris Drake

Accepted by all.

History Group Report. – Sue Angland

The group spent the second half of 2013 fine-tuning the script for our talk 'Hadleigh during the Great War' which we presented in December. The talk was enjoyed by all who attended and we received some favourable reviews. The branch chairman of the Royal British Legion described the talk as '*superb, fascinating and informative!.....it was obvious that the entire town was behind the War effort*'. People seemed to particularly enjoy the extracts from the school log books. One member of the audience recognised her family name and discovered that it was indeed her grandfather who was described as '*a scout, signaller and sniper with a reputation for feats of daring*'. Since then she has researched his service records and discovered that, having survived the Great War, he lied about his age and enlisted for the Second World War. He survived that too!

Recently we have all learnt a lot about the Medieval Manor of Hadleigh from Margaret's excellent research, but what of our other manor, Toppesfield? The group has decided to explore the possibility of researching the Manor of Toppesfield for its next project. In the meantime, we are re-visiting a talk we gave back in the 1990s on 'Hadleigh Charities' with a view to presenting it to the Society at the beginning of next year.

The History Group has been asked by the Suffolk Local History Council, of which we are a member, to host a study day for their members in September. We shall present our talks on 'Hadleigh during the Great War' and 'The Medieval Manor of Hadleigh' as well as organising tours of the Guildhall Complex and the town itself including the Row Chapel. We also have to provide teas, coffees and lunches throughout the day. It'll be a very busy day, but it will be an opportunity to showcase Hadleigh and the work that the Society does here. If you could lend a hand on the day, with the teas and coffees especially, please let us know!

Planning Report. – Jan Byrne

When thinking about what to write for this report I thought that there was really nothing of importance to say only to be reminded that of course since our last A.G.M. we have hopefully seen off Tesco.

I suppose for the records I should state that after some fourteen years of opposing the building of a supermarket on the Brett Works site the Babergh District Councillors again refused permission for Tesco to develop the site, if only by one vote and against their officers recommendations. Had we not been able to acquire the money to buy in professional support and speakers there is little doubt that Tesco would have won, but our professional advisors made it quite clear that there was enough evidence to seek a Judicial Review if permission was granted, and they were also prepared to offer support to the opposing councillors in the face of thinly disguised threats from the Babergh Planning Officers.

Thankfully the outcome being in our favour Tesco decided not to appeal, I am not sure where we would have found the money to finance an appeal or a Judicial Review. Tesco appear to have stated that they will be talking to the Council about the site, though as yet we can find no evidence that any consultation has taken place. I understand that there is some private interest in purchasing the Brett Works site. I believe it is important to keep reminding people that Tesco only own that part of the site that was the Brett Works and that the rest of the ground in the application is in various other ownerships, not least that Town Council Allotments which block the access from Bridge Street and would require a Compulsory Purchase Order should anybody wish to gain access across them.

We can but await the future proposals to develop the site and respond as appropriate.

At the other end of the site of course is Bridge House which belongs to Babergh and has been used for storage. You will remember that originally it was planned to knock the house down to allow access across the Babergh Car Park, this was blocked and Tesco then received permission to knock it down but rebuild a similar building in a slightly different position, subject to Babergh selling them the land. At the monthly meetings called by Councillor Riley to discuss the future for Hadleigh I brought up the subject of Bridge House, and following investigation by Babergh Officers we are told that it is unsafe, the roof leaks etc. Having made a fuss about the District Council permitting a property of their own which is in the conservation area to become uninhabitable Councillor Riley is in discussion with Babergh about the building and possible community uses.

I doubt if we will hear anything more about this until Babergh have made their decisions on the future of their Corks Lane Offices, but his building could possibly be used for some of the Community purposes that the East House supporters group feel are lacking in the town.

We await any further proposals or decision on the Future of East House.

Whilst on the topic of planning the Town Council are at the beginning of starting the long and very complicated work on producing a Neighbourhood plan. The Government 'proposals on Neighbourhood plans' was brought in a few years ago and many towns and parishes are progressing with these plans. Simplistically the parish produces its own plans within the local District plan for the present and future of their parish. If the neighbourhood plan is passed then the District Council has to abide by it and also 25% of the Community Infrastructure Levy comes to the Parish Council for their designated use.

To produce the plan there has to be full involvement and consultation with the community, when the plan is produced it then goes through an examination process by the government appointed inspector and then if passed the plan then has to pass a referendum of the residents. At the moment the process is taking at least two years, only a handful of parishes have gone through the whole process successfully, many failing the examination and the costs of producing the plan are high. Thame has produced a successful plan and are working to it, but at a cost of £100,000. Most parishes at the moment are around the £30 to £40,000 with a lot of the working being undertaken by volunteers.

