

THOMAS FOWELL BUXTON SOCIETY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at the Community Fire Station, Radipole Lane Weymouth

Tuesday 23rd February 2016

Present: The Mayor Cllr Christine James (Honorary President), Mr James Buxton (Trustee), Dr John Fannon (Trustee), Mrs Joyce Fannon (Trustee), Mr Ben Buxton, Mrs Barbara Cohen (SWDMN), Mr Richard Cropper, Ms Mona Elkotory (SWDMN), Mr Trevor Lindley, Mrs Anne Lindley, Mrs Janet Marlborough, Mrs Jennie McGowan, Mrs Anne McKechan, Mr Trefor Morgan, Mrs Liliane Mutton, Miss Elisabeth Morse, Mr Lynwood Newman, Dr Jeremy Parkinson, Dr John Ponsonby, Mrs Rosemary Smith, Miss Anna Viccars-Barber, Ms Sue Way, Cllr Kate Weller, Dr Carl Whitehouse, Mrs Rachel Whitehouse.

Apologies: Cllr Ian Bruce, Miss Charlotte Buxton, Mrs Phyllida Buxton, Dr Paul Buxton, Mrs Isabel de Pelet, Mrs Diana Knights, Mr David Mannings, Mrs Ursula Pomeroy, Mrs Emma Scott, Lady Lavinia Thorpe, Mrs Richenda Wallace, Dr Michael Watson, Mrs Mary Watson, Mr W White, Mrs Margaret Wilson,

Cllr James as Honorary President was in the Chair.

1. Welcome

Cllr James was unavoidably detained so the Chairman of the Trustees, Mr James Buxton welcomed members and guests to the Annual General Meeting. He said that this was the first AGM to be held under the rules set down by the Charity commission. Accordingly the Trustees report and the Annual accounts would be presented in accordance with the recommended model advised by the Charity Commission.

2. Trustees' Report

Having joined the meeting, Madame Mayor read out to the members the Trustees Report, including the Education Report which will be presented to the Charity Commission. She reported a very successful year with excellent fund raising and continued presentations to local groups.

The principle objective for the coming year was to let a contract to build the monument in 2016. This is contingent on the acquiring of a lease (currently under negotiation with Weymouth and Portland Borough Council). We also have to raise the extra funds to cover the funding shortfall.

One of the issues concerning the negotiation with the W&P BC was the length of the lease. The Society was asking for a 999 year lease, but the Council was currently only offering 25 years. Cllr Kate Wheller said that the reason for this was that 25 years was the limit to the Head of Estates' delegated powers. She would be raising the issue with the Management Committee next week for a longer term lease.

Note added: After the AGM, Cllr Kate Wheller and Cllr Gill Taylor raised the issue with the Management Committee. It was agreed that Estates would be given the delegated powers

to offer a 50 year lease to the Society. This is acceptable to the Society. However there are still clauses in the Heads of Terms which need to be agreed before the lease can be granted. The Society and Estates will continue negotiations hopefully to conclude this soon.

The report including an overview of the Events of 2015 is set out in annex A to these minutes.

3. Annual Accounts (Treasurer's Report)

Dr Fannon presented the annual accounts which conforming to the Charity Commission's guidelines showed income and expenditure over the financial year.

At 31st December 2015 the accounts stood as follows

| | | |
|------------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| GENERAL FUND | | |
| Opening Balance | £1,589.20 | |
| | Income | Expenditure |
| | £19,439.82 | £9,352.45 |
| | | |
| Closing Balance | £11,678.55 | |

| | | |
|------------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| MONUMENT FUND | | |
| Opening Balance | £ 7,652.00 | |
| | Income | Expenditure |
| | £12,600.00 | £ 0.00 |
| | | |
| Closing Balance | £20,252.00 | |

Our total finances at the close of 2015 were therefore £31,928.55. Currently our funds fall short of our estimated total bill for erecting the monument.

In answer to a question from the floor, it was explained that the Society had decided to maintain two accounts with Barclays Bank Plc. These are 'The General fund' and 'The Monument Fund'. The latter was set up specifically for stone sponsoring and was always to be 'ring fenced' until required for the building of the monument.

It was intended to strive to have the monument built this year and the Society was in discussion with Albion Stone and John Mitchell Builders who would be contracted to undertake the task. There were still a number of other activities to be carried out, some of them quite costly. The upshot was that we were still some £15,000 short of our target, but would hope to make this up with a soft loan.

4. Motion to be put to the meeting: That the membership fee be raised to £7 and family membership to £12.

It was explained that this is to help to defray postage costs which constitute the largest of the administrative expenses. The £7 and £12 figures had been agreed after discussion in the committee.

