

annual report 2018

CITY OF DURHAM TRUST

The Trust, founded in 1942, is a non-profit-distributing company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales, No 377108. Registered as a charity, No 502132.

Founder:

The Very Revd Cyril A Alington, DD
Dean of Durham 1933-51

Patrons:

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Honorary Secretary:

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SEVENTY - SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES, 2017 - 2018

"The cranes that dot Durham City's skyline symbolise the spirit that pervades the county." Thus began a recent supplement, sponsored by the County Council and University, in *The Times*. County apart, the half dozen jib-cranes piercing the city's skyline, drawing attention away from the bandaged head of the cathedral tower, symbolise the latest and most dramatic stage in the colonisation of the city by the University's expansion. Our review of the past year, therefore, will turn first to this key topic.

THE UNIVERSITY AND THE CITY

The city centre cranes hardly signify a commercial hot-spot. In fact those assisting the huge privately-built student block (PBSA, 477 bed spaces), occupying half of Lower Claypath, is on land originally zoned for an extension of city-centre uses, while those on the trumpeted development of The Gates, which is going to 'give the riverside back to us', would not have been present but for the incorporation of 253 student bed spaces which make the project financially viable. The third site, on the extensive area of Milburngate House, is to contain so many apartments that it is difficult not to think that some students will find a home here also. Nearby, the former County Hospital site, adjacent to the city centre with direct access to both bus and rail stations, has been sterilised by another PBSA block (363 bed spaces) to be known as Rushford Court when it opens in September.

Altogether, the last few years have seen an explosion of PBSAs - eight already completed and housing over 1600 students, with a similar number to be housed in five blocks nearing completion. During the summer another block (150-70 beds) temporarily threatened at St Margaret's Court; much more likely is the redevelopment of the former Three Tuns hotel (140 bed spaces). A crucial factor in this scalar change in student residence is that none is built on University land: they are all built off-campus.

Another category of off-campus living, which has gathered pace during the PBSA era, has been the conversion of upper floors of commercial premises in the city centre to student accommodation. Trustees have for decades supported so-called 'living above the shop', and where premises are vacant it is wise to bring them back into use. However, Trustees do query the loss of upper floor city centre uses, especially a variety of both offices and services. None may be vital, but the cumulative effect is to drain away what has traditionally contributed to the unique lifeblood of the centre. (Of course, the role of city centres everywhere is changing, but is it a reflection of the national trend, or the declining pull of Durham, which has seen the conversion of upper floors? (The most obvious loss is the former main post office building to be reduced to ground-floor retailing, with student accommodation above The tragic loss of M&S in April will be watched apprehensively.)

The oldest category of off-campus living is that which occupies former family residences. Well over 1800 properties have been converted into student-lets. Although the Authority's belated Interim Policy to control further conversions is now in force, the addition of extra bedrooms in existing 'houses in multiple occupation' (HMOs) continues apace. Moreover, a glaring weakness of the Interim Policy is that in controlling new conversions, it measures properties, not bed spaces, within one hundred metres of an applicant-property, thereby in many instances making a mockery

of its intention to maintain balanced communities. Thus, any PBSA block, with its hundreds of students, counts as one, the same as any surrounding dwelling.

Into this situation the University's Master Plan 2017-27 envisages an increase in students numbers of 6,500, only half of whom will be in "college-affiliated accommodation". In the words of the Vice-Chancellor, the University "cannot afford to stand still." Both our small city and its citizens - the latter already outnumbered by students - will thus have to experience even greater environmental, social and economic impact to accommodate the expanding institution. Regrettably, such 'costs' are neglected in proud periodic pronouncements of the benefit - expressed in monetary terms - brought by the University not only to the city, but to the county, region and even country. The latest example, a report by Biggar Economics, commissioned by the University, conducts just such a one-sided analysis.



