

Bawtry Heritage Group

Notes of meeting on Tuesday 9th September 2025

1 Present/Apologies

Present - David Kirkham, Leslie Gilfedder, Kevin Gilfedder, Sherelle Hawes, Rupert Atkinson, Mike White, Ludwik Michalek

Apologies – Peter Holland, Paul Hawes, Mick Maguire

2 Matters arising from 8th July meeting

Bawtry History Timeline mode of presentation – members reported the adjustments MM had made were successful in terms of providing sufficient time to read each slide, but that slide transitioning was often blurred.

Donation boxes – “Scan to donate” – DK has investigated – the cost is prohibitive. £250 - £300 to buy the kit, & then £30 per month forever to the provider. JL suggested we put up a notice with a QR code inviting visitors to donate through the website.

Spooks of Bawtry paper – posted on website.

Great North Road paper – JL advises not forgotten; remains pending.

Brewery advertisement which was donated to us – SH has researched the family & discovered some very interesting info – which she will present in a paper to be circulated for website.

Little Bawtry’s interest in displaying heritage material – JL advised landlord is still keen – hasn’t got round to it yet.

3 Website metrics

Discussion of report DK circulated. Shows 919 website visitors in 2023/2024, & 1200 visitors in 2024/2025 – 31% increase.

4 Local History Fair – Saturday 15 November

SH is organising it for DDHA. It was agreed we would participate. Public attendance should be better: 200 Brownies/Guides should be there, with parents. The quiz task, which was successful with the Cubs in 2023, will be repeated. Preferred location for our stall in the locomotive display space. No-one looked at our website on the monitor & laptop we took last year. Agreed to dispense with this & focus on our history papers & Town Trail (Market Place map; wharf lectern, & Battle of the Idle lectern) material. Use our display stands to display the same.

5 Lecterns

- **Battle of the Idle lectern on Gainsborough Road**

DK expecting delivery imminently. MW confirmed he can install. There is a Mens’ Shed meeting on Thursday – he will identify A N Other to assist (DK can assist if necessary) & set a date, with at least 30 days’ notice as required by Notts Highways.

- **Lecterns at BCL**

Discussed CDC's recent email – after 8 months' deliberation, there is provisional approval for 4 locations, no larger than A1, grey or black frames, & subject to consultation with neighbours & grounds maintenance. Not as we asked for – but good enough. The library version of the Battle of the Idle lectern has been designed at A0 size – needs to be halved. Agreed we would sit the lectern(s) on beds of stone chippings to address the grass cutting concern.

- **Garfield Weston Grant**

DK will write to GW describing the delays we have incurred & request another extension.

6 New Heritage Centre display

Members felt the Anne Everard display should stay up for longer but, acknowledging the commitment we made for regular refreshment, suggested it could be augmented with new (different) material on the walls of the Centre – presuming the library are content we do this. It was thought we could obtain display “pin boards” & mount them on the walls to display material. It was suggested we should start with large images of the panels on the Market Place Town Trail lectern, the Wharf lectern, & the Battle of the Idle lectern. Members agreed DK to buy the same. It was also suggested we display the Childrens' Trail.

Members agreed to additional shelving & ducting; MW will progress.

7 Public liability insurance

DK explained he & JL had concluded the Bawtry Festival PL Insurance definitely did not cover our activities out of Festival week, & possibly not even during the week. DK therefore bought said insurance - £5m cover for an annual premium of £99. Members were content with this.

8 South Yorks Heritage List

Update – MM persevering to get some action.

9 Retford Archaeology & Metal Detecting Group

MM is setting up a meeting for the end of September, where we hope to get advice about how to persuade the world of professional archaeology to have a look at Bawtry.

In that context, DK reported that Colin Merrony had not responded to our requests for advice/assistance.

In a related matter, LM advised he has a contact with an individual who made a successful Heritage Lottery Grant application for archaeological work who might be able to help us compose a successful application.

10 Guided walks

MM now unable to be available to lead a second group if numbers exceed 30 on Sunday 14 September. SH will do so, with PHa as back marker. LM has experience, although not so familiar with Bawtry. He will therefore act as back marker for DK's group, with a view to leading in the future.

The recent guided walks for SH's family history students were successful. Very generous participants - £93 in donations.

11 AOB

Bawtry Festival 2026 – JL advised dates Monday 15 June to Sunday 28 June.

Heritage enquiry re the furniture store on the China Rose site – RA shared some information about the history of the enterprise. A fascinating aspect of this was that the family went out of business because of a severe downturn during & after the 1984/5 miners' strike, with some causal connection – confrontations & violence outside the premises. Bawtry was possibly worse hit than many areas because of proximity to the border between South Yorkshire, where the miners were striking, & North Notts, where they were working, & the fact that Bawtry Hall was used to accommodate the hundreds of extra police drafted in. There could be a fascinating paper here if someone could take it on!

12 Next meeting

Tuesday 14th October; 18.30; Town Hall. RA gave his apologies.