



**Glossop & District Heritage Trust c/o 65 High Street West Glossop SK13 8AZ.
A company limited by guarantee, company number 01945480**

Registered Charity no. 517900

Patron: Edward William Fitzalan Howard, 18th Duke of Norfolk

Chairman: Anthony Wright

www.glossopheritage.co.uk

This report is for the period from 6 September 2015 to 5 September 2016. Shortly before last year's AGM, Trust Director Frances Brierley had indicated that after very careful consideration, she was unable to consider standing for re-election as a Director. Consequently her term of office ceased at the AGM. This information was received with great sadness by the Board. During her three years as a Director, Frances had established our Blue Plaque scheme. She had been responsible for the arrangements in connection with both of our Blue Plaques – Edmund Potter and Matthew Ellison Hadfield. Although all the Board members had been involved in various ways, it is fair to say that Frances was the driving force behind both of them. In fact it is not long ago that she mailed me to say that a report on the M E Hadfield Blue Plaque had appeared in Derbyshire Life sometime after the event. Both these events raised the profile of GHT out of Glossop and into a wider domain. Frances would be a hard act to follow (although follow it we have).

The Blue Plaque event this year honoured Robert Hamnett, the late 19th century/early 20th century historian of Glossop. It was he who first excavated at Melandra and placed on exhibition in the Victoria Hall his finds. These now form the basis of the Melandra collection in the Buxton museum. He was a prolific deliverer of lectures and articles in the local paper. His contribution to the preservation of Glossop's history cannot be underestimated and it was wholly fitting that he should be the recipient of our third Blue Plaque placed on another of Glossop's iconic buildings – the former Conservative Club opposite the station.

Mike Brown was the Trust Director responsible for driving that forward and I record my thanks to Mike for all his hard work.

Its unveiling this year was even more pleasant having been carried out by our good friend Councillor George Wharmby this year's Mayor. He and Jean graced us with their presence and George recalled in his speech that his grandfather had been a party to the building of the Conservative Club. Sadly, although the

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Glossop Chronicle gave excellent coverage prior to the event, the event itself was poorly attended.

Talking of the Blue Plaque event leads me on to our two summer walks. The first of these on a pretty dreadfully wet night on 28 June (well it was midsummer!) was attended by twenty hardened individuals who, I believe, enjoyed it. The talk format largely followed a walk given by Hamnett himself although, while he continued to Melandra, we stopped it at the bottom of Shrewsbury Street. Lynda Meehan contributed a fascinating glimpse of the High Street shops, while I delivered Hamnett's contribution.

A week later I led a walk around Whitfield. Eighteen attended this but these eighteen were largely newcomers to GHT and were themselves mainly residents or natives of Whitfield. Terry Revell had arranged for us to have access to the former chapel at the top of Whitfield Avenue. I wrote to the Masonic Lodge of Hadfield to thank them. One of our attenders had never been in it before but was delighted to have access as her parents had been married there. It is fair to say that those attending learnt far more about Whitfield in the two hours we were walking than they had realised existed.

The Open Evenings this year have been extremely varied. Our autumn Open Evening was compiled and delivered by Paul Bush on the subject of Matthew Ellison Hadfield. This was a natural progression from the 2015 Blue Plaque event. Paul had meticulously researched his material. The talk was attended by descendants of Hadfield still living locally and we were very grateful to him.

The spring Open Evening was presented by our Director Nigel Dunkerley and related to the Battle of the Somme. We were a bit early for it as the official commemorations weren't until July but it was entirely right to stage it. Nigel put a fascinating talk together using his extensive knowledge of the Somme and the fact that he runs his own Company – Battlefield Tours – specialising in battlefield tours for both the World Wars no doubt assisted him. I have found it particularly fascinating as it explained to me just how the Battle had worked. It was fitting that the Royal British Legion Glossop Branch were able to conduct a brief act of homage beforehand.

The 2015 AGM was followed by a brief history of Glossop Heritage Trust itself presented by Mike Brown. It is important that we don't lose track of our roots.

We have continued to deliver talks throughout the year. We compiled a list of available talks in March. There were twenty two on it and it continues to grow. These talks are a vital source of income as the accounts have revealed.

Having researched, prepared and delivered one on early development of modern Glossop for the Glossop Guild, I appreciate the time and effort put into them and express very great thanks to those of us who deliver them.

We continue to act in many other respects. Lynda Meehan points out that her team of Trust members have been very active. Ian and Eileen Laybourn have worked on the late 19th and early 20th century local newspapers. Kath Tarbatt has

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worked on the collection of Glossop Chronicles 1937 – 1970. Graham Oakley has been working with school registers. They all work from home transcribing information which will be a great help to future generations who wish to learn about their ancestors and the times in which they lived. Although most of the newspaper collection is digitised, it is extremely time-consuming to find relevant information and the work of Lynda's team has facilitated a far easier access to information. I am very grateful to her and to them for all their hard but usually unsung work.

Material continues to come in. Yesterday I collected an archive box from High Peak Medical Officer of Health reports from 1902 onwards. High Peak's legal department didn't just want to throw them away and offered them to the Trust. People drop things into my office. I received a transcription of Mr Kenworthy's retirement from public service. Mr Kenworthy was a lamplighter and attended his first lamp on the night of Glossop Old Wakes Friday 1871. Other Trust Directors will tell you similar tales. It is important that we maintain our profile to maintain this important income of material.

We have continued to enjoy High Peak Borough Council's support, receiving this year a further grant. We have supplemented our income by counter sales. The 2016 calendar for the first time sold out. It generated a profit of around £1,000. This year we have restocked and orders were placed for mugs, coasters and fridge magnets. These will all be on sale at the Old Glossop Christmas Market which last year was attended by Michael and Mari Brown, me and my wife Judy and Terry Revell. We used the Trust's own gazebo for the first time. Fortunately it didn't blow away. Do please come and visit us there on 4 December.

We have continued to field enquiries from a wide range. High Peak Planning Department keeps us busy. Archaeologists doing planning reports refer to us. Members of the general public seek information. Where the information is being used commercially, we make a charge.

Trust Director Roger Hargreaves has been following the debate over Glossop Public Halls carefully and not only keeps us fully informed but keeps local authority aware of our interest. It would be nice to get some of our artefacts out on display again in a safe environment which doesn't need to be manned. Mention of artefacts prompts me to thank local businessman Andrew Adderley for free storage in his warehouse at Brookfield and also Vaughn Rees who continues to provide that free storage.

Nothing happens without backroom work and I thank my receptionist Sheila Mullen who has just retired. On behalf of the Trust I wish her a happy retirement. She has handed over the reins to my new receptionist Tracey Mettrick who is now familiar with the membership lists. This year for the first time subscriptions reached £1,000. I thank my secretary Fiona Hayward for her assistance with document production.

I thank all my fellow Trust Directors who contribute in so many different ways. Everybody has something to give and a role to play. Daphne Killick looks after

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the accounts, and occasional catering, and the Vice Chair Kate Best assists in sales and management.

I started this report with mention of a resignation. Although strictly forming part of next year's report, we were delighted that Kate Raine was able to join the Board as a co-opted member in September. She stands for election tonight. By profession Kate is an archivist – God is good. We welcome her to the Trust.

We always feel that we don't have enough people – some Board members say this regularly and with ever increasing passion. We are not a closed shop. The best way to become involved in the Trust's activities is to join the Board. If any members are interested we would be delighted to talk to them.

Tony Wright,
Chair
November 2016

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