

## **Bawtry Heritage Group**

### **Notes of meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

#### **1 Present/Apologies**

Present – Mick Maguire, Peter Holland, John Linsley, Kevin Gilfedder, Leslie Gilfedder, Rupert Atkinson, David Kirkham, Mike White

#### **2 Matters arising from 4<sup>th</sup> June meeting**

**Garfield Weston grant** – nothing heard re our request for an extension. JL to chase.

**Community Wealthbuilder Heritage Microgrant** – nothing heard. DK has chased.

**Bawtry men killed in WW1** - DK has lost MW's data stick – MW re-doing.

**Bawtry pram race video & Margaret Clapham photographs** – now on website.

**Bawtry wharf lectern** – CDC Planning has validated application: out for consultation & decision expected soon.

#### **3 Bawtry Festival contributions – Phoenix presentation & guided walks.**

Phoenix numbers were modest but enthusiastic - particularly re the display of Roman finds by the Gilfedders' metal detectorists. Guided walks were well attended although the evening one clashed with the football. Participants requested another guided walk later in the summer. PH & DK could do one late August – would need publicising (MM planning Bawtry Today article re essays/art competition – need to add guided walk & request for help with BHG Facebook site.)

#### **4 Essay/art competition – judging**

MM & DK to meet to judge 16<sup>th</sup> July. We had 20 essay submissions & 1 art submission.

#### **5 Toll Gate Keeper paper – for approval**

Approved. To go on site as “addendum” to Bawtry coaching paper.

#### **6 The Hunt for Roman Bawtry – desktop review**

Desktop has 4 sections – roads, finds & monument, shrine & fort. Roads completed – now on website in News. One metal garden find has been reported to MM – but unlikely to be Roman. A Bawtry resident has also reported finding what may be Roman tesserae.

#### **7 BHG collaboration opportunities with metal detectorists.**

The Sheffield-based detectorists' organisation which has been in contact with us appear completely legit; endorsed by PAS. Discussion re what they might be able to do for us & vice versa. We could identify possible sites related to the likely route of RR28a with a view

to them seeking landowners' permission to detect. Agreed to invite them to one of our meetings – August or October. Also invite someone from CDC?

## **8 BCL BHG display – development.**

MM in discussion with BCL re a dedicated display area (greater than our existing one) in the library. Discussion – for instance, we could have a Bawtry history timeline on the wall (“permanently”) & displays of relevant material about part of it which would be changed every 3-6 months. Agreed that we should only ask for a better space if members committed to contribute to developing & refreshing it regularly. Everyone present made such a commitment – MM to go ahead – meeting with BCL trustees in September.

MM reported BCL is also positive about our siting say 3 heritage display lecterns in the grass areas outside the library. Agreed this site would be preferable to the market place for lecterns which were not directly associated with particular buildings/sites.

Agreed to buy mouse for BHG laptop at BCL.

## **9 Doncaster Local History Fair – Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November**

Last year's experience was very positive. BCL have agreed to give us a selection of second hand history books to sell – 50% each. DK & PH to represent BHG.

## **10 CDC new Conservation Officer**

David Hornsby appointed. DK arranging to meet. Also PH. Possible he will want a walk around town in which case DK will invite any BHG members interested.

## **11 Website performance, review & management**

The display in BCL & the website are our “shop windows”. We do receive some positive feedback about the website & we believe it is serving us well – but that needs investigating. It was created with Google diagnostics built-in & the website creator/maintainer has now given DK access to metrics. We should be able to see volume of visitors by month, frequency (& duration?) of individual visitors' visits, visits made to individual pages. Only significant data not available is frequency of downloads. DK to attempt to retrieve/understand data & report back. If too complex we may have to ask the website creator/maintainer to do it for us.

Agreed to make “new items for News & Events” page a regular agenda item – to discipline ourselves to keep the site updated. Also to report website metrics – say quarterly?

This item prompted discussion re our moribund Facebook page. Not being updated, & our not controlling posts, makes it a bad advertisement for us. No current members have interest/expertise to take it on. We need to recruit someone to look after it or we need to close it down.

## **12 Next meetings**

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2024. Agreed to meet on 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month in future – all at 18.30 at New Hall. Decision re September meeting (DK absent) to be made in August.