The meeting agreed the motion.

5. Fund raising

Dr Fannon pointed out that if a soft loan was accepted, it was still incumbent on the society to pay it back in a reasonable time. If after the monument had been erected, the society had to exist on membership subscriptions and a limited number of fund raising events, most of these funds raised would be expended in providing insurance and maintenance of the monument. The message was that vigorous fundraising would still need to be done almost at the level we achieved in 2015 if soft loans were to be paid back. This led on to the programme of events proposed for 2016.

6. Programme of Events for 2016

The following programme was presented to the meeting

| | |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------|
| Jan 26th | Presentation to Brendoncare Clubs |
| Feb 19th | Presentation to S&D Family History Soc |
| Feb 23rd | AGM |
| Mar 18th | Mico Service at St Mary's |
| May 7th or 21st | Visit to Docklands and Spitalfields |
| June 25th | Piano Recital at St Mary's |
| July | Annual dinner? |
| July 30th | Memorial Service Westminster Abbey |
| Oct | Black History Event |

The first two events had already passed and the next event was the Mico service at St Mary's Church Weymouth. Dr Carl Whitehouse would be describing the link between Samuel Mico and Thomas Fowell Buxton after the break, but suffice to say that the Annual Mico service is held annually on the Friday before Palm Sunday after which participants are invited to the George Inn for hot cross buns and wine.

On May 7th or 21st we propose to hire a coach to visit the London docklands Museum where there is a permanent exhibition on sugar and slavery and there is an honourable reference to TFB. We would proceed from there to Spitalfields (Brick Lane) to see where TFB had his brewery (Truman, Hanbury ad Buxton). The brewery closed in the 1980's but the premises has been converted into boutiques and café wine bars etc. Finally we have the opportunity of visiting the new Black Eagle Brewery, a micro brewery set up about 3 miles away. We would be given a guided tours and the opportunity to sample and buy the products.

On 25th June, we have our piano recital at St Mary's Church. Duncan Honeybourne and Katharine Lam have kindly agreed to play for us again.

We are still thinking about another annual dinner in July. (More details soon)

On 30th July we would have a memorial service at Westminster Abbey. The Dean and Chapter are delighted to welcome us again and this time there will be no restriction on numbers. The programme will be to attend Evensong at 4:15 after which there will be a formal wreath laying at TFB's memorial. We will organise a coach to leave Weymouth at about 9am and in the afternoon there is the opportunity for a picnic at Victoria Gardens. We would return to Weymouth by 10pm.

Finally we will hold our Black history month even towards the end of October with a date to be arranged.

There was general interest in these events and it was agreed to focus on 7th May for the visit to the London Docklands Museum and Spitalfields.

7. Resignation of one of the Trustees

In accordance with the Governing Document, one third of the trustees must resign each year. Trustees can offer themselves for re-election. Currently there are 3 trustees.

Mrs Fannon duly resigned as Trustee for the Society

There is no limit as to the number of trustees and any member of the society may offer themselves for election as a Trustee.)

8. Election of Trustees

Mrs Fannon offered herself for election as a Trustee. This was proposed by Mrs Anne Lindley and seconded by many people. This agreed.

There were no others willing to offer themselves as a trustee so the number of trustees will remain at 3.

The meeting then adjourned for refreshments.

9. Presentation by Dr Carl Whitehouse

SAMUEL MICO AND HIS CONNECTION WITH THOMAS FOWELL BUXTON

After the interval Dr Carl Whitehouse who is a licensed lay minister gave a clear and fascinating presentation on Samuel Mico and the Mico trust. He described how the trust operates today in Weymouth and how one of his legacies was used to benefit emancipated slaves in the West Indies after liberation.

Little was known about Samuel Mico except that he was a merchant venturer in the seventeenth century. He made his fortune in trading in silks, spices and currants. He traded out of Weymouth and owned the George Inn. He died in 1666 leaving a legacy for the provision of alms houses for 'decayed seamen' in Weymouth and also for apprenticeships in Weymouth. This trust is still extant today.

A large legacy was left to his wife but, Lady Mico died 4 years later. In her will a large sum was left to Sir Samuel's nephew with the provision that he should marry, but he also died soon after, still unmarried and as a result part of Lady Mico's estate was left to set up a trust for the ransoming of poor Christian slaves in North Africa. This would have been close to Samuel's heart as his ships had to run the gauntlet across the Mediterranean, with depredations by North African pirates capturing ships and taking the crews into slavery. The pirates were also very active further afield, raiding settlements on the coasts of Europe and taking men, women and children to the slave markets in Algiers and Tunisia.

