

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THOROTON COUNCIL HELD AT LENTON GROVE, UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM, ON FRIDAY, 23rd FEBRUARY 2013, from 5pm to 6.45pm

PRESENT

J Beckett	K Brand	B Cast	H Fisher	T Foulds	R Gaunt	A Henstock
D Hoskins	D Johnston	P Jones	A Langton	C Little	P Messenger	
P Miller	J Mills	A Nicholson	P Reddish	P Smith	M Trueman	

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from D Bagley, M Bennett, K Challis, D Crook and J Wilson.

2 MINUTES

The minutes of the last meeting held on 19th October 2012, copies of which had been circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

3 MATTERS ARISING

There were none not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

4 STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Professor Beckett reported on the following matters:-

- a) Greater Nottinghamshire Local History Fair 19th May 2013 - the Society would be represented at this fair and would use the new banners for the first time. Howard Fisher said he would put together a powerpoint presentation based on lost chapels. The following volunteered to staff the table and would be contacted by the Hon Sec to work up a timetable to cover the session - Philip Jones, Howard Fisher, Margaret Trueman, Ceril Little, Richard Gaunt, Alan Langton, John Beckett and Barbara Cast.
- b) Joint TS/NLHA day school - the Home Front - The date of this had been changed to 25th October 2014. A programme was being drawn up with H Fisher, J Beckett and David Nunn in conjunction with NLHA: appropriate contributions would be sought. It would be held at Ravenshead.
- c) Events and exhibitions - Society banners - David Hoskins confirmed that the production of these was underway.
- d) Archaeology Day School - proposal - this was the type of event which was held by both Derbyshire and Lincolnshire county societies and it was proposed that one be held by our Society. Council agreed that this would be a useful additional event and the Standing Committee would work up details. David Knight would give some pointers on what might be included.
- e) Honorary member - Sir Andrew Buchanan had been invited to become an Honorary Member of the Society. The Chair was to follow this up.
- f) Former members - it was proposed that when members retired due to age, it should

be considered whether they should continue to be kept informed of the Society's activities by receiving the Newsletter. Council agreed that this be done on a case by case basis.

- g) Thoroton Society books - some books belonging to the Society had been found in Bromley House. As there were other examples in the collection held by the University, it was agreed that these should be valued, offered for sale to members in the first instance and, if not disposed of in that way, sold by other means, the proceeds to go towards the costs of maintaining the bibliography.

5 PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

- a) Proceedings of the December committee meeting - the circulated minutes were noted.
- b) Transactions - in the absence of Martyn Bennett, his circulated note was read giving information on the progress of the current edition of Transactions. Proof reading was underway and the delivery date was 19th April.
- c) Record series - Adrian Henstock reported that the volume of Archdeacon Drummond Church Returns 1764 was now published. It was planned that the launch be during the second half of May in the Great Hall, Southwell, and that the Bishop be invited. Howard was congratulated on the completion of this volume and he in turn thanked Adrian for his considerable input. Pete Smith reported on the progress of the Newstead Abbey volume being prepared by Rosalys Coope: the basic text should be completed by March. Other volumes in preparation were as reported in the Publications Committee minutes.
- d) Newsletter - Howard pointed out that the latest edition had sections separated by the Sherwood Horn, the Society's emblem. Council again expressed approval of another interesting and attractive edition.
- e) Bibliography - steady progress was being made. It was hoped that it could be launched at Bromley House, albeit virtually. There had been 8,700 entries in the book version and there were now 11,000. It was suggested that it be promoted by sending information to all local history societies and libraries. A press release was also to be written.

6 HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

- a) Annual Report - this had been circulated with the Council papers and, with some minor amendments, was approved for submission to the AGM.
- b) Spring Meeting and AGM - 27th April at Ravenshead
Nominations for Vice-President/s, officers and for Council - Sir Neil Cossons had accepted the invitation to become a Vice-President and his nomination would therefore go forward to the AGM. Of the three retiring Council members, David Crook, Trevor Foulds, Dorothy Johnston and Philip Jones, David, Trevor and Philip had agreed to stand again. Dorothy, having retired, was now likely to be based in Oxford. She expressed the hope that her successor would take a place on Council as she felt that the link between University Manuscripts and Collections and the

Society was important. Tribute was made to Dorothy's long-standing membership of Council and involvement in the Society's activities. There were no further nominations. Documentation for the AGM would be sent out at the end of March.