Jib-cranes over The Gates



Jib-cranes in Lower Claypath

The reality is that the University occasions disbenefits, as well as benefits. In this equation there is a variety of costs or negative effects which our expanding University imposes on the city. Moreover, while benefits are felt beyond the city to county and even further afield, the disbenefits are borne by the city. A first obvious example is the loss to the Authority of council tax on HMOs (for which a monetary figure can be easily calculated). There is the displacement cost of activities which would normally occupy city centre locations. There is the absence of many thousands of retail customers during six months of vacation during the year. There is then what might be termed 'a total citizen experience', to balance the 'total university experience' to which reference is frequently made. Apart from student cars competing for road and parking space, by day there is the experience in the tsunami waves of students competing for space through narrow streets and along inadequate pavements, the peaks related to the lecture timetable. (The Authority's plans for Church Street to widen pavements, thus making a one-way section for vehicles, with lights, etc, is another example of the city having to adjust to the University.) By night there can be noisy waves on pub/night club crawls. (On one occasion it is reported that Cleveland Police had to be brought in to exert control. In the six months since July 2017 there have been 265 Police Community Protection Warnings for anti-social behaviour issued to students.)

MAIDEN CASTLE DEVELOPMENT

The boost to the UK economy and "the aspiration to be ranked number one in Europe for Wider



Green Belt land at Maiden Castle

Student Experience" were cited by the University for its extensive proposals at Maiden Castle. (The Case Officer in his report added the University mantra of the "risks of standing still".) The Green Belt site had already been adversely effected by piece-meal applications - three earlier in 2017. The latest included a near-doubling of building coverage in new and extended form, both of which are "inappropriate in Green Belt" according to national planning policy (NPPF). The Policy continues that "inappropriate development is, by definition, harmful to the Green Belt" and that "substantial weight is given to any harm". Approval, however, may be given in "very exceptional circumstances" where

potential harm "is <u>clearly outweighed</u> by other considerations". (Emphasis added.) Trustees' case in this equation was given in *Bulletin 84*.

To Trustees' surprise and dismay, the Case Officer interpreted the NPPF in favour of the University. The Secretary of State rubber stamped the decision on the very day he issued strong guidelines emphasising the government's determination to defend the Green Belt, and informing us enigmatically that "the government is committed to give more power to councils and communities to achieve their own decisions on planning issues".

According to NPPF, Green Belt is characterised by its openness and permanence. Ahead of the newly approved buildings, many members must surely have already been appalled at the damage, inflicted piecemeal, in the last year - a second vehicle entrance and parking (for 250 cars, 16 coaches); 24 floodlighting columns, each 15 metres high (plus additional lighting columns, 5 metres high, for car park and other areas); metal fencing ('weldmesh') 3-4 metres high around pitches and general perimeter; removal of some 60 trees. The sheer density of development has turned the former playing fields into what the University now calls Maiden Castle Sports Park. The imprint of the University is thus now firmly established no less on the periphery than in the city.

DUNELM HOUSE

In late October the Secretary of State surprisingly declined to accept Historic England's recommendation that **Dunelm House** was worthy of Grade 2 listing, instead repeated her original decision of being "minded to approve" the University's application of March 2016 for a certificate of immunity from listing, thereby leaving the building vulnerable to demolition. However, this was "subject to any requests for a review of this decision within 28 days." Trustees submitted a five-page request, but at the time of writing there has still be no announcement. (There is, however, a new Secretary of State.)

In the meantime a conference in October on 'Caring for Brutalism', co-sponsored by the Trust,

had been a decidedly encouraging gathering. A Crowdfunder Campaign followed, and money raised to support what was termed a "design charrette" in late March, when architects and engineers met on site to explore restoring and repurposing Dunelm House. The Architects Journal has agreed to publish the findings. Meanwhile, at the same time, the director of 20th Century Society and John Allen, a key speaker at the Conference and architect leading the restoration of a daunting Brutalist structure at Cardiness in Scotland, met with the new head of the University's Estates and Buildings. Hopes remain therefore for a successful outcome.

AROUND THE CITY

Three privately-built student blocks were added to the architectural stock during the year - Ernest Place, New Kepier Court and Ustinov College. The last, with transfer of name and students from South Road to Sheraton Park, was the most successful. With the surrounding town-houses, it constitutes an agreeable new 'character area'. (See Bulletin 84.) Elsewhere, work started on the University's new Teaching and Learning Centre at the bottom of South Road on what is locally known as St Mary's Field, although called Lower Mountjoy in the planning application. Trustees were critical of the lack of an accompanying plan for safe pedestrian and cycle routes for what is to be a key hub of circulation for thousands of students.

