

Annual General Meeting 2019

To be held Friday November 15 at
7.15pm
Crawford Hall, Bidford

Reports Pack:

1. Chairman's Report
2. Treasurer's Report
3. Research Group Chairman Report
4. Minutes of 2017/18 AGM

Bidford & District History Society: Chairman's Report: 2018/19

15th November 2019

2018/19 was our 13th year following the Society's launch in September 2006. It is very gratifying to report that our membership has, throughout this period, been over 90 every year and in most years over 100. We remain the largest group in the village and in 2018/19 we reached a membership of 118 (122 last year). We are already 111 members for the current year with some of last year's members yet to re-join. If previous years are anything to go by, we should add to that number during the remainder of the programme.

Changes to committee

By the end of season 2018-2019 the committee had evolved. Roger Leese and Bob Marshall have stepped down, and we thank them for their excellent and consistent contributions over the years. They have left tangible and vital evidence of society activity during their tenure, and we are assured that their knowledge and energy is not lost to us in future.

Alex Grieve became chairman elect, following the completion of Mark Shaddick's term of office. Mark has also had a huge influence on the society throughout its life. He will continue as Programme Secretary and as an active member of the Research Group.

John Alexander -Head, having led on programme activities for some time, will now focus on website activities and our liaison with the local library, although we appreciate the myriad other tasks that he and Mary quietly finesse throughout the year which greatly facilitate the smooth running of the society.

Programme:

The past programme year has maintained our intention for variety of content but with some consistency too. We continued to touch on WW1 during its centenary period with a talk on WWI from the German perspective and a talk on Bidford WWI survivors covered in our own publication, *'Have you Forgotten Yet?'*.

The 17th century was well covered in talks on Charles 1 and Charles II. An excellent presentation on the Battle of Edgehill was followed by a very successful field trip to the site of the battle, organised by John Alexander-Head and led by the speaker. That was matched by a pleasant Sunday morning ramble around the battlefield of Stow-on-the-Wold under the aegis of the Battlefields Trust.

Various talks on 19th and 20th centuries ranged from The History of Hugely Huggable Teddy Bears to developments in medical care and life expectancy and from George Cadbury and Joseph Chamberlain to Women's Policing in the West Midlands.

In addition to the ten talks in 2018-19 our annual coach outing arranged by Helen Smith produced a very successful visit to The National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas.

Publicity:

On 18/05/19 we participated in the village Annual Parish Meeting putting on a display of local history and engaging with the public in the Crawford Hall as part of an outreach event organised by Bidford Parish Council.

Particular thanks are due to John Alexander-Head for developing and facilitating a changing display of subjects of local historical interest, starting with the local contribution to Britain's WWI conflict, looking at the effects of climate in the locality with 'Bidford under the Weather' and currently showing how Bidford became a holiday resort around the turn of the 19th century. If you have not visited this part of the library then I recommend it as a great way to explore the

impressive range of material on the history of Bidford and the surrounding district. Overtures by the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust (SBT) will hopefully result in us being able to contribute to the Community Board in The New Place, as trailed in last year's report.

Whilst participation in these latter two activities is, perhaps, not widely known amongst our members, I believe that it is important for members to know that the Committee continues to engage in more than just its ten talks and one outing each year in promoting not just the Society but local history within and beyond the Bidford district. May I also recommend our very accessible and readable website, developed by John Alexander-Head for not only finding out about future meetings and events but also for mining its rich vein of information on history of our district: www.bidfordhistory.org.uk

Indeed, the Society's Research Group, touched on above, continued to be very active during the year in exploring the history of the area, particularly in the early 20th century. A report of their work is given elsewhere in the AGM by its hard-working Chairman, Wendy Shaddick, along with mention of the projects to digitise archive material, and to create archive storage in the library with retrieval facilities.

Financially, the Society continued in 2018-19, in keeping with its not-for-profit ethos, to maintain a break-even position on which Mary Alexander-Head, our dedicated Treasurer, will report elsewhere in the AGM.

Our continued success is also in no small way the result of a hard-working team whose tirelessness and enthusiasm has ensured that we do not rest on our laurels. I would like to thank all our committee members over the past year for their valuable contributions which continue to underpin our success. As you can see, however, the Committee has evolved with time. We would welcome supporting contributions in any shape or form. There is scope for addition to our Committee, thus sharing the workload and reducing the risk if folks become unavailable for whatever reason. All are welcome to consider participation, and ladies are reminded that we would like to enjoy gender balance to ensure that common sense and varied views prevail. But contributions of expertise and energy in any dimension are important to the overall picture.

In conclusion, I would also like to thank all of you for your loyal support over the years and hope for your continued interest in, as well as enjoyment of, the programmes and material which we strive to offer.

