

FISHERGATE, FULFORD & HESLINGTON

Local History Society

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 3

JANUARY 2018

We hope you will enjoy reading another newsletter full of all the many things we've done in 2017. Again, it is arranged by subject rather than by month, because we want you to know how many topics we cover in a year and how they tend to overlap. There should be something for everyone, but please do let us know if you have a topic, an interest or an idea that has been neglected, please let one of the committee members know. We also hope to encourage more members to research a subject or give a talk.

You will notice that in 2017 we paid a lot of attention to St Oswald and the churches dedicated to him, which links to our local Anglian heritage. In 2018 we are branching out into the more recent past with lost shops and suffragettes; and, slightly earlier, 19th century composers and the 18th century cavalry; and more.....**PLEASE RE-NEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP**

THANK YOU TO

THIS NEWSLETTER

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

We recognised that NONE of our activities would have been possible without the moral and financial support of our members and friends.

THE COMMITTEE

Chris Rainger (chair), Judy Nicholson (secretary)
Louise Wheatley (treasurer),
Anne Ackroyd, Barbara King, Peter Mott, Rosemary Newman, Roger Thompson, Robert Visick and Margaret West

SPONSORS

We also want to express our gratitude to those who have given grants to fund our endeavours to date:

City of York Council (Fishergate and Fulford Neighbourhoods & Community Funds); Friends of YAT, Fulford Parish Council; Fulford Shows & Sports; Shepherds Building Group, York Common Good Trust, YAYAS, Yorkshire Philosophical Society

MEMBERS

Many thanks to the 70+ people who joined FFH in 2017. We look forward to seeing you at our events in the coming year, so please don't forget to renew your subscription!

Download the membership form from our website

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MEMBERSHIP ONLY £5/year

ARCHIVES, DEEDS, MAPS and PLANS



The **KEY FAMILY OF WATER FULFORD** accumulated many documents, manor court records, photographs and maps which they gave to the Yorkshire Archaeological Society in the 1950s. The archive is now in the Brotherton Library, University of Leeds and a small team of FFH researchers spent a memorable day looking through the boxes and taking notes and photographs. We will make a return visit in 2018 to uncover more fascinating information.



In considering the 'Mystery of Old St Oswald's Church', Louise Wheatley got a bee in her bonnet about **THE PRE-CONQUEST INHABITANTS OF FULFORD**. Remembering that from 1068 to the Reformation, St Mary's Abbey was the manor lord, she began to search the property deeds recorded in the Abbey's *Cartularies* which are in York Minster Archives and the John Rylands Library, Manchester. She has found several families in the 1100s whose names suggest pre-Conquest origins. There are many deeds pertaining to Fulford and she will give a summary with illustrations of her research at our February 2018 meeting.



Judy Nicholson has been looking at the various records kept at Lord Deramore's Primary School in Heslington and was given a **LARGE MAP OF THE HESLINGTON ESTATE** when it was put up for sale in the 1970's. This shows property in Fulford Township and many interesting details of the manor house, village, farms and land. Around the same time, while delving into the history of the Pavilion Hotel (formerly Fulford Hall), Barbara King and Judy Nicholson were given some **LARGE ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS** of the building as it was and of changes that were proposed. The map and plans have now been laminated (encapsulated)



to preserve them and are available to view upon request to Louise, who'll forward the message.

ARCHAEOLOGY



In January 2018 we will have an update by Paula Ware on the archaeological from the **GERMANY BECK DEVELOPMENT**. In 2017 an open day displayed some of the finds. These include shards of remarkable Neolithic, Iron-age and Roman remains, and a number of Civil War musket balls, possibly from an unrecorded skirmish.



Our Conference in June 'The 'Mystery of Old St Oswald's' provided an **OVERVIEW OF THE ARTEFACTS FOUND IN THE VICINITY OF THE CHURCH**. Prehistoric flints, a Roman coffin, an array of other interesting items. But the most remarkable find was the fragment of a 9th-century Anglian stone cross which we were privileged to see by courtesy of the owner of the now redundant church. It is possible that the cross stood close to the river and probably marked the Christianisation of a crossing point.



ARCHAEOLOGY and the LANDSCAPE



In February 2017, Peter Mott introduced **THE HISTORY OF HESLINGTON** with reference to the lasting effects of the Ice Age in forming the landscape: the high spots of the terminal moraine (Kimberlow, Heslington and Lamel Hills); the clay underlying marshy areas (Tilmire & parts of Walmgate Stray); and the better drained gravel soils here and there. He brought in the Mesolithic evidence from the Heslington East excavations.