The trust does not seem to have been very pro-active, and by the nineteenth century, the threat from slavers had been eliminated and the investments in the trust had reached over £100,000.

In 1835, a group from the Anti Slavery society including TFB felt that this money could be put to better use – to provide education for the emancipated slaves. Carl described the complicated negotiations with the lawyers which had to take place before the money could be used to this end. The fund was used to set up elementary schools throughout the British West Indies and to found a teachers' training college at Kingston, Jamaica.

The Schools were soon afterwards handed over to various religious societies, who also maintained schools in the islands, but Mico College, Kingston, remained the responsibility of the Mico Trustees and is now the second largest teachers' training college in Jamaica. The Buxton family have been represented on the Board of Trustees of the College since its inception.

Carl's presentation enabled his audience to thread their way through the many complications of how the legacies were handled, with his slides showing extracts from the Samuel's will and that of his wife. He also described how the Mico trust is used today to sponsor apprenticeships in local colleges. Every year on the Friday before Palm Sunday there is a procession to the St Mary's Church led by the Mayor where a service is held in Samuel Mico's memory. The service includes a sermon by a 'good divine' and students from Budmouth College describe the work they have done with grants from their benefactor.

Vote of thanks

Madame Mayor had had to leave the meeting early and in her absence, James Buxton, chairman of Trustees gave a vote of thanks to Carl for his interesting and informative presentation

CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 4:15 pm.

ANNEX A

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2015

Fund Raising

1. Piano Recital

On Friday 11th June 2015 Mr Duncan Honeybourne and Miss Katharine Lam gave a piano recital at St Mary's Church Weymouth. The recital was well publicised around the town and attracted some 60 attendees. The evening was most enjoyable and raised over £400.

2. Society Dinner at Brooks's Club, London

On July 22nd 2015, a fund raising dinner was held at the famous Brooks's Club, St James, London. About 100 people attended. The highlight of the dinner was an auction of promises, generously donated by members of the Buxton family. The funds raised at the dinner realised over £16,000.

3. Memorial Service at Westminster Abbey

On Saturday 1st August 2015, a memorial service was held at Westminster Abbey to commemorate the Anniversary of the Emancipation of the Slaves in the British Empire. 50 members of the Society (the number limited by the Dean and Chapter) were able to attend the short service conducted by Canon David Stanton and floral tributes were laid by the 8th Baronet Sir Crispin Buxton and the Mayor of Weymouth Cllr Christine James. Afterwards there was a picnic at Victoria Tower Gardens in the Buxton Memorial Fountain with over 150 members of the Buxton Family and members of the Society.

This event, which included contributions of 'fivers' (with Buxton depicted on the back of the note in the company of his sister in law, Elizabeth Fry) raised £1000.

4. Gift Aid The Society is now a Charity recognised by HMRC and in 2015 we were able to make our first application for a Gift Aid rebate. We were able to claim up for gift aid to end of FY 2014-15 and for the four previous financial years. The gift aid contribution was £1587

Education

The following educational activities took place in 2015.

1. There were **13 Society presentations** given by the Education Officer to local Societies in the Weymouth area. The presentations involved Thomas Fowell Buxton's achievements and his time in Weymouth.

The Presentations were given to the following groups and schools in the Weymouth area

- Sutton Poyntz History Group (January 21st 2015).
- Wyke Regis Junior School. (3 presentations on January 29th 2015)
- National Trust South Dorset Assn. (February 2015).
- TFB Society AGM (February 2015).
- St Augustine's RC Primary School (February 27th, 2015)
- Weymouth Probus (April 2015).
- Weymouth W I (July 2015).
- Brendoncare Clubs (August 2015).

ANNEX A

- Weymouth Library (October 2015)
 - Brendoncare Clubs (October 2015)
 - Black History Month presentation (October 2015)
2. **Fairtrade Fortnight in February, 2015:** The presentation given at St Augustine's RC Primary Year 5 and the three presentations given at Wyke Regis Junior Year 6 (x3) were in the context of Fairtrade Fortnight, which is an annual outreach to schools. This year the topic was "Sugar and Slavery". In association with this, the Society ran an Art competition to provide an idea for a Society logo/button badge. The winner came from St Augustine's.
 3. **Black History Month Event in October:** St Augustine's Girls Choir sang "Songs of Slavery"; Lynwood Newman showed a "Society Summer Season Picture Show" and the main presentation was by Joyce Fannon on "The Underground Railroad and the Buxton Settlements in Ontario, Canada".
 4. **Talk** given at Weymouth Library and information provided for a display on "Dorset's Wilberforce" at the Oakdale Library in Poole, Dorset.
 5. **Publicity**
 - (a) Networking: For maximum publicity we liaised with our partners South West Dorset Multicultural Network and Purple Teardrop
 - (b) Press Releases: Our press officer sent press releases to "View from Weymouth" and "Echo".
 - (b) Websites: Information about our Black History Month involvement was posted on Bournemouth University website and that of the Human Trafficking Foundation.

