

**Minutes of the Thomas Fowell Buxton Society**  
**Annual General Meeting,**  
**Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> February 2014 at 2pm**  
**at St Augustine's Hall, Weymouth.**

**Present:** Mayor Cllr Ray Banham, James Buxton, Margaret Buxton, Dr John Fannon, Joyce Fannon, Isabel de Pelet, Janet Marlborough, Cllr David Mannings, Cllr Bill White, Dr Michael Watson, Trefor Morgan, Mike Sharples, Anne McKechan, Michael Martin, Jean Martin, Barbara Cohen, Christine Carley, Lynwood Newman, Richard Cropper, Joseph Buxton, Anne Buxton.

**Apologies:** Cllr Pamela Nixon, Rex Witts, Paul Buxton, Ben Buxton, David Marris, Richard Pryor, Margaret Naine, Anna Viccars-Barber, Lady Lavinia Thorpe, Henry Brackenbury, Marilyn Brackenbury, Elsa Fenton and June Rust.

**Welcome:** The Society's Honorary President, Mayor Ray Banham, welcomed everyone to the AGM.

**Chairman's Report:** The Society's Chairman, James Buxton, reported that John Fannon had been in contact with Weymouth Council Estates Department with regard to the proposed Bingleaves Green site for the erection of the Buxton Monument. After consultation with the Society's committee, there has been agreement that the Society will undertake to maintain the monument and take out insurance to that end.

Consequently the Council's solicitor will draw up a lease and the Society may face payment of the solicitor's fees. In addition the Estates Department wants information from the Society as to the actual information that will figure on the display board sited near to the monument.

Mayor Ray Banham recommended that in the event of the TFBS being asked to pay solicitors fees, it was possible for the Society to make application to the Council for a small grant to offset these fees. This application would be considered in Council and members would have the opportunity to put their case.

The proposal that the TFB Society conclude negotiation with Weymouth Council for the siting of the monument on Bingleaves Green, this place offering the most effective option in terms of lowest cost and availability to the general public and engagement with Weymouth College, was proposed by Mayor Ray Banham, seconded by Cllr Bill White and accepted unanimously by the members.

**Treasurer's Report:** John Fannon then took the meeting through the details of the finances of the Society up to December 2013. The society's finances were in very good shape and thanks to the efforts of our new Chairman, there had been a flurry of stone sponsorship at the end of last year. Also a large proportion of the Society's income had arisen from fees from Joyce Fannon's presentations to local groups.

A separate account had been opened with Barclays Bank to hold donations and sponsorship for the Monument. This was ring fenced and was not to be used for any other purpose than the building of the monument. The general account was also healthy. Funds in the general account would be used for the day to day running of the society and other expenses such as literature and publicity. There had been extra expenditure in the previous year, particularly with payment of £1335 to Dorset Highway Engineers for design of the monument's foundations and spine, on a 3 year contract with Host Papa, the web hosting company and also expenditure on promotional leaflets which had been distributed through the town. Postage was also expensive.

The details of the financial statement are set out in the annex A to the minutes. In summary, on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013, the state of the two accounts was as follows

Balance in General account	725.52
Balance in Monument Fund	3817.00

**Education Report:** Joyce Fannon reported that what this society is doing is bringing an important part of Weymouth's heritage to the attention of this generation and that the monument will ensure that future generations know about it too.

The Society still networks closely with Purple Teardrop, South West Dorset Multicultural Network and Fairtrade Forum, who see the relevance of our educational work to theirs, as they combat modern aspects of human slavery.

By the end of 2013 fifty two presentations had been given on Thomas Fowell Buxton, mainly to adult audiences. However there are only two bookings for 2014. This phase of our educational work is coming to an end. It has been an income stream for the Society ever since the Society's inception.

In January letters and posters were sent to 14 local Primary Schools offering a presentation on *Thomas Fowell Buxton and Slavery* as well as an art competition. The Weymouth Timewalk Heritage Centre has agreed to display any artwork resulting from Primary School participation. Joyce has a booking for 3<sup>rd</sup> March at St Augustine's RC Primary School and one on March 17<sup>th</sup> at Chickerell Primary Academy. Both are being linked to Fairtrade as each year there is a Fairtrade Fortnight.