He illustrated the complicated pattern of land ownership of medieval Heslington which had two manor lords reflected in two parish churches: St Lawrence near Walmgate Bar and St Paul near the village. Although University buildings now surround the village, he showed that its agricultural past was still evident in the farms, fields, pastures and woodlands in the south of the township.



One of the topics discussed at the June Conference, 'The Mystery of Old St Oswald' was the **LOCATION OF THE CHURCH** and why it was not in the village. One theory is that it was an outlying part of Eoforwic, similar to churches near to other Anglian trading settlements. Another theory is that the church was part of the personal estate of the pre-Conquest lord and near to his manor house. This is an even bigger mystery, because there are no obvious remains of any manor house in Gate Fulford! Louise will tell us about her research into this in her talk on 'Who's Who in Fulford' in February 2018.



ARTEFACTS & TREASURE



In October Cecily Spall, Director of FAS Heritage spoke about life after the Romans left in **EARLY MEDIEVAL FISHERGATE AND HESLINGTON**. She showed illustrations of her archaeological work on Heslington Hill where a 6th century pottery assemblage was found representing 7 vessels, 2 decorated with applied bosses or stamps and possibly funerary urns. A whittle tang knife and glass beads also suggest burial deposits though no bones or ashes were recovered.



Cecily also referred to the 8th century trading settlement of Eoforwic (on the site of the present day Novotel in Fishergate, where a rich array of artefacts had been discovered in 1985-6. Here there were buildings and workshops near to the River Foss where boats could tie up to load and unload various cargoes. Later on there would be the Gilbertine Monastery. It was in this vicinity that the gold Fishergate Ring was found.



Cecily's excavation around Blue Bridge Lane 2000-2002 found the graveyard of the lost church of St Helen's near Fishergate House and a fine trove of finds on the other side of the street. These included a re-used Roman intaglio and a silver coin of the first archbishop of York (Ecgbert) during the reign of his brother Eadberht (736-758). We will return to these amazing finds another year.

ARTS & CRAFTS



We were delighted to host an evening talk in February by **DICK REID, FORMER FULFORD RESIDENT AND WORLD-FAMOUS CARVER AND SCULPTOR**. Over a long career his name has been synonymous with the very highest standards of carving and design. His work includes the coat of arms for the Merchant Adventurers' Hall, a chandelier for the Mansion House, a pair of tables for Kensington Palace and fireplaces at Spencer House in London. It is said that output from his workshop has been both sumptuous and sublime; and his creativity, energy and enthusiasm is evident in everything he does.



BUILDINGS

2017 began with an intriguing talk by Jayne Rimmer about **TREE-RING DATING OF BUILDINGS IN YORK**. She gave examples of some of the medieval buildings where the timber had a sufficiently wide cross-section for counting the tree rings and assessing a probable date when felled. This can be compared to the a few surviving building accounts which record date of construction (Lady Row, Goodramgate and Merchant Adventurers Hall, Fossgate). Often old timbers were reused at a later date or concealed by a new-build thereby 'masking' their true age. This gives architectural historians more buildings to investigate, for example in Fulford, Water Fulford and Heslington.



the site which he rebuilt between 1785 and 1789 to create an elegant Georgian house. He acquired a coat of arms and wealth to enlarge the house further.

In July, Judy Nicholson and Barbara King had a full audience for their talk at **THE PAVILION HOTEL** about the families, who built it in the late 18th century and lived there until recently. William Richardson came to Fulford around 1750 and acquired a farmhouse on



This became known as **FULFORD HOUSE** which his son, Colonel William Richardson lived in until his death in 1871. The estate was inherited by his nephew Edwin Sandys, a Captain in the Royal Artillery; and though Edwin did not live permanently in Fulford he and his wife are buried in Old St Oswald's churchyard. Their oldest son, William Bain Richardson Sandys inherited the estate and joined the Royal Artillery. He served with distinction and retired as an Honorary Brigadier General. He married Joan Proudfoot and her family leased Fulford House from 1911 to about 1920, which seems the reason her brother Colin Proudfoot was included in the names on the Fulford Church War Memorial.



