

**Minutes of the Thomas Fowell Buxton Society
Annual General Meeting,
Wednesday 13th February, 2013.**

Present:

Deputy Mayor Ray Banham, Cllr Pamela Nixon, Cllr Ian Bruce, Cllr Bill White, Cllr Paul Kimber, Mr and Mrs John Fannon, Trefor Morgan, David Mannings, Dr Paul Buxton, Mr Ben Buxton, Mr and Mrs Michael Martin, Mr and Mrs Henry Brackenbury, Mrs Elsa Fenton, Mr Richard Cropper, Ms Barbara Cohen, Miss Jennifer Morris, Mrs Janet Marlborough, Mr Lake (Guest), other members of the Society.

Apologies;

Mr Joe Barclay, Rev Rachel Benson, Mr Tony Burton-Page, Mr James A F Buxton, Mr James D Buxton, Mrs Phyllida Buxton, Mrs Rosie Footit, Mr and Mrs Alan McKechan, Mrs Margaret Naine, Cllr Anne Kenwood, Mrs Elizabeth Orrell, Mrs Richenda Wallace, Alderman Graham Winter

Introduction and Welcome:

Deputy Mayor, Ray Banham, opened the meeting. He welcomed everyone and agreed to chair the AGM.

TFB Society Chairman's Report: See Annex A (page 5 below)

Treasurer's Report:

INCOME		
Membership subscriptions	£175.00	
Speaking engagements	£190.00	
Donations	£1,710.00	
Grants	£500.00	
Miscellaneous	£25.00	
		£2600.00
EXPENDITURE		
Postage, Stationery and Publicity	£22.25	
Monument Expenses	£184.00	
Gifts and Prizes	£23.01	
Miscellaneous Meeting Expenses	£1.44	
		(£230.70)
INCOME - EXPENDITURE		£2369.30
CASH AT BANK		
Opening Balance	£248.62	
Surplus at Year End	£2369.30	
Closing Balance		£2617.92

Education Report:

Joyce Fannon gave the following report:

Looking back to last year's AGM there is a similarity in our achievements.

- It is still true that what we in this society are doing is collectively bringing an important part of Weymouth's heritage to the attention of this generation. It is an enmeshing of past, present and future.
- It still holds true that 21st century organisations, such as Purple Teardrop, Multicultural Society and Fairtrade, see the relevance of our educational work to theirs, as they combat modern aspects of human slavery.

In 2012 there have been 11 presentations on Thomas Fowell Buxton given to adult audiences. Also two have taken place in January this year bringing the grand total to 42. Demand from adult audiences has been such as to preclude an educational programme for schools; there just has not been enough available time.

- The involvement of Weymouth College students in the design and execution of the 144 monument stones is also an educational reality; a reality of which the College and the Society are justly proud. The final stones will be ready at the end of May this year when the examiners have completed the assessment of the students' work.
- John Fannon, as webmaster, has continued to ensure a further educational outreach with 1,800 hits on the site in 2012. The website continues to be an important educational tool for the society. Since May 2012, when a system was added to the site to track where the hits were coming from, we note that 35 different countries were represented including 23 hits from the Caribbean and 14 from Russia. The majority of the hits have come, as expected, from the UK.

John is always looking for new ideas and new articles to update our website, so keep them coming in.

Recently an email came from the University of East Anglia requesting information on TFB's connection with Earlham Hall the seat of the Gurney's; we were able to help.

- Accessing media coverage is another form of education. In 2012 there have been articles in the *Echo* newspaper, and in *View from Weymouth*. We have also helped with an article on Thomas Fowell Buxton written by Tony Burton-Page for the *Dorset Life Magazine*.

Adoption of the Reports:

This was agreed.

Choice of Site

Cllr Ian Bruce asked that the meeting discuss the issue of the site of the monument. The

Chairman reminded the meeting that the options were

- Manor Roundabout (we had planning permission for this)
- Bingleaves
- Bowleaze

The potential Bowleaze site although far from the cliff edge today, could in years to come be vulnerable to cliff erosion and landslip. The meeting then did not discuss this further.

Attention was placed on the competing claims for Manor roundabout and Bingleaves

In the general discussion that followed, a number of points were raised which can be summarised as follows:

Manor Roundabout

Big disadvantage was that it was removed from pedestrian access, could not be seen close up. This would be mitigated somewhat by an information board

It may be more expensive to put the monument on the roundabout because of the costs of traffic control during the works.

On the other hand, the monument would be seen by every motorist entering Weymouth and would be a landmark. Its distance from pedestrian access might lessen the chance of vandalism.

Bingleaves

At first sight, it is a somewhat isolated spot, there is nothing else there. Weymouth Council wants to develop this area as a public space. They claim that there are lots of tourists and picnickers in the summer months.

It would be less expensive to build there; access would not be a problem.

However there is a concern about vandalism, and if the Society had to continually clean the monument after erection, we would soon exhaust what little funds we had remaining.

We would also have to reapply for planning permission,

It was agreed to keep this matter open at present. We do not have to make a quick decision, but members will be given the opportunity to consider the options and make their own recommendations.

