

THORNER & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of the 46th Annual General Meeting held at the Methodist Meeting Rooms, Main Street, Thorner on Monday 15th June 2015 at 7.30pm.

1. Apologies: Rita Saville-Stones

2. The Minutes The minutes of the last AGM were left out on the tables to be read. The minutes were agreed as true and accurate record, proposed by Mrs Val Forster and seconded by Mrs Sue Elliott.

3. Chairman's Report

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and thanking the committee for all their hard work throughout the year. He said how he had taken over as chairman after the resignation of David Walmsley on 11th November 2014. He reported that thanks had been sent to David and the other members of the committee who had retired or resigned over the past year.

Graham explained that it had been a busy year with numerous events including the Coffee Morning and Archive display on 5th April 2014, the trip to Liverpool in May 2014, the launch of the WWI Project in June 2014, which included an exhibition and a school Assembly display in July. We had once again held a stall at Thorner Gala in June where we sold copies of the WWI Book and an Autumn Meeting in October 2014 with a talk on WWI by Richard Wimpenny from Leeds University. We had two more events in Spring 2015, on 18th April a guided tour of 'Old Seacroft Village' which was very well attended and another Talk in the Victory Hall on Shibden Hall by Pat Osbourne. Graham explained we had various other events coming up including a children's treasure hunt as part of the Gala in June.

Graham told the meeting of other things going on in the village including the enhancement and preservation of Church Hill which he was involved with, but stressed he had not promised any specific THS support for this project.

Graham explained the reasons for the rejection of the sponsorship of the Scarcroft Book, as some of the details were considered inaccurate, copyright issues had not been resolved, there had not been proper consultation, and we still needed to be promoting our own book.

Looking to the future Graham explained that we needed to be attracting more younger people as members of the society and so we are hoping to plan events that have a wide appeal to all generations. To this aim we are putting more information including publicity of events on to our website. We are also looking at closer ties and combining events with other local history societies. He finished by saying that any ideas to promote the Society's aims will always be considered positively.

4. Secretary's Report

Val and I had a very busy year last year with the launch of our book 'After the War Came the Victory' written by David Miller. There are still plenty of copies if anyone wants one the price is £10.

We had the spring meeting last month in the Victory Hall with the speaker Pat Osbourne who gave us a very interesting and eye opening talk on Ann Lister of Shibden Hall. Unfortunately it was not very well attended, probably because of the half term holiday among other things. As the Victory Hall is very busy with clubs etc it is becoming increasingly difficult to book. If enough people are interested we will arrange a trip to the hall later in the year.

Graham organized a very popular historic walk with a guide from Leeds Civic Trust around Seacroft in April which was well attended.

We are organizing an evening trip to York for a Ghost walk in the autumn. It has not been decided if we should book a coach or if you would prefer to make your own way there and meet up in York. Would anyone interested in going please let me know so I can make the arrangements.

Correspondence:

I am still receiving emails at the rate of a couple a month via the village website from people who have want help with their family history research, which I try to answer and reply to as soon as I can. These enquiries come from all over the world, including in the main USA, Canada, Australia as well

as the UK. I currently receive by email publicity from a number of local historical associations including Shadwell and Towton Battlefield Association's Newsletter 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 handed out copies of the statement of accounts to everyone. She explained that we had a great deal of extra expenditure in 2014 due to the costs of the publication of the WWI Book and equipment and supplies needed to mount the exhibitions and publicity involve with this project. We had also had donations of approximately £50 each to Royal British Legion and Help the Heroes from the refreshments sold at the exhibition.

We had also encountered extra costs with the setting up of the Historical Society Website, and £200 donation towards the cost of the plaque for the Sam Sykes water pump. The two trips in 2014 to see the Vulcan at Doncaster Airport and the Liverpool trip had both just about covered the costs involved.

6. Community Archive Report

Steady progress had been made on the Archive during the year with help from Val with new images added to the database.

Requests had been received during the year from individuals and organisations (e.g. the Quarry Committee) for copies of images from the Archive.

WEB SITE - www.thornerhistory.org.uk

The Web site is now fully functional.

With the resignation of David Walmsley and the election of Graham Castle, the Chairman's message had been updated.

New images had been added to The Archive Image Gallery.

The site has 4 short video clips of "our Town", Thorner Railway bridge demolition, Coronation Celebrations 1953 and Thorner Railway Station.

The site hosts three publications - The History of Christmas, Prestons Ginnel and the history of Business in Thorner 1900 - 2000.

The site is also regularly updated with news of up and coming events - Trips, Talks and meetings etc.

7. Revised Constitution

Copies of the Revised Constitution were handed out and Graham explained the reasons for updating of the document in line with modern committee procedures. This was then adopted by all present.

8. Election of Officers and Committee

Graham explained that the committee members present were all prepared to re-stand. Graham then stood down as Chairman.

Chairman - Graham Castle - proposed by Sue Elliott, seconded by Gwen Brown

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

Treasurer - Val Forster - proposed by Graham Castle, seconded by Richard Gibson

Archivist - Mr Richard Gibson - proposed by Gwen Brown, seconded by Sue Elliott

Committee Members

A - Sue Elliott B - Richard Bould C - Paul White.

Proposed by Val Forster and seconded by Graham Castle

All business being finished the meeting closed at 8.45 pm.