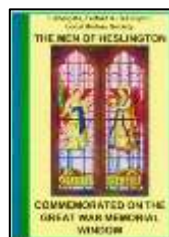
Sandys Family
Coat of Arms

After the death of the William B R Sandys and his son, the house was sold to the Prendergast family in 1946. Xavier Prendergast was an impresario and brought the Beatles to York in the 1960's; his son, John Barry became a composer of film scores and his daughter June married the potter, David Lloyd Jones and they built a house and studio in the walled garden. In 1988 the house was sold and became the Pavilion Hotel.



Our research team has spent many hours trying to identify all the names on the **FISHERGATE SCHOOL MEMORIAL** commemorating former pupils who died 1914-1918. This will be written up as a substantial book in time for our November 2018 event to mark the Armistice centenary commemorations.

In November 2017, we published our booklet **COMMEMORATING THE SEVEN MEN FROM HESLINGTON** and this is available to



purchase for £5. The booklet was launched at our November meeting in Heslington Church. Our chairman, Chris Rainger had written scripts for us to read out as if we were the men named on the memorial window, including Dawn Scull, the great-niece of Charles Herbert.

It was a remarkably moving experience and we came away in grief for lives cut short and admiration for those who carried on the essential work back home to produce food for their family, the region, the forces abroad and the livestock.



CONFERENCE



HISTORIC MYSTERY OF OLD ST OSWALD'S, FULFORD

Was the title of all-day conference on Saturday 10 June 2017 in St Oswald's Church Hall - our York Festival of Ideas event.

We welcomed 55 very attentive delegates, 9 speakers and 4 organisers – a grand total of 68. City Archaeologist **JOHN OXLEY** chaired each session and opened the day with kind words about FFH. **LORNA WATTS**, who excavated part of the old church in the early 1980s with her late husband Philip Rahtz, began the day with a retrospective overview. Our chairman, **CHRIS RAINGER**, provided a background to the setting of Old St Oswald's Church in its riverside landscape, as well as a review of the artefacts found in the 1980s, especially the fragment of a 9th century stone cross.

DR CLARE STANCLIFFE, (Honorary Reader in Ecclesiastical History at the University of Durham) gave a wonderfully informative biography of St Oswald, explaining who he was and why the church is dedicated to him. **Prof. JANE HAWKES** (Reader in Art History, University of York) spoke on the design and meaning of stone sculpture in Anglo-Saxon England, putting our fragment in context with the rich culture of the period.

During the lunch break, Fulford architect, **IAN HAYTON**, led a tour of 'new' St Oswald's Church in which a few items from the 'old' church can still be found (wooden altar table, hatchments and stone font). This was also a chance to look at all the information displays and read the programme, including Louise Wheatley's Who's-Who of early land owners in our area.

Our afternoon session began with a stimulating and thought-provoking talk by **DR ERIC CAMBRIDGE**, about the possible contexts for the origin of the church and its dedication. Eric is a co-editor with **Clare Stancliffe** of *Oswald: Northumbrian King to European Saint – essential reading on the subject!*

We concluded with a **PANEL DISCUSSION** with the speakers and **Dr Peter Addyman, Dr Mary Garrison and Dr Louise Wheatley**. They were joined by the current owner of 'St Oswald's Hall', **Alan Francis**, who gave a short presentation on the hall.

We then walked down to the old church for a tour led by **ALLAN FRANCIS**, who showed us the cross fragment. This prompted Jane Hawkes to give an impromptu summing-up of her thoughts about the cross, church and river-side setting, a video of which can be seen on our website: www.ffhyork.weebly.com

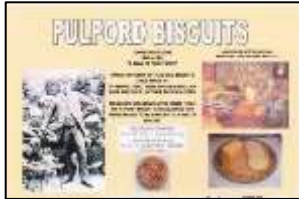


DISPLAYS & EXHIBITIONS

Our panel displays and documents on the table top always attract interest and attention and prompt questions (some of which we can't yet answer!) There are a wide range of photographs, illustrations and documents that make attractive panel displays and it is impressive how many large-scale maps we have and a staggering number of ring-binders bursting with information about houses and their occupants, past and present, who have lived, worked and died in our patch.

Our panel displays feature at most meetings, the AGM, our Conference in June, the Fulford Show in August and at the Fishergate Ward fair near the Millennium Bridge.

