

## **Bawtry Heritage Group**

### **Notes of meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

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

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

Apologies - Peter Holland, Leslie Gilfedder, Diana Kirby

#### **2 Matters arising from 13<sup>th</sup> August meeting**

**Bawtry men killed in WW1** – MW replaced data stick which DK lost (from 9 July mtg)

**Bawtry Festival** – JL sought confirmation we intend to contribute to the 2025 festival in the same manner as this year. Confirmed two guided walks (p.m. & evening on same day – but MM unable to lead this time – PH possibility – others to consider. Need “back markers” to accompany each walk. DK to circulate material he uses), evening talk at the Phoenix (MM to lead, updating Roman Bawtry project), & childrens’ essay competition.

**CDC Heritage Microgrant** – DK to source data projector.

**DDHA Local History Fair** – DK to staff our stall – we will need one other if PH unavailable.

#### **3 Meeting with UKMDD**

Apologies from UKMDD - attendance cancelled due to illness. Agreed to offer January & February meetings to reschedule. MM stressed the importance of members familiarising themselves with all the material & issues prior to meeting. He will recirculate notes.

An allied matter is an offer from the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) to train one of us (in Morley) on the processing of finds (identifying location, context, recording, photography, submission etc.). Agreed MM will undergo this. Agreed BHG will pay members’ travel expenses for non-local trips.

#### **4 Bawtry wharf display lectern – draft design for consideration**

Agreed, subject to DK’s proposed amendments. MW advised Bawtry Mens’ Group may be able to install the lectern.

When it is installed, we need to publicise it – Bawtry Today; Bawtry News; some A4 posters on town notice boards, & in “News & Events” on our website.

#### **5 AOB**

**Roman Bawtry desktop update** – Stage 1 was signed off in July and concentrated on roads. Stage 2 has been divided into 2 Parts . Part 1 covers features, monuments and finds relating to central Bawtry, west of the town, plus issues emerging from the garden search initiative. This was submitted to the adjudication/review process on 29/9/24. Stage 2, Part 2 is underway and covers features, monuments and finds relating to south and east of the town. Stages 3 & 4 will in due course cover the Fort and Shrine/Temple respectively.

It is already emerging that our work is providing an enhanced and more cohesive story of Bawtry in Roman times and by June 2025 when we present at the next festival we are confident this will be apparent. Additionally, the work is raising potential and probable areas of interest for further more intrusive study and the challenge for the BHG in 2025 will be to decide what, if and how, it seeks to advance these issues which are likely to come with cost and the need for a strategy to convince professional archaeologists (private companies, academia, organisations such as SYAS & WYAS) for further professional research &, ideally, excavation.

**Battle of the Idle – Town Trail waymarker(s).** Our website is proving its worth by attracting the interest of the Sutton Hoo Society, who are concerned with promoting the Sutton Hoo site, & King Raedwald in particular. Their chairperson read MM's Battle of the Idle paper which interested her very much, as did our intention to create a Battle of the Idle display lectern, which they learned of in subsequent email correspondence with MM. They also referred our work to Sam Newton, who is probably the country's leading light on the battle. The Society is very enthusiastic about our work, such that they have invited us to apply to them for financial support to erect a second lectern as close as we can get to the probable battle site – which will be the layby adjacent to Gainsborough Road bridge. Also to install a commemorative plaque on the bridge itself. MM has also thought about trying to persuade CDC and/or Bassetlaw (the bridge marks the boundary between the two authorities; the lay-by is in Bassetlaw) to name the bridge after the battle.

Agreed MM to continue liaising with Sutton Hoo Society, to make application for financial assistance, & to seek the support of the Society & Sam Newton for a lectern planning app, a plaque, & for re-naming the bridge. DK to provide lectern costings to MM.

The support of CDC's Conservation Officer – David Hornsby – would also be valuable. DK to renew efforts to engage with him.

**Contact from Oxfam bookshop in Canterbury re a “day book” donated to them** – the manuscript book dates to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century & was written by a Bawtry school mistress. Again, our website prompted the contact. Oxfam is offering us the opportunity to buy the book for £150. They have sent some further info about it, but not sufficient for us to judge whether it would be a prudent investment. Happily for us RA is visiting Canterbury soon – MM to request further info about the book & that RA be permitted to inspect it.

**South Yorkshire Heritage List – update.** Our nominations of the Methodist Church and the shrine were successful, but still do not appear on the website. Apparently the delay is as a result of CDC considering a change of suitability criteria – specifically, the possibility of using Article 4 Directions.

We have yet to submit nominations for the columbarium & the Market Place. The former was SF's particular interest. We considered a Market Place nomination would be unlikely to succeed given the rejection of the “planted town” nomination.

Again, liaison with David Hornsby may address some of our frustrations with SYHL.

**BHG display in BCL** – MM meeting with BCL imminently.

## 6 Next meeting

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2024, 18.30 at New Hall.