

**Family History Society of Cheshire (Macclesfield Group)**  
**2023 Annual General Meeting**

**Tuesday 26th September 2023 19.30p.m.**  
**Salvation Army Hall**

Chair Jean Laidlaw, Group Leader

13 members and 5 visitors present

1. Minutes of 2022 AGM accepted.  
Proposed: Mike Fidgett    Seconded: Joan Irving
2. Apologies for absence.    Paul Hibbert
3. Macclesfield Group Leaders Report 2022/23.

Following the coronavirus pandemic our meetings have returned to more normal pattern of face to face meetings, with a couple of Zoom meetings, in January and February when members were less likely to want to venture out at night. The programme was varied and included in July 2022 a talk by Lyndon Murgatroyd entitled The Plague of the 20th Century describing the history of Spanish flu from its original source to the end.

In October 2022 David Tolliday gave a talk on Charles Tunnicliffe the wildlife artist.

Our January Zoom talk proved very popular when Mike Royden spoke about The Poor Law and Workhouses in Cheshire, including information on Macclesfield Workhouse.

In March Thelma Yarrall (formerly Whiston) told us about J. T. Moore a folding chair manufacturer of Langley and the connection to the Whiston family who were silk dyers and printers.

In May our subjects was The fighting McKays of Macclesfield, the story of six soldier brothers relayed by David Hill.

Membership: We currently have 133 society members who are members of the Macclesfield group, of course, many of these are people who have Macclesfield ancestors but live in other areas. The number of people attending face to face meetings is still slightly less than pre pandemic levels.

Committee: I'd like to thank the committee for their work for the group – we have met regularly. A special thanks to them for helping me with the events we put on at the Library.

I will not be standing for re-election as group leader as we will be moving to Suffolk shortly. So far no one has shown any interest in taking on the role although I have mentioned it in the last two newsletters I have sent out. I have suggested separating the role into several smaller roles:

- a programme organiser to liaise with speakers and arrange dates with them
- a publicity organiser to arrange advertising in local publications, websites and distribute posters
- a person to act as host at each meeting to open up the building, to introduce the speaker, organise questions and give the vote of thanks
- a representative of the group to attend twice yearly Group Leaders and Executive Committee meetings, both on Zoom

but again no one has shown any interest.

Please think about these suggestions – could you do it? Do you know someone who could? The committee are very supportive and I will be around for a short while to help. Remember if no one steps forward to take on the roles the group will probably cease to exist after November 2023.

(Thanks to Jean Laidlaw for leading the group so successfully for many years.)  
October and November meetings are already planned and will take place.

- 4     Treasurer's Report  
Overall finances remain in a similar, healthy condition to other years.  
Thanks are due to David Irving for auditing this year's account.  
Proposed: Janet Philips   Seconded: Thelma Yarrall
- 6     Election of Officers.  
The current committee members have agreed to continue for another year.  
Secretary                      Gill Parry  
Treasurer                      Michael Fidgett  
Front of House                Babs Johnson  
Proposed: Joan Irving   Seconded: Pauline Chadwick
- 7     AOB  
No other business.

The meeting closed at 19.45p.m.