Alex Grieve
Chairman
Bidford and District History Society

BIDFORD & DISTRICT HISTORY SOCIETY AGM 15 NOVEMBER 2019
TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1 SEPTEMBER 2018 TO 31 AUGUST 2019

INCOME

The Society attracted 118 Members during the year. Membership levels and visitor numbers enabled us to maintain subscriptions at £19 (£17 for early bird payment). This income from Members is key to the Society being able to run a programme of talks.

EXPENDITURE

The relationship with the Library continued this year and will move into a new phase in the coming year with our archive being situated in the Library.

RESERVES

The Society's Savings Account balance at 31 August 2019 was £3104.00.

<u>INCOME & EXPENDITURE 2018 – 2019</u>	31/08/19	31/08/18
<u>INCOME</u>	£	£
SUBSCRIPTIONS	1991.00	1774.00
VISITORS	238.50	247.50
GRANTS	0.00	250.00
BANK INTEREST	1.55	1.55
TRIPS - Edgehill	150.00	0.00
SUMMER TRIP - National Memorial Arboretum	640.00	852.00
OTHER	0.00	3.00
SUB-TOTAL	3021.05	3128.05
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
SPEAKERS	628.00	650.00
HALL HIRE	550.00	442.75
DRINK & FOOD COSTS	14.00	61.80
TRIPS - Edgehill	150.00	0.00
SUMMER TRIP - National Memorial Arboretum	617.00	861.00
GIFTS	135.28	97.49
WEBSITE COSTS (Address, SSL Cert & McAfee)	379.79	328.79
PRINTING & DISTRIBUTION (Library, AGM, Membership Cards)	243.39	189.81
EQUIPMENT	0.00	68.47
SUBSCRIPTIONS (WLHS & BALH)	91.00	91.00
OTHER	10.59	0.00
SUB-TOTAL	2819.05	2791.11
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	202.00	336.94

INDEPENDENT INSPECTION OF ACCOUNTS

The Independent Inspection of Accounts has been completed and, with some final details to resolve, it is anticipated the Inspection will be judged satisfactory.

RESEARCH GROUP

The publication of Have You Forgotten Yet? was supported by grants from Warwickshire County Council (£750.00) and Bidford Parish Council (£1000.00), together with other donations. 433 books were sold as at 31 August 2019 with an income of £4104.00.

Research for the book revealed that the War Memorial in Bidford did not show the names of all those who gave their lives in World War 1. The Society contributed £900 to share with the Parish Council the cost of adding these names to the Memorial.

The Society organised Returned 1918 – Remembered 2018 on 3 November 2018 to commemorate the ending of World War 1. The Committee recognised that ticket sales, priced as they were at £5, would not cover the costs and the event made a loss of £352.69. It was possible to absorb this loss as the Research Group have accumulated funds over a number of years. The balance of the Research Group Account was £8555.74 as at 31 August 2019.

The Society has begun to actively manage material for archiving. A student was engaged to support digital archiving and the plan is to continue with this work.

Mary Alexander-Head

Bidford & District History Society
Research Group Annual Report: 2018-19
AGM: Friday 15th November 2019

Last November saw the launch, complete with a commemorative concert, of Bob Marshall's book, *'Have You Forgotten Yet?'* telling the stories of over 180 soldiers from Bidford and the surrounding district who survived World War I. We have since sold 440 copies with books on sale not only by the Society but also in Budgens, Hillers and in Stratford in Waterstones, W.H. Smith and The Magic Alley.

2019 is the centenary of the Treaty of Versailles which marked the official end of the Great War. As a permanent remembrance of that conflict we have secured the kind permission of the Crawford Memorial Hall Management Committee to erect a Roll of Honour recording all the names of Bidford servicemen who served between 1914 and 1918. The Crawford Hall will indeed be an appropriate place as Dr Crawford himself will be one of the names recorded and was a founder member of the Bidford Royal British Legion. We had hoped to have the board installed by the Remembrance Sunday weekend this year but, as the Crawford Hall is about to undergo extensive renovations, it was decided to wait until that is completed. We are very grateful to the Parish Council and Bidford Rotary Club for their generous donations which have made this possible.

Members have continued with research for publications. A group comprising Roger Leese, Bob Marshall, Sandra Parker and Rodney Crompton is nearing completion of its work on Jack Moore's *'Avon Almanac'*, a publication written in 1972 by Bidford market gardener, Jack Moore, on farming through the seasons in this area during the 1920s. Roger has painstakingly worked through the agricultural terms long-gone from our vocabulary to create a glossary and has also added photographs. Bob Marshall, who knew Jack Moore, has written a biography of him and thanks go to Sandra Parker for inclusion of contemporary photographs. Roger is at present working on an introduction and hopes to publish the *'Almanac'* in the late Spring of 2020. It promises to be another valuable work ensuring that an important part of Bidford's past is preserved.