The long-awaited resurfacing of **Elvet Bridge** is progressing slowly. It is here restoring the award-winning floorscape designed by Anthony Scott. Why it - alone - should have been omitted from from the extensive Heart of the City project five years ago is a mystery. **Owengate**, the short but crucial link between Saddler Street and Palace Green, is undergoing a staggered programme of widening the pavement, followed by removal of setts and a period of several months with a tarmac surface during the summer before relaying the setts. However, Fenwick Lawson's statue of six monks carrying St. Cuthbert's coffin will not, after all, be passing this way. It has been decided to leave **The Journey** in Millennium Place, although there are no indications that it might occupy a more prominent position. The actual coffin, together with the saint's precious relics, was finally placed in the Cathedral's remarkable **Open Treasure exhibition** in April.

At the end of March **Old Shire Hall** began life anew, this time as Hotel Indigo, with a Marco Pierre White Steakhouse. The change-over will have been a much more daunting challenge to conservation architects than that between County and University administrations in the 1960s.

The **Trust's teapot** was removed from the facade of 73-74 Saddler Street in September for examination and refurbishment. The conservator's report was basically favourable, but surprised us in discovering that the teapot was originally painted gold. The news was conveyed to members attending the Spring lecture; they immediately responded by donating £240 towards the extra cost of the new colour. Trustees are extremely grateful for such generosity. The same sentiment is expressed to the new occupants of 73-74, the Newcastle Building Society, who have been most supportive throughout, even generously contributing to the cost of the project. The teapot returned to Durham in late March. At the time of writing, details of a tea party to celebrate the homecoming have yet to be finalised.

EVENTS

Lumiere paid its fifth visit to Durham in November, when the parts of the city were again the canvas for unusual, even playful, illumination. (For the rest of the year we are privileged to be able to enjoy the finely detailed flood-lighting on both cathedral and castle.)

During the summer months the garlanded city again reflected the extensive efforts of the Parks Department, which were rewarded with a 'Champion of Champions' accolade in **Northumbria in Bloom**. In July **the riverbanks** was the focus of an event for 'stakeholders' in the town hall, a consultation by Blue Sail on behalf of the County Authority to explore how the banks around the peninsula could be better used. Trustees were apprehensive, remembering back past the former 'necklace park' of 2020Vision to earlier consultants (Chambers/Donaldsons) who found the riverbanks' offer dull, awaiting exploitation.

GOVERNANCE

Soon after this Bulletin is published the city will have a **Parish Council** with its first elected members. The area covered is that of the ancient city, incorporating the County electoral wards of Elvet and Gilesgate, Neville's Cross and part of Durham South. After a gap of nine years, we will have a body to speak on behalf of its citizens. It is hoped that, as a statutory consultee on planning matters, it will soon be able to refer to the **Neighbourhood Plan**, the public consultation on which was completed in December. After consideration of the comments, it will be be submitted to the County Council to check and to arrange for an independent planning inspector to examine. If it passes these hoops, then the very last stage is a referendum, organised by the County Authority, in which 50% of those who vote must have voted in favour for it to become operative.

The County Plan? In November the Authority announced its revised programme, and it is expected that the *Preferred Options* will be published for consultation in June/July. One prominent strand will obviously be Aykley Heads, the outstanding potential of which has been recently been re-publicised. The only new element - apart from now being termed a 'world-class vision' - was a schematic layout of the site. Its potential is clearly enormous. The third phase, to occupy Green Belt land, will have to be a topic for a future County Plan, since it is scheduled for the mid 2030s.

PERSONALIA

At last year's AGM **John Lowe**, having been earlier co-opted, was elected as a Trustee. Afterwards our Chairman gave a lecture on 'The Durham City Neighbourhood Plan'. In the autumn **Martin Roberts** presented his annual lecture, this time turning his hand to Dr. Spence, a mid-18th century canon of the cathedral, sometime professor of English and History at Oxford and an early pioneer of the English Landscape school. This Spring **David Butler**, the city's best known historian, examined the evolution of turnpike roads in the county and city.

After a break last year, we resumed normal service with the publication of a Christmas card, a water colour by an anonymous artist depicting the view of the city from Aykley Heads at the turn of the 18th-19th centuries. The original was kindly lent by Michael Richardson. Unfortunately, despite the card's elegance, and a price little more than half the cost of postage, sales were disappointing. Trustees will have to seriously consider the future of this annual feature begun in the early 1970s.

