

THOMAS FOWELL BUXTON SOCIETY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at the Community Fire Station, Radipole Lane Weymouth

Thursday 16th February 2017

Present: Cllr Kevin Brookes (Deputy Mayor and Hon President, in the Chair), Mr James Buxton (Trustee), Dr John Fannon (Trustee), Mrs Joyce Fannon (Trustee), Mr Ben Buxton, Ms Barbara Cohen (SWDMN), Mr David Mannings, Mr Trevor Morgan, Miss Elisabeth Morse, Mrs Liliane Mutton, Mr Lynwood Newman, Mrs Elisabeth Orrell, Dr Jeremy Parkinson, Mrs Patricia Thoyts, Dr Carl Whitehouse, Dr Michael Watson, Miss Anna Viccars-Barber

Apologies: Cllr Ian Bruce, Dr Paul Buxton, Mrs Isabel de Pelet, Cllr Christine James, Mrs Diana Knights, Mrs Anne Lindley, Mr Trevor Lindley, Mrs Anne McKechan, Mr Alan McKechan, Mrs Ursula Pomeroy, Dr John Ponsonby, Rev Edward Tildesley, Mrs Pippa Tildesley, Cllr Kate Wheller, Mrs Mary Watson, Mr William White

Welcome:

The meeting was opened by the Deputy Mayor Cllr Kevin Brookes. He asked for members to stand for one minutes' silence in memory of recently deceased members John Birtwhistle, Ronald Buxton and Mary O'Connor.

Trustees reports:

The Chairman of Trustees, James Buxton read the General Report that covered the twelve-month period since the last AGM in February 2018. (Annex A)

The Treasurer's Report was given by Trustee and Treasurer, John Fannon. (Annex B)

The Education Report was presented by Trustee and Education officer, Joyce Fannon. (Annex C)

The reports were accepted unanimously by the meeting.

The General Report and the Education Report are combined into the Trustees Annual report which is set out in annex A. This report together with the Treasurer's report will be sent to the Charity Commission and posted on our website.

Joyce Fannon drew the attention of the meeting to the hard work of two Society "Dream Teams": The Buxton Monument Project Management Team of James Buxton, John Fannon and Trefor Morgan and the Society Fundraising Team of James Buxton, Joe Buxton and Ann Buxton, who were responsible for the two highly successful London-based Dinners. Without all their efforts the Buxton Monument would not be a reality.

The Programme of Events for 2017:

1. The Annual Mico Service takes place on the Friday before Palm Sunday at 10am on 7th April, 2017 at St Mary's Church, Weymouth. In accordance with Samuel Mico's will, the service will comprise a homily by a 'good divine' and current beneficiaries of Samuel Mico's grants will give presentations on their work. After the service hot cross buns,

wine or coffee are served at the George Inn. Thomas Fowell Buxton Society members are urged to attend.

2. The Buxton Monument Dedication Ceremony will take place on **Monday 5th June, 2017**. The Bishop of Sherborne will preside. Rev. Edward Tildesley will advise on the service protocol. The Lord Lieutenant of Dorset and the High Sheriff of Dorset will attend. Professor Richard Follett of Covenant College, Lookout Mountain Georgia will attend. He is an authority on Thomas Fowell Buxton. The High Commissioners of Jamaica, Barbados and Sierra Leone will be invited. General Society invitations will be sent out shortly to members. Appropriate media contacts will be made.
3. The Third Memorial Service at Westminster Abbey:
For the last two years, the date of the service has coincided with 'Ride London' which cordoned off a number of streets in central London and required the coach driver to drop us off some distance from the Abbey. Last August this caused a lot of difficulty in timing to get people back on the coach which left late.

An alternative is to take the following **Saturday, 5th August, 2017**. It is possible that South West Trains might offer day returns at reduced rates in which case this could be less costly than the coach.

The possibility of a complementary service in Weymouth on or about these dates was also discussed.

4. Black History Month Event:
This will take place in October as usual at a date and with a programme to be agreed.
5. The Bonus Ball Scheme:
This is an on-going fundraising venture and the Treasurer urged members to consider joining it. The cost is £12 per annum. Two members promptly joined it.

It was felt that there should not a piano recital this year in view of the proximity of the Dedication Ceremony.

It is noted that the months available for additional fundraising events in 2017 are July, September, November and December. Societal energies up to June 5th will be focused on the arrangements for the Dedication Ceremony.