Fundraising Opportunities:

There followed an open discussion of potential fundraising ideas. Joyce Fannon introduced the discussion which centred firstly on **small-scale fundraising**. The results were:

1. It was suggested that the database of Buxton family members could be used to canvas support. Paul Buxton is looking into this.
2. Heritage Community Fund.
3. Slavery International.
4. Anti Slavery Journal.
5. Coffee mornings.
6. Flag days.
7. Educational presentation fees.
8. Monumental Stone Auction.
9. Friends' House, Dorchester.
10. Radio 4 appeal.
11. Mo Newport, Mayor's Secretary, for local funding list.

All these ideas will be considered and developed at the next committee meeting.

John Fannon gave details of the proposed **large scale** fundraising ventures:

1. **Grant applications.** So far £1500 had been raised this way. The Society has accessed a website that gives current grant awarding information. Following this site we have applied for a Paul Getty Grant. We should know in three months if we have been successful.
2. **Crowd Funding:** This is internet based. Following a 2 minute presentation people can donate online. A local film club or Weymouth College media Department might be interested in producing the short film needed.
3. **Stone sponsoring:** This was now officially rolled out at the meeting. A catalogue showing all the 144 stones to be sponsored has been produced and was available at the meeting. Leaflets explaining the scheme were available to members to take away and distribute. Local businesses, as well as members will be encouraged to sponsor stones. To attract businesses, advertising space on the Society website has been developed.

Call for members to assist in the work of the society:

The next committee meeting would be held at Cloud End, Windermere Crescent, Weymouth DT3 5HG, the home of Henry and Marilyn Brackenbury.

The date and time are 13th March 2013 at 2.30pm

Members who wish to join the committee, and wish to attend the meeting, please get in touch with Henry on 01305 770611.

Election of the Committee: This will be done at the committee meeting

Close of the Meeting: Mr Ray Banham, who had chaired the meeting, thanked everyone for their attendance and useful contributions.

ANNEX A

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE THOMAS FOWELL BUXTON SOCIETY 13th February 2013

Good afternoon Deputy Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen

Welcome to the 2nd AGM of the Thomas Fowell Buxton Society

Over this past year, we have achieved much, but not as much as we had planned.

When we spoke last year, we had just been awarded planning permission to build on Manor Roundabout. That was a significant step. Over these last months we have been negotiating with Dorset Highways Engineers to agree on a design that was considered safe.

One of the problems was that the monument, comprising of a plinth and obelisk is a rather slim structure. And the carved stones were to be hung around a central core. The central core had to be sturdy enough to withstand being hit by what Dorset Highways called an errant vehicle, i.e. one out of control.

After a number of meetings which stretched through the summer of 2012, we eventually agreed on a design with a core of reinforced concrete. This would be in 3 parts.

The first was a base, about 60cm thick with a square blind hole in the middle.

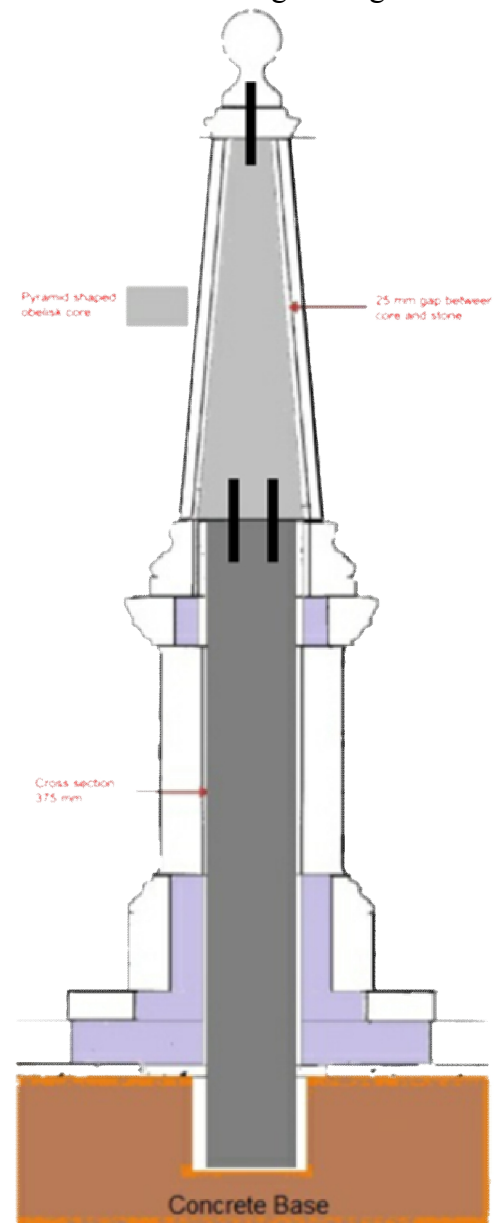
The lower part of the monument core would be of square section and fit into this hole and be positioned to be vertical.

The upper part of the monument core would be of pyramidal shape, again of reinforced concrete and would be fixed to the lower part with stainless steel bars.

