

Bawtry Heritage Group

Notes of meeting on Tuesday 8th July 2025

1 Present/Apologies

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

Apologies – John Linsley, Paul Hawes, Ludwik Michalek (new member)

2 Matters arising from 10th June meeting

History paper “Religion in Bawtry” – PH advised he expects draft to DK by end of July.

Agreement with BCL – BCL has advised there is no insurance cover relating to theft/loss of items in the library. Discussion – we concluded risk of loss is low & buying our own insurance cover would be unjustified. MM has asked BCL to confirm there is public liability insurance which covers the Heritage Centre.

Bawtry History Timeline – mode of presentation – complaints received that the slide show of the timeline changes too fast. MM has been unable to find a way to slow it down (in terms of the time each slide is presented) so he has spread the content over a greater number of slides. Members to see for themselves & assess whether now OK. If not, MW suggested a technical solution may be to make a video of the timeline using new (expensive) PowerPoint software.

Essay competition – relevant Mayflower School teacher has advised she mislaid MM’s email & forgot about the competition. MM not inclined to repeat the exercise next year & no-one else thought it would be worthwhile.

Donation boxes – smartened up. “Scan to donate” yet to be investigated.

Website metrics – DK apologised for not preparing material for review at this meeting. Review still thought to be worthwhile – item deferred.

3 Review BHG contributions to Bawtry Festival

Search for Roman Bawtry talk – well received; c 25 in audience. Disappointingly, the metal detectorists’ finds which were displayed were not restricted to Roman items & none were from Bawtry.

MM making some amendments to Conclusions & Observations document, & incorporating map of the sites east of Bawtry. To be posted on website as a history paper, accompanied by the desktop reports as appendices. Summary to be sent to SYAS & CDC Conservation officer. Discussion re displaying some of the material in the Heritage Centre, probably based around an A2 or A1 version of the map, with annotations to explain significance of contents. MM to progress. He has completed the paper requested by the PAC.

Anne Everard talk – well received; c 45 in audience.

Discussion re need to post relevant Anne Everard material on website, as a history paper. SH to draft same, addressing AE's family history, her book "Flowers from Nature" (to include illustrations), & info relating to her school & its pupils.

Guided walks – well received; c 37 participated in the two walks.

Opening of Heritage Centre – lots of people visited.

Donations – total of £73.61 received from the public during Festival week. BCL also donated £169 to us, to cover the costs of the display cabinet & corner desk we installed in the Heritage Centre.

4 Donors

Discussion re future sources of revenue. MM made the point that we returned several sums which had been donated to support our Heritage Centre & Changing Place project, when we failed to get the main grant. We now have a Heritage Centre – would it be worth approaching these parties again? Agreed the only likely one was Tickhill Lions – but we ought to have a specific project in mind.

5 Consider "The Spooks of Bawtry" paper for Horrid Histories page of website

Some debate about the content – whether it was appropriate for a history website – majority view was that it was harmless & some would enjoy it as a "tall tale". Agreed it should be posted on the site after some minor revision. DK to pursue with JL.

6 Requests for Guided Walks

SH's groups – SH has requested two guided walks for her genealogy students. Agreed on basis of voluntary donations rather than a fee. Agreed dates of 14th & 22nd August, at 13.30 & 10.00 respectively. Walks to terminate at BCL rather than Market Hill, to enable participants to get refreshment & introduce them to the Heritage Centre.

Heritage Open Days – Doncaster Civic Trust (responsible for co-ordinating Doncaster area contributions) & Doncaster Heritage Association have requested we offer a guided walk during the festival. DK agreed – Sunday 14th September; 14.00 at Market Cross. Unlikely possibility numbers could exceed 30 – but we need a contingency to lead two groups. DK to lead first group; MM available on "stand-by" to lead second group if required. SH & PHawes & KG available as back markers.

RA requested copy of DK's guided walk material.

7 Retford Archaeology & Metal Detecting Group

A member attended MM's Roman Bawtry presentation & had discussion with him afterwards, leading to email exchanges. The group has been interested in a Roman site near Retford & over a lengthy period has been able to commission archaeological ground surveys, leading to excavation led by a professional archaeologist which is still in progress. They are offering to give us advice how we might achieve something similar in Bawtry.

Agreed to accept their offer (MM to progress) but to pursue, in parallel, an attempt to attract professional interest in Bawtry from regional universities etc – starting with seeking

advice from Colin Merrony from Sheffield University, with whom DK had a discussion after his presentation about Romans in our region during Festival week.

8 AOB

Finds at Bawtry allotments – LG reported finding what looks like a large rusty nail & the bowl of a clay pipe. She has liaised with the PAS who advise the “nail” is of unknown date – could be modern – but they want to see the pipe.

Email enquiry via the website - re the family associated with the furniture retailer which used to occupy the present site of the China Rose. RA has some knowledge of the family & will progress enquiry.

BHG laptop in BCL - internet connectivity problems. It's old & might be corrupted. SH has a modern laptop & will compare performance, to inform a decision as to whether we need to replace the device.

Donation of a (late 19th century?) framed brewery advertisement relating to Bawtry – SH to research brewer's history.

9 Next meeting

Agreed to skip August meeting. Next meeting Tuesday 9th September; 18.30 Bawtry Town Hall. Agenda to include website review.