- c) Luncheon 2nd November 2013 - this was to be held at Kelham Hall. Our guests are to be Noel and Sarah Osborne, it being the centenary of the death of William Phillimore, the promoting founder, Hon Sec and Vice-President of the Society: Noel is his nephew and the Managing Director of Phillimore.
- d) Correspondence - this comprised notice of the CBA Festival of Archaeology in July which was to be publicised in the newsletter, a request for involvement in a Youth Conference from the Chair of the NLHA which would be responded to in the affirmative, a letter from the Conservation Team Manager, Notts CC, regarding former community archaeologists seeking to offer similar projects independently, and the Notts Historian.

7 HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT

- a) Annual accounts - in the absence of the Hon Treasurer due to ill-health the Chair commented on the main points, especially that the financial situation was healthy. Peter Bloomfield was again examining them: subject to all being to his satisfaction, the accounts were approved for submission to the AGM. John and his daughter Victoria were thanked for their preparation of the accounts and Peter for undertaking the examination.
- b) Excursion Secretary, proposed new role - in order to enable the costs of visits, coaches etc to be paid directly from Society funds, Alan Langton had now been made a signatory and would be able to pay and deposit monies as necessary.

8 HONORARY PROGRAMME SECRETARIES' REPORT

- a) Excursions - the programme for 2013 was in place with one extra visit arranged by Pete Smith to Stanford House on 10th April. The preparation for 2014 was well underway. Pete commented on the possible Smythson weekend in February 2014. He also drew attention to a seminar at Newstead Abbey on 16th March to be held to consider its future and the support that could be given to it. Ceril agreed to attend and report back: the President was also hoping to attend.
- b) Lectures - the 2013 programme had commenced and planning for 2014 was underway.
- c) Special lecture - Michael Wood 18th July 2013 - Michael Wood's talk was entitled "Laxton and Kibworth". There had already been 79 applications.

9 HONORARY MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

Judith Mills reported that:-

- a) Membership - annual membership renewals were still being received. Most members were renewing, with only a small number of resignations. There were several new members and a list of them was circulated.
- b) Email addresses - most members had agreed to have information on immediate news emailed to them.

- c) Gift aid - the online membership form had been changed to include a gift aid form.

10 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

- a) Archaeology - David Knight reported that the main information was in the annual report. Despite the pressures on archaeology due to the financial situation, there had been a great deal of infrastructure work in the county which had required archaeological investigations. There were also a good number of community archaeology projects undertaken. David also reported on the following conferences: on mediaeval archaeology 21st-22nd September; Trent Valley Geo-Archaeology conference on landscapes on May 15th.
- b) City Planning - Ken Brand added to his section in the annual report by reporting on the commencement of work on the former Odeon site, the lodge at the Forest, railings at Wellington Circus, the proposed new college use for the Dunkirk fire station. He also noted that there were no offers so far for the Guildhall but that the former Costume Museum was under offer.
- c) Nottinghamshire Building Preservation Trust - Ceril Little reported on the first meeting she had attended. There were plans for the restoration of Blidworth Windmill and Philip Jones said that he was on the committee for this project.
- d) Nottinghamshire Local History Association - Philip reported on the forthcoming day school. An increase in subscriptions was proposed from £6 to £15 for organisations. There had also been changes in the committee with Derek Walker and Vice-President Mike Bishop retiring, and Robert Howard retiring from Notts Historian.
- e) Thoroton Response Group - Barbara reported on so far successful representations made regarding Kirkby Hardwick. Further representations would be made re the new planning application on the Southwell site. She drew attention to the substantial number of buildings, scheduled monuments and conservation areas on the English Heritage Buildings at Risk register and that she intended to write a report on this. She also drew attention to threats to the environs of Hardwick Hall from the HST2 and wind turbines. Howard Fisher circulated a note on a focus group on the restoration of St Martin of Tours, Bilborough, at which he had been able to make useful input.

11 DATES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS IN 2013/14 AND AGM in 2014

- a) May 24th and 35th October 2013, 22nd February, 23rd May and 24th October 2014
- b) Spring Meeting and AGM 2014 - April 26th