Future of the Society

It had been hoped to address this issue in 2016. However, because of the high intensity of the activities of getting the monument erected, the trustees had to postpone consideration of this important question until this year. The Chairman invited the meeting to give their thoughts.

1. Carl Whitehouse suggested that the Society should begin to think about a commemoration in 2018 to mark the 200th anniversary of TFB's election to Parliament.

2. Joyce Fannon has been booked to give a presentation on Thomas Fowell Buxton to the Castle Headingham History Society, Essex, on March 1st, 2018.

3. It was general acknowledged that the Society membership has spread around the country and there was the suggestion that separate 'chapters' of the Society could be set up to raise funds and organise events in local areas. James Buxton will put out feelers for a possible one in South East England.

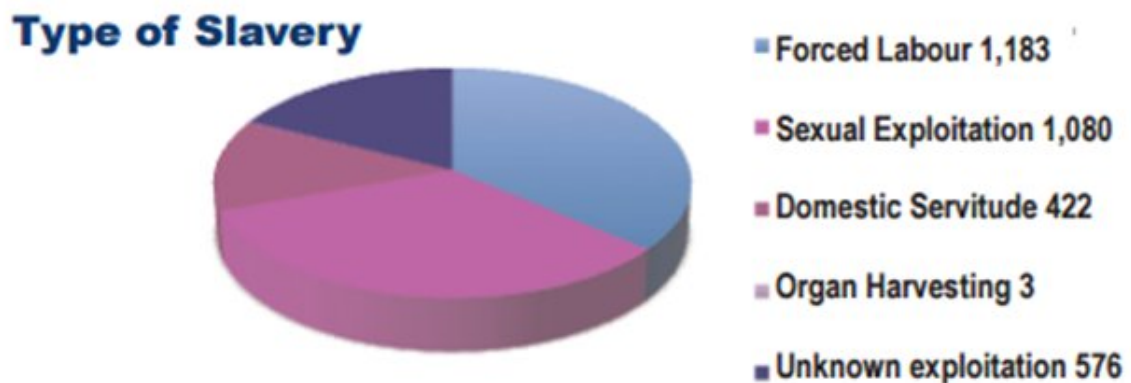
4. Carl Whitehouse felt that it was time to bring in areas of TFB's achievements other than his Abolitionist work to public attention.

As a result of the suggestions put forward at the AGM, the Trustees will write a 'position paper' on "The Future of the Society" for discussion at the next Committee Meeting. Members were urged to join us at this next meeting; date to be agreed.

Presentation on Modern Slavery

It was intended to show the videos on modern slavery. The videos had been produced by the charity Unchosen, a charity which uses film to raise awareness of modern slavery in the hope that these will inspire people to fight against this evil.

Due to technical problems regrettably it was not possible to show the planned films. However John Fannon had produced a power point presentation which summarised what the many forms of modern slavery. It has been estimated that between 10,000 and 13,000 are currently in some form of slavery in the UK today, though only 3266 were brought to the notice of the National Referral Mechanism in 2015. The statistics for 2013 were most disturbing



The presentation was much appreciated by the members. It is intended to show these films at a later date.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 4p.m.

ANNEX A

THE THOMAS FOWELL BUXTON SOCIETY REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2016

THE AIMS OF THE SOCIETY

The Thomas Fowell Buxton Society became a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) in 2014. The aim or object of the organisation, set out in our governing document is “To advance the education of the public in general on the subject of the achievements of Sir Thomas Fowell Buxton philanthropist and MP for Weymouth and Melcombe Regis 1818-37 and in particular his achievement of the abolition of Slavery throughout the British Empire by Act of Parliament in 1833”.

OBJECTIVES FOR 2016

Our objectives for 2016, as set out in last year’s TAR were

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 put together the 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.

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2015

1. Erection of the Buxton Monument

The year 2016 was truly our year of glory – the monument was finally erected on Bingleaves Green. The stones had been ready for at least 2 years. As we announced last year, the Committee decided to proceed on the basis of a soft loan from a benefactor. The logic was that as fast as we were raising funds, the price of the build process was increasing; therefore it was necessary to obtain closure as soon as possible.

There were still things to do before we could build. The stone for the carvings had been donated by Albion Stone, but the steps and the pavers were always going to be made by machine cutting. Early last year it was clear that the stone for these items was not part of the original donation; therefore the Society had to fund the purchase of this extra stone.