John Fannon, as webmaster, has continued to ensure a further educational outreach with our website. Perhaps at some point soon we need to discuss in more detail what we expect from the website. The addition of the blog, Buxtonabilia, was a new initiative last year.

Accessing media coverage is another form of education. 2013 was a lean year in many ways as we wrestled with problems, resulting in the EGM.

Some 3,000 of our Society's promotional leaflets have been distributed locally. There are still more available for members to distribute.

Finally we need to turn our minds to providing the articles needed to fill the proposed 24-page booklet that will be retailed at the Heritage Centre. As the two Primary Schools are becoming involved with our art competition then this should be a source for booklet illustrations.

**Fundraising:** The Chairman summarised the fund raising initiatives so far

- a) Stone sponsoring which was gathering momentum
- b) Seeking grants from grant awarding bodies. The Skinners Company had awarded us £500 and the Noel Buxton Trust had awarded us £1000 earlier. The 109 livery Companies in the City of London would be further possibilities, but many of them would only deal with registered Charities. It was therefore decided to seek full charity status from the Charity Commission. The treasurer would speak about this later on in the agenda.

The Chairman then put forward his idea for a fundraising Piano Recital and Musical Evening to be held in Weymouth at the end of summer or beginning of autumn. This was proposed and accepted by the meeting, with Dr Watson agreeing to contact Mr Duncan Honeybourne who teaches music at Sherborne School and is a classical pianist. It was also pointed out that the Quangle Wangle Choir are

willing to sing at Charity events and Cllr Bill White agreed to contact Juliet Harwood of the Quangle Wangle Choir.

Mayor Ray Banham mentioned that he had recently seen the film '12 years a slave'. It was such an emotional film that at the end the audience were stunned. He felt that as this film was now in the public eye, it would be good publicity to remind people that Weymouth had its own anti slavery hero. This could be a good fund raiser and he would contact local radio and TV to see whether publicity could be obtained. The Secretary undertook to send a draft news item to Martin Lea of the Echo for publication.

### **Application for status as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation**

The Chairman then asked John Fannon to inform the meeting of the steps being taken for the Society to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) registered with the Charity Commission to aid in the application for Grants.

John Fannon explained that CIO is a new type of charitable organisation specifically focused on small organisations whose annual income is below the £5K threshold normally required for registration. The model constitution for a CIO runs to some 19 pages but does not contain anything more substantive than was covered by our original 3 page constitution approved by HMRC. However, we are finding that many grant awarding bodies look to the magic words – “registered with the Charity commission” before they will even consider us as a candidate for funds.

The main points of the constitution were:

The CIO has power to do anything which is calculated to further the objective, including borrowing money or taking a lease.

There are certain restrictions on benefits and payments to trustees or connected persons – i.e. you cannot feather your nest using funds or being awarded preferential contracts let by the CIO

Membership is open to anybody interested in furthering the purposes of the CIO. A member may be a corporate body. Transfer of membership is forbidden unless there is a corporate body who wishes to change its representation. All members have voting rights.

Certain rules are to be followed if the trustees wish to remove someone from the membership of the CIO.

There were specific rules for members voting on resolutions. We considered the idea of postal votes, but the rules became so complicated that we have decided not to go down that route. However, proxy voting is much simpler and allows members who cannot attend a meeting to instruct one of the trustees to act as proxy.

There were rules for conduct of General meetings and AGMs including informing all members at least 21 days before the meeting. Also the trustees must call a General Meeting if they receive a request from at least 10% of the members.

The quorum for a meeting should be greater than 5% of the membership.

There has to be 3 Charity trustees, but there is no maximum number.

If the CIO is wound up, trustees or members have no liability to contribute to its assets and no personal responsibility for settling debts and liabilities.

A copy of the model constitution was available at the meeting. A copy would be sent to members on application with a stamped addressed C5 envelope. (It would be very expensive to send it out to all members whether they wanted it or not). A copy would also be posted on the website.