A new type of display is the panel about **THE FULFORD BISCUIT** has just been installed at the **FULFORD FISH & CHIP SHOP**. This is the former home and biscuit bakery of the Leng family. Thanks are due to Mary Owen for providing funds, the accessories; and to Barbara King and Judy Nicholson for the design.



FAMILY and SOCIAL HISTORY

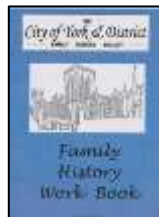


Our September meeting was a workshop focused on researching our own family histories. We gathered at 10am in St Oswald's Church hall to look at the various resource material displayed, in particular by the York & District Family History Society. Our first speaker was **April Marjoram** who inspired us with



her talk **'WRITING UP FAMILY HISTORY: A SENSE OF PLACE'**. She was followed by **Janice Wood**, whose talk, **'STARTING OUT IN FAMILY HISTORY'** gave practical advice. **Judy Nicholson** spoke informally about her own family research and the unexpected results of a DNA assessment!

Barbara King had her laptop in the Scout Hut nearby for all those who wanted hands-on help with accessing various internet sites. It was a very useful day and we are grateful for all those who came from a distance to promote family and social history; and to help them get started.



FIELDS, MEADOWS & GRASSLANDS



Fields, meadows and grassland have not been out of mind at least for Louise Wheatley, who is still trying to relate the **1759 ENCLOSURE MAPS** with the present-day boundaries. She has



however figured out the pattern of their survey of the plots of land and matched these to the numbers, names and acreage of the paperwork. She had a eureka moment when walking behind Fulford cemetery when she discovered the reason German Croft had such an odd outline when most Fulford fields are rectangles.



It is bordered by a curving branch of Germany Beck (no doubt this is well known to the locals!) Then, in trying to make sense of the terms used in the 12th century property deeds, which suggest fields reclaimed from the forest, she found that the continuation of Fordlands Road is called Forest Lane and lo and behold, there are still fields bounded by trees. **Come along in July 2018 for an evening walk down Forest Lane to see for yourself!**

FLORA & FAUNA



This year we've rather neglected the beauty and variety of the natural world in our patch; especially since our hope to visit Danesmead Meadow did not come off last August. However, some members spotted the **TANSY BEETLE** somewhere along the New Walk in an elusive location.



FOOD and DRINK

There is so much social history in the food that we eat and the beverages we drink, that a session is overdue. We look forward to hearing about **FULFORD'S LOST SHOPS** by Barbara King next September. For instance, there was the **Bide-a-Wee Café**, a delightful name that invites one in.



GARDENS and NURSERIES

In March 2017 we had an enlightening talk by garden historian Peter Goodchild on the **GARDENS AND LANDSCAPE OF OUR CITY** and brought in information about the nurseries established after the Reformation on monastic sites such as St Andrew's Priory in Fishergate. There is little doubt that by the late 18th century



York nurserymen were held in high esteem: Thomas Rigg for the best seed for Early York Cabbage; and James Backhouse for exotic plants. An extract from an 18th century catalogue showed just how many trees, shrubs, flowering bushes and other plants were available at that time - valued for their beauty as much as their usefulness.

FARMS, CROPS & LIVESTOCK



We tend to forget that there are still working farms in the outlying areas of Heslington and Fulford and that they are as essential today for our sustenance as they were in the past. This was made

abundantly clear during the research on Heslington during WWI. One reason the men joined up relatively late was that they were needed on the farms in every capacity. The school Log-Book also recorded "many cases of absence caused by employment in field work". German POW's were also put to work in the fields. **WE'D LIKE TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR MODERN FARMS** and hope that someone reading this newsletter has a good contact, who will allow a group visit. Please let Louise know.



HISTORIC PEOPLE: THEIR LIFE AND TIMES



ST OSWALD is our major 'famous figure from the past' but he is the one Anglian name that has come down the centuries and has a certain status for that reason alone! However, in looking at the deeds of St Mary's Abbey and thinking about lordship pre- and post-Conquest, other names and families are emerging.

SIWARD, EARL OF NORTHUMBRIA (c1000-1055), whose York residence was where St Mary's Abbey would later be built. Siward was the overlord of Fulford and many other townships in the north. The name 'Siward's How' has been assigned to Heslington Hill, but it is probably more correct to place it in Fulford Township on the mound known today as Lamal Hill (feel free to disagree - but provide evidence!)