We also had to negotiate the lease for the site on which to build. This was no simple task, and we had to engage the services of a conveyancing solicitor in order to talk sense with the Council solicitors who apparently seemed not to understand that the Society as a recognised Charity was in fact a legal entity. The lease was finally agreed in early summer.

Meanwhile we had negotiated an alternative builder for the base and the spine. John Mitchell builders provided a quotation that was cheaper than by sub contractor that Albion Restoration Ltd had assigned to this task. Our deputy Mayor attended the marking out ceremony at Bingleaves in September after which the builders moved onto the site. By mid October they had laid the foundations and erected the central spine. We were delighted with the quality of this work. Finally Albion Restoration Ltd commenced the build of the

ANNEX A

monument and with the weather generally good, the work proceeded smoothly. The monument was completed by the end of November. As of today, there remain two tasks to be undertaken. The first is to make good the ground surrounding the monument. The ground on Bincleaves green has a slight slope on it and therefore gradient of the ground leading up to the monument needs to be evened out so that it merges smoothly in a gentle slope up the edges of the pavement. Secondly the information board needs to be designed and erected. This is in hand and we would hope that this is completed within the next few weeks.

This monument now is a significant and historic addition to Weymouth's heritage and the Committee feel that there should be a formal dedication ceremony. Buxton was a devout Christian with close connections to the Church of England and the Quakers. He also voted for Catholic Emancipation against the wishes of his electorate. So we feel that the dedication should be ecumenical. The Bishop of Sherborne has kindly agreed to lead the service and we shall invite members of other denominations. The Lord Lieutenant of Dorset and the High Sheriff have both agreed to attend accompanied of course with our Mayor who will be at that time Cllr Kevin Brookes. The date agreed is Monday 5th June and we shall be forwarding details shortly.

This is a major cause for celebration and a vindication of all the efforts and the support of our members over the last 6 years.

2. Piano recital at St Mary's Church

This took place 25th June 2015. Duncan Honeybourne and Katharine Lam presented a delightful programme with piano duets and solos drawing attention to the less well known British composers. Sadly the event was not as well attended as in previous years, but thanks to the generosity of those who did attend, we managed to break even.

3. Memorial Service at Westminster Abbey

On 30th July, we held our second memorial service in Westminster Abbey. This time members of the Society and the Buxton family held a picnic on Victoria Tower Gardens by the Buxton memorial fountain before attending evensong with the memorial service taking place immediately afterwards. For the Weymouth contingent however, this did mean a late departure back to Weymouth. For the last two years, this particular weekend has been chosen for the 'Ride London' event where many roads in Central London have been blocked off to allow cyclists to use them. This has meant that our coach had to be parked some distance away from the Abbey, which presented a real problem in getting to and leaving the Abbey. For this year we perhaps we should will seek alternative arrangements or a select different weekend. We have tried to have the weekend close to 1st August which is emancipation day, and this year it will fall on a Tuesday. Perhaps the focus could be on the following Saturday, i.e. 5th August rather than 29th July (which again is the weekend selected for 'Ride London').

4. Black History Event

This took place on 26th October here at the Fire Station. Joyce Fannon, our Education Officer will report on this and other education events

ANNEX A

5. Bonus Ball

We have set up a bonus ball scheme as a simple way to generate income. Members pay £12 per annum and choose their ball number (between 1 and 59). The bonus ball drawn nationally on the first Saturday of the month determines the winner of the £25 prize. Members are encouraged to join up; so far only 40% of the balls have been chosen. So far there have been 2 winners since the scheme began in November. If we could obtain 59 subscribers, we would generate an income that would cover our insurance.

6. Refreshments

Our grateful thanks to Anne McKechan who together with her team comprising Margie Buxton, Joyce Fannon and Lynwood Newman provided refreshments at the events we held this year.

GIFT AID

The Society is now a Charity recognised by HMRC and in October 2016 we were able to make a second application for a Gift Aid rebate. We were able to claim up for gift aid to end of FY 2015-16. The gift aid rebate was £1188. We will shortly make a further claim to HMRC and we will be sending reminders to those who have not yet signed up to Gift Aid. HMRC will take into account all gifts made over the previous 4 financial years. So those who have been very generous over the past 4 year and still hesitate to sign up, we urge you to think carefully about it; otherwise some of these donations may not be eligible next year.

MEMBERSHIP

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. Last year, eight more people signed up for life membership, making 14 so far. Our membership is unchanged at 114. There are a further 70 supporters on our list who have given a donation but have so far not formally signed up to membership.

