



**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, 18<sup>th</sup> Duke of Norfolk**  
**Chairman: Anthony Wright**  
[www.glossoperitage.co.uk](http://www.glossoperitage.co.uk)

This report is for the period from 6 September 2016 to 5 September 2017.

Reflecting upon the year's activities, I realise how much time and effort is put in by all those who closely assist the Trust, not only the members of the Board but also those who volunteer with the various functions, including the constant scanning in of both new and old material to reduce our dependency upon paper documents. To all of those, board members and volunteers alike, I offer my heartfelt thanks.

This process of "digitalisation" scanning documents to the computer to hold them electronically arises not only from the existing material we have but from new material which comes in all the time. An example of this was the receipt from the estate of the late Jack Garlick of material gathered by him throughout his life and as a member of the Glossop Historical Society. That was obtained due to the diligence of Roger Hargreaves in ensuring that on Jack's death the material was not dispersed by his executors who had no knowledge of its worth.

We took a close look at our sales stock during the year and re-stocked with mugs, coasters and fridge magnets. Quite apart from that however we continue to promote our annual calendar which has remained priced at £6.50 for the last few years and is felt now to be of exceptionally good value. Once again Lynda Meehan and Kate Best have borne the brunt of that.

We have continued with our Open Evenings. In the autumn of 2016 Mike Brown spoke to us about Robert Hamnett, following on from the installation of the Blue Plaque in his honour on the old Conservative Club building. Mike also spoke about the "the railway that never was" at last year's AGM. This was a projected line which would have reached a terminus somewhere in the vicinity of the present telephone exchange. In our spring Open Evening, Kate Raine produced a diligently researched account of the celebrations associated with the opening of Howard Park and the complex of public buildings – the swimming baths and Woods Hospital, within it 130 years ago. This was a very great occasion in Glossop and Kate took us through both the planning and the events themselves and how they linked to the construction of the Victoria Hall.

It followed on from this that the Blue Plaque yet to be installed this year would be in honour of the Wood family who had provided Howard Park and its buildings on land given by Lord Howard. This Blue Plaque is to be erected on the entrance to the swimming baths and in association with the Friends of Howard Park. It is worth mentioning that it has been supported by the Derbyshire County Council Community Leadership Scheme at the behest of our good friends County Councillors Jean and George Wharmby. Effectively, the grant from the County Council has covered the cost of the production of the Blue Plaque.

Kate's talk also enabled us to link to the Victoria Arts Project which aims to retain the Victoria Hall as a public building once Derbyshire County Council's use of it for the library

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has finished. We were asked by the Victoria Arts Project if we were prepared to hold on trust for them a grant they had received from Derbyshire County Council. Victoria Arts Project is not yet a legally constituted body and we were pleased to assist in that regard and as is revealed in the accounts.

We had one evening walk this year which I conducted, starting and finishing at the station but taking in Howard Street, North Road, Spire Hollin, the Victoria Hall, Charles Street and Norfolk Street. This was well attended – the weather helped, but it was nice to see new faces.

We have continued to provide talks. These produce an income for the Trust. We are happy to accommodate requests for talks. It is surprising how the feedback at talks enhances our knowledge.

We have had input in connection with the Howard Town Mill development in that we were fortunate to have contact with Lynne Walker an archaeologist who holds a national role who was carrying out an archaeological survey on Woods Mill and we were able to supply her with material and in turn receive material back from her. This demonstrated that John Wood was still building water powered mills after the arrival of the railway, whereas it had previously been assumed that once coal was available, water power would be dispensed with.

Much work has been done on the website. Graham Hadfield, who has now been co-opted to the Board and stands for election tonight has expanded it considerably with much input from other Board members. Kate Raine and Roger Hargreaves have been exceptionally active on our new Facebook site which I do ask those of you who use Facebook to visit, and also on other Facebook sites keeping a constant watch to correct misapprehensions.

The later part of the year has been dominated by assistance we were asked to give to High Peak Borough Council in connection with their Heritage Lottery Fund initiative relating to the Town Hall, Market Hall and Municipal Buildings. It is very much within our remit to do what we can to preserve Glossop's historic buildings and bring them back into public use. It is anticipated that this process will be ongoing for some time but I cannot underestimate the burden which this put upon Board members particularly Roger Hargreaves, who within a short timescale had to produce extensive information.

Your Board has also undergone a period of introspection, having a close look at the Trust and the way in which it operates.

We have continued to liaise with Derbyshire County Records Office to ensure that material coming into us which may be of interest to them is passed on. As we here are at the northern edge of the county it is important that we keep on their radar.

I thank High Peak Borough Council for its continued support and we in turn continue to assist the Council where appropriate. I thank again George Wharmby for a donation from his mayoral fund of £200 during the year. Every little bit helps.

Our membership has stayed steady at 100, we have lost a few existing members during the year and extend condolences to their families. Happily however we have had new members to maintain the status quo.

I express my thanks to all of our Board members, and to my staff who provide me with administrative backup and also conduct sales from my office.

Tony Wright  
14 November 2017

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