I mention this tonight because in the next few months consultation will start in Hadleigh and I would urge you to become involved, answer questionnaires and put your views forward. The whole process is about Hadleigh taking ownership of its future, it is not about refusing new developments but making sure new housing is in the best place for the town, and while there may be some dreaming of what we would like for the future it must all of course take place within the finances available, so really best use of resources. Please watch this space and take part in any consultations.

Chair's review. – Jan Byrne

There is nothing exciting to report in this year's Chair's review. Membership remains stable and the numbers attending meetings are very good for a relatively small organisation.

Yet again our speakers and their topics have been varied and interesting and I am aware that you really enjoyed the Christmas meeting when the History group gave their presentation on Hadleigh in the First World War. We will never pull up a dandelion again without thinking of school children collecting the roots, or indeed conkers being used for munitions! It was interesting to see how a small town gave it's all to the war effort.

This coming year's programme is just as varied and we hope meets with your approval and continued support.

We are very grateful to Sue Angland for struggling through the mounds of paperwork required to acquire the monies for our new P.A. system. The equipment will be given to the Town Council for use in this building, which hopefully brings in a little more money for the struggling building, but we really hope to be able to persuade our speakers to use

the equipment so that we no longer struggle to hear some of the asides that even speakers with loud voices make. Thank you very much Sue.

And thank you to all of the committee who have met regularly to undertake the work for the Society, we share the jobs out and everybody joins in so that no one role is arduous. Unfortunately under the five year rule Hattie has to stand down this year, but I have little doubt that we will keep her busy. Thank you Hattie, and all of the committee.

May I take this opportunity to wish Graham every happiness in his marriage in a few weeks' time, we hope that you have a really memorable day, and are delighted that you are not leaving Hadleigh.

Proposal to amend the constitution.

As you have seen in the Newsletter we would ask you to support the committee in this change to the constitution. The current relevant clause states:- The Executive Committee shall consist of the Officers and not less than six and not more than eight other members to include the representatives of study groups set up under item 9.

We wish to change this to:-

The Executive Committee shall consist of not less than six and not more than eight members to include the Officers and the representatives of study groups set up under item 9.

Over the last few years we have not had enough people offer to join the committee to achieve the required numbers and have often not been quorate. We hope that reducing the number will enable us always to be quorate, remembering if at any time you inundate us with offers to join the committee we can always co-opt until the next A.G.M. when rules can be changed.

Please will you vote for this resolution?

Proposed by Jan Byrne,

Seconded by:-Graham Panton

Passed unanimously

Election of Officers and Executive Committee Members

The present committee are all willing to continue and have been nominated and seconded.

Jan Byrne
Margaret Woods
Chris Drake
Graham Panton
Sue Angland
Barry Denny

Chairman
Vice Chairman
Honorary Treasurer
Honorary Secretary
member
member

representing the History Group

Agreed by all.

AOB

Congratulations to the committee on their opposition to the Tesco plans.

Before we continue the business of the evening may I remind you that our next meeting is on Wednesday 6th August when Pip Wright will be talking on 'Frolic, Fervour and Fornication'

Having finished the business of the Annual Meeting and before we have a drink and nibbles we are delighted that Margaret Woods has agreed to talk to us on the Courts and Petty Crime in Medieval Hadleigh.

Finished formal business 8:25

Finished talk: 9:25

THE HADLEIGH SOCIETY

Honorary Secretary

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*All views expressed are those
of the contributors and are
not necessarily those of the
Hadleigh Society*

Programme of Events 2015

Wed 4 Feb	Hadleigh's Charities	History Group
Tue 24 Mar	Foul Deeds & Suspicious Deaths in Suffolk	Mark Mower
Tue 12 May	History of Spoken English - and why Suffolk is the most important dialect	Charlie Haylock
Wed 10 Jun	AGM	
Wed 5 Aug	A Hadleigh Perambulation - Beating the Bounds	Roger Kennell and Sally Looker
Tue 6 Oct	100 Not Out - A History of the Diocese	Roy Tricker
Meetings are held in Hadleigh Old Town Hall, 8pm, unless otherwise notified. Entry is free for members, £3 for non- members.		

Other Contacts

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The **Hadleigh Society** website has past newsletters and other information at
<http://www.hadsoc.org.uk/>