It was therefore proposed that the Committee should apply to the Charity Commission to be registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. The meeting voted unanimously to adopt this proposal put forward by Dr Michael Watson and seconded by Cllr Bill White.

**Election of Society Trustees and Committee:** The Society’s Honorary President, Mayor Ray Banham, took the chair at this point of the meeting.

**Trustees**

There needed to be a minimum of 3 trustees and so Mr James Buxton, Dr John Fannon and Mrs Joyce Fannon had put forward their names. These names would be put forward for the CIO application. The Chairman called for any other volunteers to be trustees, but there were none. Janet Marlborough proposed that the above 3 persons be appointed as Trustees. David Mannings seconded her. The motion was carried unanimously.

**Committee**

The committee was then elected as follows:

Post	Name	Proposer	Secunder
Chairman	Mr James Buxton	Ray Banham	David Mannings
Secretary	Mrs Joyce Fannon	Richard Cropper	Bill White
Treasurer	Dr John Fannon	Michael Watson	David Mannings
Committee Member	Cllr David Mannings	John Fannon	Janet Marlborough
Committee Member	Cllr Bill White		
Committee Member	Mr Trefor Morgan		
Committee Member	Mr Richard Cropper		

**Refreshment Break:** Refreshments were served by Barbara Cohen and Margaret Buxton. Janet Marlborough organised the raffle and Joyce Fannon was responsible for sales. Over £60 was raised to cover hire of the Hall and for general funds.

**Talk by Mr James Buxton** – “Important Themes in the life of Sir Thomas Fowell Buxton”. This excellent 20 minute talk was much appreciated by the members.

**Any other business:** Joyce Fannon suggested that a further social dimension could be added to the Society by another open meeting later in the year with a talk on Slavery, especially in the USA, by new member Lynwood Newman. This was agreed.

She also suggested a visit to Weymouth College Cygnet Restaurant, further cementing our links with our Partner. There was general agreement on setting this up with half a dozen members indicating they wanted to participate personally. (See below)

John Fannon as webmaster made a plea to members to provide material for the website and its blog. He urged members to visit the website as the more hits and the more information it contained the further up the google ratings it would appear.

**Next Committee Meeting:** Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March at 2.15pm at the Fire Station. Members are very welcome to come along to the meeting but let the Secretary know well in advance in order for her to hire the right capacity room.

### **TFB Social Group: a message from the Secretary**

Would you be interested in being part of this group? The intention is to meet for lunch at Weymouth College's Cygnet Restaurants, where excellent meals are prepared by the catering students. Members could bring along a guest.

If this new departure interests you, please contact the Secretary, Joyce Fannon,

by email: [joyce.fannon@thmasfowellbuxton.org.uk](mailto:joyce.fannon@thmasfowellbuxton.org.uk)

or by telephone: 01305 816097

We can then decide on our first lunch date.

## TREASURERS REPORT

<b>THOMAS FOWELL BUXTON SOCIETY</b>			
<b>INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2013</b>			
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>INCOME</b>			
Membership Subscriptions		225.00	
Presentations		378.50	
Donations		160	
Stone Sponsorship		2979.00	
Miscellaneous		104.2	
Grants		0.00	
			3846.70
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Postage, Stationery and Publicity		500.50	
Monument Expenses		1335.05	
Meetings		86.55	
Gifts and prizes		0.00	
			(1922.10)
<b>INCOME LESS EXPENDITURE</b>			<b>1924.60</b>
<b>BALANCES AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2013</b>			
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Balance in TFBS account			725.52
Balance in Monument Fund			3817.00
			<b>4542.52</b>
<b>ACCUMULATED FUND</b>			
Opening balance			2617.92
(Deficit)/Surplus For The Year			1924.60
			<b>4542.52</b>
I certify that this is a true and fair reflection of the transactions of the Thomas Fowell Buxton Society for the period to 31 December 2012			
Signed:			
Matthew Hillman MAAT ACMA CGMA			
Independent Examiner			