After the Norman Conquest, Fulford was granted to **COUNT ALAN OF BRITTANY** and he passed most of this to his newly founded **ST MARY'S ABBEY**. It seems the Abbey used administrative officials to run the Fulford lands as a Home Farm, and did not grant it to a manor lord. Their names and other tenants are recorded in the Abbey's registers of property deeds, for example Siward of Fulford, Adam of the Hall of Fulford, William le Skinner of Fulford, Ralph the Forester, Hugh the Chamberlain, Gilbert, the Miller, German of Bretgate. **Come and hear more in February 2018.**



Ask Louise for the sources of the manuscript illustrations.



LOCAL FAMILIES: & THEIR MEMORIALS



Not quite as ancient are the names **OF FULFORD RESIDENTS RECORDED ON THE MEMORIALS IN (NEW) ST OSWALD'S CHURCH**. This was an outreach to the community project devised for the 150th Celebration of the Church

Research was carried out to identify the names on the memorials and an illustrated panel was devised for each individual. These were placed on the walls next to the memorial window, furniture, hatchment, brass or stone plaque. They were numbered and a leaflet guide with floor plan and brief descriptions led visitors around the church.



There were new discoveries - such as the altar table and old font from (old) St Oswald's Church; and the eagle lectern from the Garrison Church. The 1867 pulpit and carved stone font were destroyed in the fire of 1877 but replaced exactly as they had been designed.

Leading local families were commemorated: Barstow, Key, Masters, Oates, Richardson, and Sandys; but also, members of the congregation, such as Valerie Button Jack Riley and Kathleen Roberts; along with rectors, vicars and curates. It was quite moving to compile the information; and helped to increase our knowledge of individuals and their families.



MILITARY-MATTERS PAST & PRESENT

In May, Anne Batchelor told us about **'MY GALLANT HUSSAR'**. When she located the grave of her Great-Grandfather, she noticed that another man of the same name was buried the same year 1906 and this intrigued her. She wanted to find out more about the 2nd George Batchelor, who served in the 18th Hussars, won the DCM medal in the Boer War and was stationed at York Cavalry Barracks when he died.



She recounted the long search over many years - and in India too, to find out more about George. In the end she discovered his long-lost descendants in California and they carried on a heart-warming correspondence. She has written up her search in a book called *My Gallant Hussar*.



In thinking about the regiments stationed in York, Judy Nicholson launched her own project to find out more and the results of her research will feature as our entry in the **2018 YORK FESTIVAL OF IDEAS** with the title **'1795 AND ALL THAT: The Coming of the Cavalry To Fulford'** (see below under Festival of Ideas)

OUTREACH TO THE COMMUNITY



Our main energies in 2017 were directed to the Conference in June and the extra meetings and displays involved with the 150th Celebrations of St Oswald's Church on Main Street. One session in March was a Church History Display or Who's Who on the memorials (see Local Families, above). The second session **'OLD AND NEW ST OSWALD'S CHURCHES'** was in May and included talks about the Old and New Fulford Churches dedicated to St Oswald.



We had a tour around the 'new' church by **Ian Hayton**, one of the church architects. He pointed out the fine quality of the stone carved figures and foliage and the extraordinary gold mosaic reredos at the high altar features; and the maintenance required.



John Foreman gave a slide show about the stained glass based on his superb photographs and then we walked down to the old church to discover the Norman window, the 12th century doorway and the 17th century square-headed windows.



PRESENTATIONS

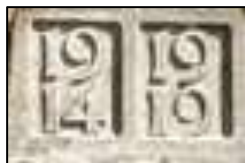


There have been requests for Judy Nicholson and Barbara King to give talks about local history to the residents at the Armana Care Home in Acomb and Connaught Court, Fulford, and the U3A. Although this is partly out-reach to the community, we have a policy of charging a small fee which is donated to our funds. If YOU know of a group that would like a talk, please contact Chris or Louise

SOCIAL GET-TOGETHERS



Both the AGM and the Christmas Social are enjoyable social occasions with food, drink and conversation. At Christmas we have a quiz which both entertains and educates and this year it was based on buildings or structures with dates. Many of us had never noticed these details and, worse, the buildings they belonged to! We'll put the pictures on the website – can you spot where they are?



