

Bawtry Heritage Group

Notes of meeting on 14th January 2025

1 Present/Apologies

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

Apologies – John Linsley

Diana Kirby has resigned her membership.

2 Matters arising from 10th December meeting

Bawtry men killed in WW1 – a member of the public has donated to us a copy of the original work, which includes Austerfield casualties. DK to update what we have on the website with this additional info, as well as – if possible – images of some of the individuals from the poster given to MM. Unlikely to happen soon though - our website manager has had a close bereavement.

UKMDD – still no response. We have left the ball in their court.

Wharf lectern – MW no longer able to install; KG & DK to attempt to.

Whiston Heritage Group request for a presentation by BHG – DK to offer “The Origins of Bawtry” rather than the Norman planted town.

Planning Application close to area of Roman interest – BHG comment has been submitted. DK has briefed CDC Conservation Officer & he is interested.

3 Future BHG funding

Via email, JL has suggested a quiz, with participation fees, ideally at the Phoenix with their bar open. Agreed this & other “events” could raise modest sums of money without too great a workload – which we would incur if we attempted a previous suggestion of an auction. Raffles are simple & rewarding.

DK advised our existing funds will probably be sufficient to complete our lecterns programme, which will probably take the next 2 years. After that, we will require a minimum of £360 per year for the website, plus more for odds & sods & a lot more for any further ambitious projects.

We do not want to trigger any requirements for VAT registration, tax etc so are loathe to contemplate trying to sell anything, meaning we will be reliant upon attracting donations or grants. Agreed we should more consistently request donations when we offer presentations, guided walks etc..

CDC & BTC have been generous in the past, & may help in the future with modest sums. Agreed we would approach local branches of national organisations & bodies such as the Heritage Lottery Fund for any major spends. CDC has a specialist officer who informs JL of funding opportunities. Applying for grants is hard work.

4 Battle of the Idle display lecterns - update

We hope to have the two lecterns, one at BCL & the other at the Gainsborough Rd lay-by which overlooks the site, by the start of June 2025. We can't apply for planning permission for the latter until Notts Highways respond to DK re permission to erect on what is believed to be their land.

The content of both lecterns is presently being completed, although we will invite Sutton Hoo Society & Dr. Sam Newton to approve prior to finalisation.

We will also resubmit a nomination to Soth Yorks Heritage List, having addressed their concern that the battle location is too speculative. SHS, Dr. Sam Newton, & archaeologist Professor Martin Carver will all support our contention. CDC Conservation Officer will support it from within SYHL.

5 BHG display facility in BCL - update - plus discussion re the Ann Everard album.

MM briefed the meeting on details of BCL's generous offer of the end of the computer room (with two computer desks withdrawn) plus all the walls for display. They are agreeable that we put in some shelving & wall mount a TV monitor (or two if affordable), & a sign over the door of "Bawtry Heritage Centre" or similar. We also hope to use a display cabinet they have. MW has measured up & estimated the cost of these installations – c £300? plus TV mounting - & he will install. BCL are also agreeable that we install two lecterns on the lawn in front of the library & two on the external wall.

DK to produce a Bawtry history time line to be displayed on the TV monitor. Agreed our first specific display – to be launched in Bawtry Festival week - will be centred around the Anne Everard album we recently required. Four elements to this:

- The album itself. Given its condition, it is not suitable for the public to examine but hopefully we can display it in a secure cabinet. We will display the content via photographs of selected pages. Further review & research of its contents will need to be made.
- Ann Everard & her personal history. DK has researched this.
- Her publication "Flowers from Nature". MM is researching this.
- The boarding school for young ladies on Wharf St that AE ran. May include researching the students listed in the 1841 census. Will include info regarding the school's curriculum & fees & its significance – with others – in the radical idea of improving the education of girls in late Georgian/early Victorian history.

This lead on to discussion re the AE album itself. CDC Archives have a free service where they will store artefacts such as our AE album in conservation appropriate environmental conditions. We would retain ownership, & could withdraw the album at any time, whether temporarily or permanently. They have also given us a contact who is a book restorer/conservator they use; he might give us a cost for the work the album requires.

We need to review & research the album's content. That's a big job & it would be unwise to share it out by passing the album around, given its fragility. Agreed the best course of action will be to photograph each page. The images can then be numbered & easily shared. MW volunteered to having a go at photographing: he has suitable equipment.

6 Roman Bawtry desktop – update

Stage 2, part 2 now completed & ready to go onto the website. Stage 2 part 3 (the shrine) to be completed in February; Stage 2 part 4 (the fort) a month later. After completion of the desktop MM will make a presentation of it to the group.

7 AOB

Doncaster Civic Trust Heritage Open Days

DK contacted by the Trust – would we like to participate in their programme, which will be between 12th & 21st September 2025? This follows us making several representations to CDC etc that Bawtry was usually left out of borough initiatives – therefore important we respond positively. They would be interested in opportunities for the public to see inside Bawtry Hall, the Masonic lodge & the Phoenix Theatre. Agreed we would try to participate; DK to contact the sites. We thought St Nicholas & Austerfield churches ought to be added given the fact they are usually locked.

8 Next meeting

Tuesday 11th February; 18.30 at New Hall.