Two generous donations were given to the Trust during the year. One was an anonymous gift for £5,000, for which we express our sincere thanks, the second was a bequest from the will of **Mrs Ella Wright**. The link with Mrs Wright and her late husband, Richard, goes back to the 1950s, a few years after the formation of our society

It is sad to record the death of two distinguished, long-serving Trustees. **Dr. A. Ian Doyle**, who died in February, was a Trustee from 1964 to 2011, at which point he was made an honorary life member. In 1966 he had seconded the motion that the Trust's name should be changed from Durham Preservation Society. He wrote two of the first three *Bulletins*. With Dr. Gibby he rescued the negatives of the Edis photographic archive for the University Library. (And, to no-one's surprise, was a founder-member, and subsequent pillar, of the St Mary le Bow Trust.) His membership of University College, gave him a unique knowledge of the Castle's treasures and fixtures.

Our historic environment was made for Ian, who became the University's Keeper of Rare Books; his scholarship achieved international recognition, including the winning of several prestigious awards. For many, however, Ian is associated, along with the then Trust secretary, Gerald Harries, with drawing the attention of City Council and Planning Department to the extra section added to the roof of Pace's new University Library. (The subsequently adjusted roofscape is best viewed from the cathedral tower.)

June Crosby, who died in March, was a Trustee from 1970 to 2008, being the chair of Trustees



Dr. Ian Doyle



Mrs June Crosby

from 1976-1994. She was the regional representative on the National Council of Civic Societies, 1996-2014. A change of residence to Stanhope in the 1990s did not lessen her enthusiasm for Trust work, even though often her return trip from Durham after Trustees' meetings began by taxi until it caught up with the late night Weardale bus. (At Stanhope her innate interest in local history led her to found the Weardale Society; she was also involved in establishing the Weardale Museum.)

June was generous with both her time and in showing hospitality. Her most obvious memorial is the statue of Neptune in the Market Place, for it was she who led every aspect of its rescue, fund raising and re-instatement. She was hardly less active in over-seeing the Trust's 50th Jubilee Conference in 1992. Her book on Ignatius Bonomi remains the most comprehensive work on the Durham architect. She also published books of old photographs and postcards of Durham, and, more recently, a volume on Weardale..

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Members might like to consider bringing this Report on 9th May, since not only does it contain the agenda for the AGM, but it would be especially helpful should comments be made on the annual accounts. Please note that the meeting this year is in room 201 in Elvet Riverside.

After the AGM **Irwin Thompson**, from the Society of Antiquities of Newcastle upon Tyne, will present a lecture on 'The Durham Flood of 1771'. His source is the recently transcribed report of the Durham County Flood Relief Committee, which was set up to compensate flood victims. **D.C.D.P**.

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2017

INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM Donations and legacies	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	31.12.17 Total funds £	31.12.16 Total funds £ 5,867
Other trading activities	3	2.051		2.051	1,713
Investment income	4	53	-	53	97
Total		11,185	1,598	12,783	7,677
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds Charitable activities	5 6	530	-	530	37
Environmental conservation and appreciation	O	3,530	2,798	6,328	6,565
Other					213
Total		4,060	2,798	6,858	6,815
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		7,125	(1,200)	5,925	862
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		11,132	1,977	13,109	12,247
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		18,257	777	19,034	13,109

CONTINUING OPERATIONS

All income and expenditure has arisen from continuing activities.

Balance Sheet At 31 December 2017

	1	Unrestricted fund Resti	ricted funds	31.12.17 Total funds	31.12.16 Total funds
	Notes	£	£	£	£
CURRENT ASSETS Debtors	11	1,480	-	1,480	1,380
Cash at bank		17,297	777	18,074	11,929
		18,777	777	19,554	13,309
CREDITORS Amounts falling due within one year	12	(520)	-	(520)	(200)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		18,257	777	19,034	13,109
			·		
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABIL	ITIES	18,257	777	19,034	13,109
NET ASSETS		18,257	777	19,034	13,109
FUNDS Unrestricted funds:	13				
General fund Restricted funds:				18,257	11,132
Green Belt fund					1,977
TOTAL FUNDS				19,034	13,109

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 December 2017.

The members have not required the charitable company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2017 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small charitable companies.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 20 March 2018 and were signed on its behalf by:

Mr R J Cornwell -Trustee

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2017

ACCOUNTING POLICIES 1.

