

Bawtry Heritage Group

Notes of meeting on 11th February 2025

Prior to the meeting, Masons Phil Bluck & Norris Greenwood kindly showed us the interior of Bawtry Masonic Lodge, which used to be the Chapel of St Mary Magdalen.

1 Present/Apologies

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

2 Matters arising from 14th January meeting

UKMDD – Back in contact. May attend June presentation & exhibit local Roman finds there.

Wharf lectern – KG & DK have installed it. News item now on our website & articles submitted to Bawtry Today & Bawtry News.

Doncaster Civic Trust Heritage Open Days – 12th to 21st September - RA confirmed the Phoenix will be open. St Nicholas, Masonic Hall & Bawtry Hall have confirmed (latter through Ross Jarvie); waiting to hear re St Helen's – LG to confirm. Dates/times opening to follow.

3 Battle of the Idle display lecterns - update

Drafting of content for both lecterns ongoing. MM & DK meeting with Sutton Hoo Society on 25/2. Permissions to use sites sought. Notts Highways re the Gainsborough Rd lay-by looks OK (but see item 4 below); CDC re BCL has not yet responded.

On an associated matter, MM has been advised the Battle of the Idle resubmission to South Yorks Heritage List will fail because of the impossibility of describing a precise location – we can only narrow it down to c 2 square kilometres, which is far too big for SYHL.

4 Public Liability Insurance

Notts County Highways has confirmed they own the land at the Gainsborough Rd lay-by where we intend to install the lectern. We require a Licence to install, but not planning permission which is good news. For the licence, we need the support of a Ward Councillor (DK will approach Rachel Blake) & Public Liability Insurance to the value of £5 million. That is a problem - £5 m cover would probably cost us between £250 & £300 p.a. – a lot when we have no regular income. It had been thought we might also need it for guided walks outside of Bawtry Festival Week, but JL has confirmed the Festival insurance policy will cover us all year so long as we have completed a risk assessment & comply with the mitigation measures in it. It is thought likely CDC will make a similar requirement re lecterns at BCL.

DK therefore asked BTC if they would take ownership of the lecterns, so that their PLI would apply, with the proviso that BHG agreed to cover all/any costs appertaining to the lecterns. BTC has agreed to consider the same, on a case-by-case basis. Members were

content for us to pursue this course if insurance quotes DK has sought come in at the level he expects.

5 BHG display facility in BCL - update

Progressing. MM anticipates a draft Memorandum of Understanding, to govern the provision, from BCL. Bawtry Heritage Centre sign procured, at £80. MW is exploring shelving & brackets etc & will install the same. TV monitor on hold.

6 Roman Bawtry desktop - update

Stage 2, part 2 now on the website. Part 3 (the shrine) & part 4 (the fort) pending.

7 Comment on planning applications

Our comment on the Wharf Street application (antiques shop) prompted Ross Jarvie to ask whether it was proper for BHG to make comments on planning applications. DK placed the issue on this agenda for discussion/review of the same. Our Constitution, approved by the Charities Commission, makes no specific reference to the subject, but it does contain the sentence “The CIO has power to do anything which is calculated to further its object(s) or is conducive or incidental to doing so.” It was agreed this covered us.

8 Request from Little Bawtry’s

Following on from our meeting with Andy Longworth (owner of Little Bawtry’s) re his Wharf St planning application, he has asked us if we could supply heritage material to display in the bar premises. Agreed we may attempt to do so, but subject to time resource. JL to liaise with AL. A starting point might be the “Did those feet?” series of posters we made for dressing empty shop windows, although amendment to their content would be required.

9 Ann Everard album update

MW has started the photography project – probably take about a month? Numbered images of album pages can then be distributed to members for review – MM to co-ordinate.

DK has done some research on Ann Everard’s family history. SH is an experienced family historian & will review/augment that. Ideally we will also try to find information about the school which preceded Ivy House, research the pupils at Ivy House listed in the 1841 census, & try to identify any connection between AE & the earlier school at Adwick.

9 AOB

PH reported that in Gainsborough descriptive plaques had been attached to several old buildings – between A4 & A5 size? We wondered if planning permission was required for plaques of this size.

Rachel Blake has alerted us to the availability of CDC Community Investment grants. Up to £2k; & BHG would be eligible. Agreed we should apply.

Bawtry Today – MM to submit items on our intended Ann Everard story display & this year’s children’s essay competition.

BHG Facebook site – thanks to JL who has resurrected it & acquired enough skill to submit items – e.g. re the new wharf lectern. Agreed to use it for news & events, signposting material on our website.

10 Next meeting

Tuesday 11th March; 18.30 at the Town Hall (i.e. New Hall as was.)