

Bawtry Heritage Group

Notes of meeting on Tuesday 14th October 2025

1 Present/Apologies

Present - David Kirkham, Sherelle Hawes, Mike White, Mick Maguire, John Linsley, Peter Holland

Apologies – Leslie Gilfedder, Kevin Gilfedder, Rupert Atkinson, Paul Hawes,

2 Matters arising from 9th September meeting

Brewery advertisement which was donated to us – SH advised that her paper is pending.

Garfield Weston grant – end of project report sent. JL thought the grant was now payable – DK thought we'd already had it. (The latter is confirmed as the case.)

3 Local History Fair – Saturday 15 November

Our attendance confirmed; our table will be located in the locomotive display area close to SH's family history. DK will attend, assisted by SH & PH if necessary. Need to submit age appropriate questions for Brownies & Guides.

4 Retford Archaeology & Metal Detecting Group

MM & DK have now met twice with Eddie Jones of Retford Archaeology & Monty Oakley, the archaeologist who worked with them; yesterday's meeting being a walk over the wharf & shrine sites. They both felt there was potential for effective arguments for archaeological investigation to be made. Excavation would be expensive, necessitating substantial grant funding, but there are non-intrusive & non-destructive measures that may be applied – e.g. further analysis, field walking, various sorts of ground survey. They will help with these, & have access to survey equipment, but permissions will be necessary, from the land owner(s) & from Natural England because the area is a Site of Special Scientific Interest. Monty will use his professional archaeological contacts regarding a strategy to obtain Natural England permission. We need to identify the land owner.

5 Battle of the Idle lecterns

The Idle bridge lectern will be installed on 21st October, weather permitting. The President of the Sutton Hoo Society is in the area at the end of October & hopes to see it. Their grant to us should then be payable.

The library lectern (plus 3 others) remains subject to CDC's interminable approval process. Presuming consent, we will still require planning permission, although this ought to be straightforward given CDC's exhaustive considerations to date.

6 New Heritage Centre display

Continuation of last month's discussion, prompted by MM's reservations. No consensus achieved, but agreed to go ahead with good quality prints of lectern panels – in good

quality mounts – given the fact MM can live with the decision. Anne Everard display to continue & possibly new Methodist Church material related to MM’s work.

MM is meeting with BCL Trustees on 23rd October re HC “progress” review.

7 Bawtry Methodist Church – MM history paper

MM has circulated same for comment with a view to approval for website & HC.

8 Bawtry Wharf Pier - MW

MW briefed on an idea by the Idle Valley Shed group to construct a boardwalk between the railway viaduct at the bottom of Wharf St & the river, ideally with a viewing platform at the end & possibly hides along it for bird watching. Very positively received but thought to be a very ambitious project which will require wide support, substantial funding, & various permissions.

9 National Blue Plaque Scheme – Anne Everard?

A suggestion by MM to mark Anne Everard’s school on Wharf Street but not feasible because it turns out we have been mistaken in believing the existing Leigh House is Anne Everard’s Ivy House. Research by SH shows that Leigh House was almost certainly of that name during the 19th century & that Ivy House stood to its west but was demolished, probably around 1900. SH to amend those elements of our Anne Everard display & her paper accordingly.

10 AOB

Website enquiry regarding the history of tennis in Bawtry - info to MM. PH advised his & his neighbour’s houses in Martin Lane were built on the site of old tennis courts.

Presentation to Whiston history group - 4th November: DK & MM. They have requested “Bawtry – a Norman planted town”. DK to amend presentation to include earlier history.

11 Next meeting

Tuesday 11th November; 18.30; Town Hall.