Membership

During the year, membership slowly grew. At the AGM for 2014, the Society approved a motion to offer Life Membership at £100. This would also carry with it the sponsorship of a step stone. So far 6 members have taken up this option. Our membership at present is 113 with a further 41 supporters.

Website

The website remains one of the main avenues for promoting TFB and to date 131 countries have visited the site, the latest being Ghana. The website provides the opportunity of paying membership fees and giving donations on line, and buying tickets when we run a function.

FUTURE PLANS

1. To let a contract to build the monument in 2016. This is contingent on the acquiring of a lease (currently under negotiation with Weymouth and Portland Borough Council). We also have to raise the extra funds to cover the funding shortfall.
2. To draw up an annual plan of events for the interest of our members and for fund raising
3. To draw up plans and procedures for the conduct of the Society to meet its aim in the years after the monument has been built.

ANNEX B: ACCOUNTS FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 1ST JANUARY – 31ST DECEMBER 2015

| Section A Receipts and payments | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| | Unrestr cted funds | Restrict ed funds | Endow ment funds | Total funds | Last year | |
| | to the nearest £ | to the nearest £ | to the nearest £ | to the nearest £ | to the nearest £ | |
| A1 Receipts | | | | | | |
| Membership | 260 | - | - | 260 | 295 | |
| Life Membership | 400 | - | - | 400 | - | |
| Presentations | 180 | - | - | 180 | 75 | |
| Donations | 775 | - | - | 775 | 60 | |
| Monument fund | 3,930 | - | - | 3,930 | 3,955 | |
| Other Fund Raising | 24,826 | - | - | 24,826 | 1,411 | |
| Gift Aid | 1,588 | - | - | 1,588 | 47 | |
| Other | 81 | - | - | 81 | - | |
| Sub total (Gross income for AR) | 32,040 | - | - | 32,040 | 5,843 | |
| A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table). | | | | | | |
| None | - | - | - | - | - | |
| Sub total | - | - | - | - | - | |
| Total receipts | 32,040 | - | - | 32,040 | 5,843 | |
| A3 Payments | | | | | | |
| Postage | 305 | - | - | 305 | 184 | |
| Venue Rentals | 130 | - | - | 130 | 53 | |
| CoachHire | 680 | - | - | 680 | - | |
| TFBS Dinner | 7,316 | - | - | 7,316 | - | |
| Flowers&Gifts | 109 | - | - | 109 | 122 | |
| Piano Recital | 347 | - | - | 347 | 550 | |
| Catering and Prizes | 63 | - | - | 63 | 60 | |
| Printing | 93 | - | - | 93 | 75 | |
| Website | 60 | - | - | 60 | 60 | |
| PaypalFees | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | |
| Other Expenses | 125 | - | - | 125 | 42 | |
| Presentation Materials | 30 | - | - | 30 | - | |
| Returned Cheque | 95 | - | - | 95 | - | |
| Sub total | 9,352 | - | - | 9,352 | 1,146 | |
| A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table) | | | | | | |
| None | - | - | - | - | - | |
| Sub total | - | - | - | - | - | |
| Total payments | 9,352 | - | - | 9,352 | 1,146 | |
| Net of receipts/(payments) | 22,688 | - | - | 22,688 | 4,698 | |
| A5 Transfers between funds | - | - | - | - | - | |
| A6 Cash funds last year end | 9,241 | - | - | 9,241 | 4,543 | |
| Cash funds this year end | 31,929 | - | - | 31,929 | 9,241 | |
| Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period | | | | | | |
| Categories | Details | Unrestr cted funds | Restrict ed funds | Endowment funds | | |
| | | to nearest £ | to nearest £ | to nearest £ | | |
| B1 Cash funds | Opening Bank Balance 1 Jan | 9,241 | - | - | | |
| | Cash funds for 2015 | 22,688 | - | - | | |
| | Total cash funds | 31,929 | - | - | | |
| | payments account(s)) | OK | OK | OK | | |
| | Details | Fund to which | Amount due | When due (optional) | | |
| B5 Liabilities | Cheque outstanding | | 17 | 01 January 2016 | | |
| Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees | Signature | Print Name | | Date of approval | | |
| | <i>Jan Fannon</i> | Dr John A Fannon | | 22 Feb 2016 | | |