WEBSITE

The website remains one of the main avenues for promoting TFB and to date 137 countries have visited the site, the latest being Cyprus. In the USA, 45 states and also Washington DC have visited. A few weeks ago we were contacted via the website by Professor Richard Follett of Covenant College Georgia who has written a number of papers on Buxton's career and achievements and has visited Weymouth in recent years. He will be in this country in June and has accepted our invitation to attend our dedication ceremony.

The website provides the opportunity of paying membership fees and giving donations on line, and buying tickets when we run a function. The website shows our account number and sort code and more people are using the bank transfer facility. We prefer this to the use of Paypal as Paypal attracts a transfer fee of about 4%.

OTHER OBJECTIVES IN 2016

Our plan of events for 2016 was put forward but has had mixed success. There were two attempts to organise a trip to the London Docklands Museum but on each occasion, we could not attract enough people to fill the coach.

ANNEX A

We have not yet been able to put forward plans and procedures for the future running of the Society owing to the pressure of other priorities. This must be a major objective for 2017.

OUR FINANCES

We have continued 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. Almost all of the monument funds were transferred to the general fund in order to pay the invoices for the building works. The monument fund currently contains a nominal sum and will be kept open for the time being to pick up any late donations. However, we will need to close this account in due course.

GENERAL FUND		
Opening Balance	£11676.55	
Income		Expenditure
	£26757.84	£27272.87
Closing Balance	£11161.52	

MONUMENT FUND		
Opening Balance	£ 20252.00	
Income		Expenditure
	£520.00	£ 20751.80
Closing Balance	£20.20	

Our total finances at the close of 2016 were therefore £11181.72 and there was an outstanding invoice to Albion Restoration Ltd of £8,705 which was paid on 4th January 2017

FUTURE PLANS

Our plans for 2017 are

1. To pay off our loan
2. To complete the monument works and erect the information board.
3. To hold a Dedication Ceremony 5th June. All our members and supporters are invited. Details of the ceremony will be promulgated shortly.
5. To organise the 3rd Memorial Service at Westminster Abbey. Also to consider what services should be held in Weymouth
6. To make arrangements for annual maintenance of the monument
7. To put forward plans for the future of the Society

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Governance and Management of the Society is unchanged and comprises

1. The Honorary President. Since the formation of the Society, the current Mayor has been invited to be honorary President and all incumbents so far have accepted this office. The President will preside over the Annual General Meeting and if diary permits will attend the various functions of the Society.

ANNEX A

2. The Trustees. At present there are three trustees which is the minimum as required by law. Members of the society may volunteer to be a trustee. The process of appointing Trustees is set out in the governing document.

3. A committee or council which has no formal standing but meets regularly to advise the Trustees on the management of the society. Any member of the Society may attend these meetings which are held approximately every 2 months at the Community Fire Station Weymouth.

CHARITY TRUSTEES

During 2016 the Trustees were

1. Mr James Buxton acts as Chairman for all functions.
2. Mrs Joyce Fannon acts as Education Officer and as minutes Secretary.
3. Dr John Fannon acts as Treasurer and as Web master. Dr Fannon also coordinates the annual programme of events.

At the recent AGM (16th February 2017) Dr Fannon resigned as Trustee in accordance with the Governing Document. Dr Fannon offered himself for reappointment as a Trustee and treasurer, and was duly elected.

WEBSITE www.thomasfowellbuxton.org.uk

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1158648

BANKERS Barclays Bank Plc

Leicester LE87 2BB



Thomas Fowell Buxton Society		1158648
Receipts and payments accounts		
For the period from	01-Jan-16	To 31-Dec-16