Bob Marshall and Betty Hemming have now moved on to researching the lives of Bidford servicemen in World War II. Roger Leese has already completed detailed research into evacuees in the village and Avonside's role as a maternity hospital for mothers from blitz-torn Birmingham and Coventry and we therefore hope to turn this research into a book on Bidford during the Second World War.

We have continued to offer material for displays in the library which have included Bidford in extreme weather, the village as a holiday resort and we are preparing material for a display on the area's infant and junior schools with another to follow on what was the village High School (now the site of Dugdale Avenue). Another interesting subject for one of next year's displays will be on the village carnival which was such a feature of village life for many years. We are grateful to Rodney Crompton for kindly allowing us the use of his extensive collection of photographs and postcards and also thanks are due to John Alexander-Head who uses the material we supply to put together such attractive and interesting displays, including booklets featuring additional information.

For many years the Research Group has been conscious of the need to preserve original material on the village's past. We are therefore really excited to be working with Bidford Community Library to create an archive in the library for those wishing to research Bidford's past. A joint committee chaired by John Alexander-Head is therefore working to create this and we have just installed a steel cabinet which will enable documents, photographs, etc to be preserved in appropriate conditions ensuring their survival for future generations. This was made possible through funding from the County Council sourced by Mark Shaddick. We

will be setting up a catalogue of what the archive holds and the public will be welcome to use these documents at the library. We are grateful to John Alexander-Head and Mark Shaddick who have overseen the digitisation of many of our more fragile documents and the digitised versions will also become available to the public. We are also grateful to Angela Ballard, the library staff and Elizabeth Uggerløse for making this exciting opportunity possible and hope to have it up and running in 2020. If any of you have or know the whereabouts of documents, photographs, postcards, letters, etc concerning Bidford's past, we would be grateful if you would allow us either to store it securely in our archives or to make a digital copy for others to access, subject to your permission.

Finally, we always welcome new members – no experience required – just enthusiasm and a curiosity about the past. Some of us are total amateurs and we are all helped by those with more knowledge which is how we encourage each other as we each bring something different to our group. I remain grateful to all our intrepid researchers who continue to bring to light new and fascinating information concerning the past of Bidford and the surrounding district.

Wendy Shaddick (Chairman of the BDHS Research Group)

BIDFORD & DISTRICT HISTORY SOCIETY
MINUTES OF AGM FOR 2017-2018
15th February 2019 AT 7.30PM

1) APOLOGIES: Bob Marshall, Rodney & Jane Crompton, John O'Connor, Chris Smith, Helen Smith, Larry and Carole Thomson

2) MINUTES OF LAST AGM: Approved nem con by a show of hands.

3) APPOINTMENT OF THE COMMITTEE: The Committee for 2018-2019 was ratified as:

Chairman:	Mark Shaddick
Deputy Chairman:	Roger Leese
Treasurer:	Mary Alexander-Head
Membership Secretary & Programme:	Alex Grieve replacing Jenny Ganderton (March 2018)
Programme Secretary/Website:	John Alexander-Head
Library & Programme	John O'Connor
Chair of Research Group:	Wendy Shaddick
Hospitality/Visits:	Bob Marshall and Helen Smith

4) CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: The report, previously circulated to members by e-mail, was accepted nem con.

5) FINANCIAL REPORT:

The summary of Income and Expenditure for the year 2016/2017 was previously circulated to members by e-mail. The Treasurer Mary Alexander-Head reported a surplus of £336.94, compared to a loss of £188.90 the previous year.

6) RESEARCH GROUP: The report by Wendy Shaddick, previously circulated to members by e-mail, was accepted.

7) ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

There were no comments from the floor.

Mark updated the meeting on progress for ideas on previous concerns about the supervising of areas where documents could be stored. He had explored possible s.106 funding with the Clerk to the Parish Council but that proved inappropriate. An alternative strategy had been suggested and is being pursued, namely developing a facility within the library, with funding matched by the Parish Council.

Mark Shaddick thanked the Committee for their hard work and enthusiasm. In particular he noted that much work goes on unseen, especially by the ubiquitous John and Mary Alexander-Head. He also thanked "The Chairmen", Derrick Smart, Alan Coldicott and Peter Jones, for their assistance in setting out chairs and tables and helping behind the scenes, as well as Chris Smith for all his hard work in editing and circulating reports of past meetings and events, and publicity for future meetings to the local press and village magazines.

He also thanked everyone for attending.

The AGM closed at 7.40.p.m.

