Welcome to the 15th newsletter of the Thomas Fowell Buxton Society and Happy New Year!

Our Black History Event October 2014

The October Black History Month Event, took place at the Firestation Community Centre, Weymouth. The Mayor, Cllr Kate Wheller, and fifty people heard a fascinating presentation by Lynwood Newman on *Slavery in the USA*.

Presentations on 21st century slavery were given by Elisabeth Orrell (Weymouth and Portland Fairtrade Zone), Joyce Fannon (Purple Teardrop Campaign) and Dave Corbin from the South West Dorset Multicultural Network.

Elisabeth urged people to shop Fairtrade to enable poor farmers to improve their position. Joyce asked members to sign the petition for the UK government to ban “Sex for Sale” advertising that fuels human trafficking.

Dave gave an account of current forms of slavery and appealed for the recognition of the benefits of diversity.

There was a SWDMN display and artwork from year 5 at Chickerell Primary Academy on the theme of “Freedom”. This school had taken part in the Society’s educational initiative offered to Primary Schools in 2014. There will be a further outreach to Primary Schools in 2015.

Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting will be on 18th February at 2pm at St. Edmunds Church Hall, Lanehouse Rocks Road, Weymouth. Note the change of venue. A map to get to St Edmunds Hall is shown below

For those driving into Weymouth, proceed down the relief road to Manor Roundabout and continue down Weymouth Way. At the first roundabout take the third exit and proceed down Granby Way. Take the first exit at the next roundabout to proceed down Radipole Lane, past the Fire Station to the traffic lights at Fiveways. Go straight across into Benville Road and turn left at the bottom of
Benville Road onto Lanehouse Rocks Road. The first turning left is Leamington Road, where you will see St Edmunds Church. The hall is next door.

For those coming by train or taking the bus, the number 6 bus leaves Debenhams at 15 min past the hour to go to Wyke Regis. The journey to Lanehouse Rocks Road is about 10 minutes.

The main business of the meeting is to hear the reports by the Chairman, the Treasurer and the Education Officer. We shall also be discussing fund raising including plans for social events during the coming year. (Ideas are outlined below).

After the main business and a break from refreshments, Joyce Fannon will give a presentation “The Buxtons of Weymouth”. The meeting will end at 4pm.
Plans for 2015

The Buxton Eclipse
On 20th March 2015, there will be a partial eclipse of the sun, visible in the UK. Unfortunately you would have to go to the Faroe Islands to observe its full totality, but there will be about 85% totality in London. An example is shown here – it should still be quite spectacular.

The eclipse will start just after 8 am; it will reach its maximum totality at about 9am and be over by 10.17 am

The eclipse is interesting because it is very similar to the one observed by TFB on 19th November 1816 (though the degree of totality for this event was somewhat less at 72%).

As TFBS treasurer, my first thought was “How can we use this to raise funds?” Sadly I can’t think of any way, except to use it as a further opportunity to raise awareness in Weymouth about Thomas Fowell Buxton.

Let’s hope for a fine morning on 20th March!

Mediaeval Music / Dances at Weymouth
Trefor Morgan, one of our committee members runs a Ceilidh Band called “Up & Running”, which has been going for 20 years. Trefor and his band often perform for charities and he has offered a performance to raise funds for the TFB Society. The original idea was for mediaeval music, but if we can get an arrangement with another local society and a decent venue we could extend this to a Ceilidh (also known as a Barn dance for us Sassenachs).

First ideas for a date could be spring bank holiday in May.

(Amusing aside) TFB was keen to promote Capercaillies, but his views on Ceilidhs are unknown.

Piano Recital
Last June we had a very successful piano recital by Duncan Honeybourne at St Mary’s Church Weymouth. He is willing to give us another recital this year, and we are negotiating with him as to the date and programme. We presume that the recital will take place in St Mary’s Church Weymouth as last year.

Visit to Westminster Abbey
The Dean and Chapter of Westminster Abbey are delighted to accommodate a TFB group to visit the Abbey free of charge to lay a wreath at TFB’s memorial this year.

We will organise a coach trip to London from Weymouth and it would be open to non members as well as members (though members would have priority). The date suggested to the Abbey is 1st August, the anniversary of the date in 1834 when slavery was formally abolished in the British Empire.
Garden Party
A garden party is a good way of raising money and there is the possibility of organising an event like this during the coming summer. Members who live outside Weymouth might consider organising their own garden parties to raise funds.

Seeking funds from Grant awarding bodies
The Chairman and Treasurer continue to approach Grant Awarding Bodies seeking funds to help us erect the monument. Most recently we were awarded a grant of £1000 from the Henry C Hoare Foundation and also £100 from Edwards and Keeping, Dorchester Accountants. More details will be given at the AGM.

Presentations to Primary Schools
Our education officer, Joyce Fannon has approached primary schools in Weymouth and offered them a presentation on TFB in the context of Fairtrade Fortnight. Last year we had a successful visit to Chickerell Primary Academy and St Augustine’s Primary School. The children’s artwork was much admired. This year 3 schools have responded and arrangements are being made to visit two of them. Joyce will report at the AGM.

Website
Our website continues to attract visitors from around the world. To date, 110 countries have visited the site, the latest being Algeria. The most regular visitors are from the UK (38%), the USA (16%) and Brazil (13%).

Local presentations
Presentations are still being made to local groups in the Weymouth area. In January Joyce will talk to a group in Sutton Poyntz; in February she will speak to the National Trust South Dorset Association; in April she speaks to Weymouth Probus. All presentations are on TFB and Slavery. There is another presentation to Rodwell WI in July on Weymouth through the eyes of Thomas Fowell Buxton. There have been over 60 presentations made since 2009.

We hope that you can attend the AGM on 18th February. Here’s hoping for a successful 2015!

Best wishes from
The Trustees and Committee of the Thomas Fowell Buxton Society

Contact:
Dr John Fannon, Treasurer TFBS  john.fannon@thomasfowellbuxton.org.uk
Tel: 01305 816942