

THORNER & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of the 47th Annual General Meeting held at the Methodist Meeting Rooms, Main Street, Thorne on Monday 16th May 2016 at 7.30pm.

1. Apologies: Rita Saville-Stones, Richard Gibson and Margaret Derrick

2. The Minutes The minutes of the last AGM were read out by Graham Castle. The minutes were then agreed as true and accurate record, proposed by Mrs Sue Elliott and seconded by Mrs Val Forster.

3. Chairman's Report

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and thanking the committee for all their hard work throughout the past year on the events held which included 27th June - Gala Treasure Hunt, 22 August - Archive Coffee Morning, 2nd October - Ghost Walk at York and 24th October - visit to Thackray Museum Leeds. In February of this year we held a Social Evening with a quiz at the Beehive which had been well attended and enjoyed by all.

Thanks to the diligence Gwen Brown and Val Forster and the events we have run, membership has grown again and gives us a better base to advertise future events in the village.

Following up on last year's commitment to making stronger outside contacts he then told of the forthcoming trip to Shadwell for an historic walk round the village on Thursday 18th May followed by supper at the Beehive and Historic Walk around Leeds arranged for 14th July with the Leeds Civic Trust. Paul White who arranged this explained that the walk would take about an hour and a half starting at 6.30 pm meeting outside LCT offices on Wharfe Street and would be followed by a buffet supper at 8.00 pm including a glass of wine or a soft drink.

We have done some more sorting of the archive material in readiness of our move to the Parish Council storage facility but much more needs to be done before we move. He finished by saying that any ideas to promote the Society's aims will always be considered positively as would any suggestions for future events and projects.

4. Secretary's Report

We had a very successful evening in York in the autumn when we had a Fish & Chip supper followed by a Ghost Walk which everyone thoroughly enjoyed and in November we also had a visit to the Thackray Museum on a very wet Saturday morning which was very well attended which was very interesting. In early February we held a member's dinner party in the Beehive with a historic quiz which was also great fun.

We look forward to seeing you all on Thursday at 6.00 pm for the guided tour of Shadwell organized by Shadwell Historical Society which will be followed by a meal at the Beehive for all those who would like to make a night of it. As the Victory Hall is very busy with clubs etc it is becoming increasingly difficult to book and so we have not been able to book a speaker yet for this year, but we do have a joint Film Club evening coming up on 21st June when the film will be 'A Testament of Youth' a film based on the memoirs of Vera Britten, which charts the harsh realities for women during WWI.

Paul White who is sadly retiring from the committee, has organised a guided historic walk in Leeds with a guide from Leeds Civic Trust which has been booked for 14th July. Val and my-self have also organised a day trip to Chatsworth House on Friday 18th November to see the splendid Christmas Lights and decorations. This trip is filling up fast and we would really like for members to fill up the coach before offering it to non members so if you would like to book your seat then please contact Val or Myself as soon as possible, cost about £26 with a deposit of £10 in the near future.

Can I remind you we still have plenty of copies of our book 'After the War Came the Victory' written by David Miller, priced at £10 each if anyone would like to buy a copy please talk to Val or Gwen, they make splendid gifts for friends and family.

Correspondence:

I am still receiving emails from people all over the world through the historical society and village websites who want help with their family history research. I also receive emails from other societies including Shadwell HS and Towton Battlefield association which I will pass on to members by email. If you would like a hard copy just let me know and I will print them off for you.

5. The Treasurer's Report

Val Forster passed out copies of the Statement of Accounts and explained that we had to close the Building Society account as they did not want to hold business/charity accounts any longer and so we had put the money into the bank account. Val explained that we had tried to keep the prices for the trips as low as possible to try and attract new younger members and their families. She explained that we shall be sending out emails to remind members that membership was now due. Overall last year despite a couple of expensive demonstrations there was a deficit of £289.00.

6. Community Archive Report

As Richard Gibson was away Gwen read out the following report:-

WEB SITE (www.thornerhistory.org.uk)

The Domain Names and Web Hosting were renewed with the Web Hosting company TSO.

New Documents added during the year were:

Shadwell Burials in Thorner Churchyard

Conservation of Ecclesiastical Buildings for Residential Conversion

The Three Milestones of Scarcroft

Throughout the year new images have been added to the web site gallery. Several enquiries have been generated by visitors to the web site.

HISTORICAL COMPUTER

The historical PC suffered a major crash in December and would not boot up because the Hard Disk was corrupted and all data could not be recovered from the "C" drive so the decision was taken that if the hard disk was to be replaced then it would be upgraded to 500 GB to future proof the PC.

It was also decided to upgrade the Operating System to Windows 10 at the same time. Because we had the Toshiba External disk installed most of the documents/slideshows etc were backed up and we were able to recover the whole database up to the point of the last input on the PC.

All events/visits during the year were advertised on the Web site and a historical record kept.

All the videos we owned by the Society on DVD have been transferred to the new PC so we can put together a presentation fairly easily and we have a back up of the DVD's.

ARCHIVE

The Archive has been used to support several exhibitions during the year including the first Thorner Christmas Tree festival.

Work has begun on doing a thorough record of articles in the archive and rationalising the contents prior to the move to the new location in the Sub Station. During the year the projector has been loaned out to several societies in the village including Probus and the Over 60s.

Graham explained that he wanted to make sure the Archive was up and running in digital format and to move it to the better premises in the Thorner Parish Council store as soon as possible and David Strachan volunteered to help us with this.

7. Election of Officers and Committee

Graham explained that the present committee members were all prepared to re-stand, with the exception of Paul White who was too busy at the present time. Graham then stood down as Chairman and elections followed:-

Chairman - Graham Castle - proposed by Gwen Brown, seconded by Val Forster

Secretary - Gwen Brown - proposed by Val Forster, seconded by Sue Elliott

Treasurer - Val Forster - proposed by Gwen Brown, seconded by Michael Brown

Archivist - Mr Richard Gibson - proposed by Gwen Brown, seconded by Val Forster

Committee Members

Sue Elliott Richard Bould Rita Saville Stones David Strachan

Proposed by Val Forster and seconded by Gwen Brown and Ann Castle

All business being finished the meeting closed at 8.30 pm.