CC16a

ANNEX B TREASURER'S REPORT

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Membership	274	-	-	274	275
Life Membership	800	-	-	800	300
Presentations	240	-	-	240	180
Donations	7,508	-	-	7,508	860
Monument fund	520	-	-	520	12,830
Drapers Hall Dinner	1,525	-	-	1,525	-
Other Fund Raising	1,037	-	-	1,037	15,928
Events	137	-	-	137	-
Bonus Ball	263	-	-	263	-
Gift Aid	1,188	-	-	1,188	1,588
Loan	6,785	-	-	6,785	81
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	20,278	-	-	20,278	32,042
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
None	0	-	-	-	-
Sub total	0	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	20,278	-	-	20,278	32,042
A3 Payments					
Postage	-	-	-	-	234
Venue Rentals	130	-	-	130	194
CoachHire	650	-	-	650	680
TFBS Dinner	0	-	-	-	7,316
Flowers&Gifts	-	-	-	-	148
Piano Recital	295	-	-	295	347
Monument Extra Materials	1,799	-	-	1,799	-
Monument Base and Spine	19,211	-	-	19,211	-
Monument Build	18,000	-	-	18,000	-
Insurance	385	-	-	385	-
Solicitors Fees	509	-	-	509	-
Catering and Prizes	25	-	-	25	74
Printing	-	-	-	-	93
Website	-	-	-	-	60
PaypalFees	21	-	-	21	1
Presentation Materials	-	-	-	-	30
Expense overclaim	-	-	-	-	81
Returned Cheque	-	-	-	-	95
Outstanding at 31/12/2015	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	41,025	-	-	41,025	9,352
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
None	0	-	-	-	-
Sub total	0	-	-	-	-
Total payments	41,025	-	-	41,025	9,352
Net of receipts/(payments)	-20,747	-	-	20,747	22,690
A5 Transfers between funds	0	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	31,929	-	-	31,929	4,544
Cash funds this year end	11,182	-	-	11,182	27,234

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Opening Bank Balance 1 Jan 2016	31,929	-	-
	Cash funds for 2016	20,747	-	-
	Total cash funds	11,182	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	None	-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	None	-	-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	None	-	-	-
B5 Liabilities	Cheque outstanding	-	8,705	04 January 2017

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
<i>John A Fannon</i>	Dr John A Fannon	31-Jan-17

EDUCATION REPORT FOR 2016.

Our Society exists to educate the public about the work and achievements of Thomas Fowell Buxton, former MP for Weymouth. Our educational initiatives in 2016 were as follows:

1. Society presentations given by the society's education officer in 2016 were 8 in number compared with 13 the previous year. This brings the total to 78.

Donations from the organisations benefiting from the talks to our Society were just short of £200. **There are four presentations available:** *Thomas Fowell Buxton and Slavery; Weymouth through the eyes of Thomas Fowell Buxton; The Buxtons of Weymouth and The Underground Railroad and the Buxton connection in Ontario, Canada.*

A TFB presentation was given in Abingdon, Oxon, in February, 2016, by member George Russell, resulting in a donation to the society of £50.

Member Carl Whitehouse gave a presentation on *The Mico/Buxton Connection* at our AGM in 2016. The booking officer for *The Friends of Weymouth Museum* has expressed an interest in booking him to give the same presentation to their members in 2017.

List of Thomas Fowell Buxton presentations given to adult organisations and schools in 2016.

- **Brendan Care Clubs (January 2016)**
- **Chickerell Primary Academy (February 2016) x2.**
- **Somerset and Dorset Family History Society (Feb, 2016).**
- **Langton Herring Friendship Club (May 2016).**
- **Wrens Association (September 2016)**
- **Moose Lodge presentation (October 2016).**
- **Friends of Weymouth Museum (November 2016)**

This brings the total presentations of the Society's education officer to 78 since 2009.

2. **Fairtrade Fortnight, February 2016.** A Society presentation on *Sugar and Slavery* is offered each year to local Primary Schools in association with Fairtrade Fortnight. In 2016 2 presentations were given at **Chickerell Primary Academy** to Years 5 and 6.
3. **Black History Month, 2016.** Our third *Black History Month Event* took place in October at the Firestation. The *Waccapella Choir* entertained us brilliantly in the first half of the evening and John Fannon gave an excellent presentation on *Heroes of the Anti-Slavery Movement*. This talk can be rolled out as an official Society presentation available for booking by other organisations. Lynwood Newman screened a *Society Events Picture Show* during the evening
Advanced details of our Black History Month Event were posted on the *Human Trafficking Foundation* Website, and on those of our networking partners SWDMN and Purple Teardrop Campaign.

ANNEX C

Donations to the Society on the evening from refreshments, retail stall and the raffle raised £137. This contrasts with our first Black History Month Event in 2014 which raised £243. This was due to fewer people attending; 30 compared with the earlier 50.

4. John Fannon as Society webmaster keeps the website up to date and posts members details of Society events via the Society Newsletters, either by email attachment or snail-mail hardcopies. Thank you, John.
5. I would like to thank Lynwood Newman too for the excellent media coverage of Society initiatives in 2016.
6. **Now that the Buxton Monument is in place it needs to be incorporated into the educational role of the Society: our challenge for 2017.**

Helen Joyce Fannon (Education Officer)