The ball finial would sit on top of all this again fixed by a stainless steel bar.

In the autumn of 2012 we commissioned Dorset Highways to design the two core parts and the base. We received that design in November.

But almost at the same time, we received news that Weymouth and Portland Council was developing its own plans for the roundabout, which involved extensive planting of flowers and shrubs over the area. We met the Parks and Gardens Department in late October and it was clear that they had had no idea of our plans – as we were ignorant of theirs.



ANNEX A

We had a tentative agreement that they would reserve a quadrant to allow access for building the monument. This would have to be done at the quiet part of the year – say December or January. They also said that it would be helpful if we could lay the base by January 2013, which would reduce subsequent disruption. It was pointed out that we may have to pay to subsequent disruption.

At December 2012, the Society did not have sufficient funds to carry out this activity, and it was impossible to get any quotation out of local builders, though we tried hard. Bill White made another approach to the Parks and Gardens Department in January and they have offered alternative sites in the Weymouth area. We shall discuss these later in the meeting.

The past 12 months have been quite difficult, but in these coming months we will have to focus on fund raising. We have an item on the Agenda to deal with this. Annex B (page 7) sets out our best estimates to date as to the timescale of the build process and the costs of the various elements. For the purposes of illustration it is assumed that the start of the process will be early September 2013.

In a few moments, our Treasurer, Henry Brackenbury will report on the Society's finances and Joyce Fannon will give the Education Report.

After moving for the adoption of the reports, we propose an open discussion on fund raising opportunities. We are looking to members to contribute here.

We will then have our official 'roll out' of our stone sponsoring scheme. We have already had some 'early adopters' for which we are most grateful.

The meeting will end with a call for assistance to help with this work. This is a critical year and also to elect the new committee.

Finally I would like to thank all our members for their support over the year. Your responses to emails and letters have been most heartening. My personal special thanks to the support of the Committee Bill White, Henry Brackenbury, Marilyn Brackenbury, David Mannings, Elsa Fenton, Trefor Morgan, Joyce Fannon.

Special thanks to Henry Brackenbury for keeping us financially legal, and to Joyce Fannon for continuing to spread the Thomas Fowell Buxton Story around Weymouth.

Thank you

John Fannon

Note added Spring 2013: While Weymouth Parks and Gardens Department had stated their intention to plant on the Manor Roundabout at the end of January, the continuance of the harsh winter and perhaps other considerations have meant that as of May 2013, so far there has been no major planting programme.

ANNEX B

THE ERECTION OF THE MONUMENT – PROJECT TASKS AND TIMESCALES

The accompanying diagram shows a gantt chart of the various processes that need to take place in order to erect the monument.

The process as can be seen will take approximately 4 weeks, most of which time is taken for concrete to dry and harden. If hardening time can be reduced, this will reduce the overall programme. The proposed start date is 2nd September 2013, but the timescale is of such short duration that any 4 week period during Autumn 2013 or early 2014 would be acceptable (depending on the weather). The tasks are as follows

Foundations: This is a relatively straightforward task, digging a hole of dimensions 3m x 3m and depth 60 cm. and removal of the spoil. Wooden shuttering would then be affixed. Concrete of the recommended specification would then be poured, and reinforcements inserted (stainless steel mesh) in accordance with the design. A blind hole would be formed in the centre to take the lower core later. The concrete would be left to set.

Core: During the time of the setting of the foundations, the parts of the core would be prepared. The lower core section is of square cross-section; the upper core section is of pyramidal shape with the apex removed (i.e. a truncated pyramid). Both sections would be prepared by pouring the concrete into appropriate moulds. Reinforcing mesh would also be inserted in accordance with the specification.

Stainless Steel Hangers and Rods: These would be purchased so that they would be delivered in ample time before the concrete was ready.

Craneage: Each section of the core will weigh approximately 1 tonne and craneage will be required to lift each section into position. The plans show that the crane would be required on two separate days. On the first day the lower part of the core would be manoeuvred into the blind hole and made vertical. Concrete will be inserted into the gap to ensure that the section remains vertical. Two days are allowed to set the concrete. The upper section will now be manoeuvred into place. The two sections will be fixed together by stainless steel rods and quick setting grout. Cranes are hired on a weekly (perhaps a daily rate can be negotiated, but this is not assumed in the costings).

Erection of the monument: The monument will then be erected in layers, beginning with the pavement, followed by the steps. The Portland stones will be fixed to the core sections with the stainless steel hangers and made firm with quick setting grout. In this way the monument will be gradually built up. The whole process should not take more than 5 days.

Information Board: This is a simple structure described in the accompanying document. The costs of materials are quiet small. Most of the £1200 allocated to this will be the cost of erection. Erection of the board is a separate activity and does not clash with the monument build tasks.

Total Costs: The total cost as shown in the spreadsheet is estimated to be £25824 (VAT inclusive). With the very short timescale of 3 weeks, it is not envisaged that there will be stage payments. All bills will be paid on completion to the agreed acceptance specification which we shall draw up with the contractor before the start of contract.