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end date are noted as a commitment but not accrued as expenditure.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

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Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

DONATIONS AND LEGACIES 2.

Donations Gift aid	31.12.17 £ 5,000 687	31.12.16 £ 1,977 450
Legacies Subscriptions Neighbourhood Planning Forum	500 2,894 1,598	3,440
	10,679	5,867

OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES 3.

	31.12.17	31.12.16
	£	£
Bonomi	. 4	6
Christmas cards	221	99
Durham in Paintings	241	279
Unallocated sales	20	55
Durham Cathedral Architecture	1,458	1,171
Durham in Poetry	103	98
Trust Awards	4	5
	2,051	1,713

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 December 2017

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4.	1177	ESTMENT I	INCOME

4.	INVESTMENT INCOME				
	CAF account interest Virgin account interest			31.12.17 £ 1 52 	31.12.16 £ 1 96 ———
5.	RAISING FUNDS				
	Other trading activities				
	Price lists Christmas cards			31.12.17 £ 37 493 	31.12.16 £ 37 ——————————————————————————————————
6.	CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS				
	Environmental conservation and appreciation	f 3,164	Grant funding of activities (See note 7) £ 2,044	Support costs (See note 8) £ 1,120	Totals £ 6,328
7.	GRANTS PAYABLE				
	Environmental conservation and appreciation			31.12.17 £ 2,044	31.12.16 £ 196
	The total grants paid to institutions during the year was as a	follows:		31.12.17	31.12.16
	Bow Trust Civic Trust (North East) Friends of Durham Cathedral CPRE Alington House Neigbourhood Planning Forum Conference contribution			\$10 10 20 36 30 1,598 300 2,044	\$80 10 20 36 50 - - 196
8.	SUPPORT COSTS				

8.

	Governance		
	Management	costs	Totals
	£	£	£
Environmental conservation and appreciation	877	243	1,120

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 December 2017

9. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 December 2017 nor for the year ended 31 December 2016.

Trustees' expenses

11.

12.

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 December 2017 nor for the year ended 31 December 2016.

10. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM Donations and legacies	3,890	1,977	5,867
Other trading activities Investment income	1,713	-	1,713 97
Total	5,700	1,977	7,677
EXPENDITURE ON Raising funds Charitable activities	37	-	37
Environmental conservation and appreciation	6,565	-	6,565
Other	213		213
Total	6,815	-	6,815
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(1,115)	1,977	862
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	12,247	-	12,247
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	11,132	1,977	13,109
DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR			
Trade debtors		31.12.17 £ 1,480	31.12.16 £ 1,380
CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR			
		31.12.17 £	31.12.16 £
Trade creditors		520	

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 December 2017

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.1.17	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.17
Unrestricted funds General fund	11,132	7,125	18,257
Restricted funds Green Belt fund	1,977	(1,200)	777
TOTAL FUNDS	13,109	5,925	19,034
Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:			
	Incoming resources	Resources expended £	Movement in funds
Unrestricted funds General fund	11,185	(4,060)	7,125
Restricted funds Green Belt fund Neighbourhood Planning Forum	1,598	(1,200) (1,598)	(1,200)
	1,598	(2,798)	(1,200)
TOTAL FUNDS	12,783	(6,858)	5,925

14. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 December 2017.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The seventy- sixth Annual General Meeting of the City of Durham Trust will be held in Room 201, Elvet Riverside 2, New Elvet at 7.15 pm on Wednesday 9th May 2018

Members and friends are cordially invited to attend.

AGENDA

- 1. Apologies for absence.
- 2. Minutes of the 75th Annual General Meeting (Wednesday 10th May 2017).
- 3. Matters arising from the Minutes.
- 4. Report of the Trustees and the Presentation of Accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 December 2017.
- 5. Appointment of the honorary officers of the Trust.
- 6. Appointment of Trustees.

The following Trustees retire by rotation. All are eligible for re-election.

Mrs E.A. Brown, Mr. A. Hird, Mr. M. Phillips and Professor R. Ravelhofer

Names of other possible new Trustees, together with proposer and seconder, and up to 100 words of recommendation, should reach the Secretary before the meeting.

- 7. Chairman's remarks.
- 8. Any other business which may be brought forward by members.

It would be helpful if notice of this could be given to the Secretary.

At 8 pm, after the AGM

Irwin Thompson will give a lecture on

"The Durham Flood of 1771"