WALKING tours & trail leaflets

Our new Fulford walking trail leaflet called '**A WALK ALONG MAIN STREET**' was formally launched at our AGM in April. It has been distributed through every door along Main Street, in many others on the side streets and given in bulk to the pubs, B&Bs and the Pavilion Hotel. The reception has been very positive and everyone admires the exquisite drawings by Martin Lomas of the church, houses and the doorway of the Old Manor House. We are grateful to the design team who worked diligently to produce an accurate, entertaining and attractive leaflet, bringing our history to a wider audience.



WATER, WELLS & SPRINGS



One question addressed at the conference 'Mystery of Old St Oswald's Church' was the significance of the spring, later well, in the churchyard. The legend of Oswald's gruesome death and dismemberment includes a vivid description of a large bird picking up his severed arm and then dropping it nearby where a spring instantly bubbled up. Soon afterwards the water was found to have miraculous powers of healing and so holy wells became central to his cult. This would give added significance to the site of the old church and would have proved useful for early baptisms of the local folk. *What do you think?*



YORK FESTIVAL OF IDEAS

York Festival of Ideas 2018 will take place from 5 to 17 June with the theme: **IMAGINING THE IMPOSSIBLE...**

With the possible closure of Fulford barracks, we thought that it was impossible to imagine York without a military garrison, which it has had on and off since the Romans arrived in AD 72! So we decided that our Festival of Ideas event for 2018 should be a look back at the military presence on our patch - since the construction of the Cavalry Barracks in Fulford Road.

SATURDAY 16 JUNE 2018 10am to noon
St Oswald's Church Hall
Judy Nicholson will present her talk:
'1795 AND ALL THAT:
The Coming of the Cavalry to Fulford'

Look at our website for more details of this and all our other events: www.ffhyork.weebly.com

OUR PROGRAMME FOR 2018

10am – 12noon at St Oswald's Church Hall Unless stated

Sat 20 Jan 2018 – Paula Ware of MAP Archaeology at the Germany Beck Housing Development – including a chance to see some of the finds.

Tuesday 13 Feb – 6.30pm to 8.30 – Louise Wheatley on Fulford's Medieval Landlords

Sat 17 Mar - our AGM + Margaret Scott on the revival of the York Mystery Plays in 1951

Sat 14th Apr – John Oxley - 'A Life in Ruins' the career of York's favourite archaeologist,

Sat 12 May – 10am – noon at Heslington Church - Peter Main on the life of Frederick Peel; Heslington's 19th century vicar, composer and hymn writer

Sat 16 June - Our Festival of Ideas event – 'The Coming of the Cavalry' – Judy Nicholson on the impact on Fishergate and Fulford of 222 years of the Barracks.

Tues 24 July – 6.30 – 8.30pm - 'Beyond Germany Beck' – An evening walk into Fulford's reclaimed farmland, with comments on drainage, enclosures and field boundaries, from Louise Wheatley, Chris Rainger and YOU! (Meet at the end of Fordland's Road; or St Oswald's church hall if it's wet)

27th August Bank - Holiday Monday – Our exhibition for Fulford Show; in the Scout Hut

Sat 15 Sep - Barbara King on Fulford's Lost Shops

Tues 30 Oct – 7.00 – 9.00pm – Only 100 years ago! – How feisty local women won the vote

Sat 17 Nov – 10am at Fishergate School – Remembering the 87 Fishergate School Boys – presenting our research into the pupils named on the school's Great War Memorial.

Sun 10 Dec – 2.00 – 4.00pm - End of Year Social

SUMMARY of our Local History Society 2011 TO 2018

Gavin Thomas and Louise Wheatley first met in the summer of 2011 to discuss a local history group and, shortly afterwards, arranged a series of promotional meetings which attracted a group of volunteers who willingly came to form a steering committee.

This rapidly became a formal committee, ably chaired by Bob Cook, who was instrumental in drawing up our constitution which meant we could apply for insurance, a bank account and, subsequently for grant aid.

Our monthly meetings started in 2012 and by 2013 we were a formally-recognised local history society. John Hurd took over as chair and guided us through an amazing year of talks, walking tours and visits.

When John became ill, Chris Rainger stepped forward and his energy and ideas inspired new activities such as exhibitions, walking trail leaflets and conferences (summarised in previous newsletters for 2013-2014 and 2015-2016).

We have an active and involved committee and a growing membership, but can always use more helpers and members – so please don't hesitate to volunteer, so that we can benefit from you ideas!