

THE THOMAS FOWELL BUXTON SOCIETY

Registered Charity Number 1,158,648

"Whatever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might"



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2015 held at St Edmund's Hall, Littlesea, Weymouth 18th February 2015

Present: Honorary President, Cllr Kate Wheller, Mayor of Weymouth and Portland, James Buxton (Trustee), John Fannon (Trustee), Joyce Fannon (Trustee), members of the Advisory Committee (Cllr Bill White, Cllr David Mannings, Trefor Morgan, Michael Watson, Anne McKechan), 13 members and guests.

Apologies: Richard Cropper, Mike and Jean Martin, Janet Marlborough, Lynwood Newman, June Rust and Barbara Cohen.

The meeting opened at 2 pm with a welcome by the Honorary President of the Society Madame Mayor Cllr Kate Wheller, who chaired the meeting:

As the Society is now a Charity (1158648), the first part of the meeting was devoted to reports of the Trustees and Treasurer. This was followed by discussions of plans for 2015.

1. Trustees' Report

Mr James Buxton as Chairman of the Trustees gave the Trustees' report for the year 2014. (See Annex A)

2. Treasurer's Report

Dr John Fannon as Treasurer gave the Treasurer's report (See Annex B).

The meeting formally approved the reports of the Trustees

3. Resignation and election of Trustees

The trustees, James Buxton, John Fannon and Joyce Fannon then formally resigned, in accordance with the governing document approved by the Charity Commission and were then re-elected by the meeting.

The meeting thanked the trustees for their hard work on behalf of the Society in 2014.

4. Proposals for 2015:

The meeting then raised and discussed proposals for 2015

1. Michael Watson proposed that the Society introduce a Life Membership of £100 per person. This was adopted. However, members still have an option to pay an annual fee.
2. Future Education Events: Society presentations to 2 Primary Schools Wyke Regis, St Augustine's to be completed in February, 2015, on *Sugar and Slavery* linked to Fairtrade. There is a focus on **The Big Brew** and on the related Fairtrade products of tea, coffee, cocoa and **sugar**
3. Also a further 2 Society presentations are to be delivered to adult organisations in April and May. In October the Society will hold its second Black History Month Event.
4. The Buxton Eclipse (20th March). Paul Buxton suggested an eclipse watch and breakfast event.
5. *Up and Running Band* fundraiser. Trefor Morgan will seek a possible date later in the year.
6. Summer Piano Recital by Duncan Honeybourne. John Fannon will contact Duncan with a view to a firm booking. The venue would be St Mary's Church.
7. Visit to Westminster Abbey: The Dean and Chapter have agreed our proposed visit. John Fannon has booked the coach for 1st August. Priority on the coach will be given to members of the society, but non members will be welcome. We can arrange for the coach to pick up members on the route into London.
8. Collections at Supermarkets: Michael Watson had contacted ASDA and Morrisons but had not heard back from either with a firm booking. He will make further enquiries.

5. Advisory Committee

James Buxton explained that although the trustees were responsible for running the Society, there was an advisory committee to be elected. The meeting elected the following to serve on the committee: Cllr Bill White, Cllr David Mannings, Trefor Morgan, Michael Watson, Lynwood Newman, Richard Cropper, Anne McKechan and Anna Viccars-Barber.

The meeting adjourned for refreshments.

(Madame Mayor had to depart at this point as she had another engagement.)

After the break for refreshments, Mrs Joyce Fannon then gave a presentation:

The Buxtons of Weymouth.

This was well received by all attendees

A vote of thanks was given by Cllr Bill White.

The meeting closed at 4 pm

Patron: Mr Ainsley Harriott
Honorary President: Her Worship, The Mayor of Weymouth, Cllr Kate Wheller
Trustees Mr James Buxton, Mrs Joyce Fannon, Dr John Fannon
Registered Office: Tamaris, Nottingon Lane, Weymouth, Dorset DT3 4BU

ANNEX A

THOMAS FOWELL BUXTON SOCIETY REPORT BY THE TRUSTEES 2014

Overview of the year

We have had a successful year where the profile of Thomas Fowell Buxton has been further raised in the town and our monument fund has increased substantially. We are however still some way to achieving our goal.

Highlights

The highlights this year were as follows:

In May we received notification that Weymouth and Portland Borough Council had granted us planning permission to erect the monument on Bingleaves Green close to the South West footpath. We are still negotiating with Weymouth Estates Office for a free lease of the land on which to build. We have been given approval in principal; we are awaiting the council's legal department to draw up the lease. Weymouth Council has agreed to waive any legal costs.

In June we organised a Piano recital, held in St Mary's Church, Weymouth. This was an appropriate venue as TFB gave £100 in 18xx as a contribution to its extension and refurbishment. His name is still on the list of donors in the entrance.

Duncan Honeybourne was the piano soloist and gave a wonderful rendition of works by Liszt, Schumann, Chopin and Roland Swaffield a local composer. The event was graced by Madame Mayor and her husband Mike. There was a large attendance and over £600 was raised for the society.

In September we were granted charity status. We are classed as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Our thanks to the Charity Commission who were very helpful in this process.

At the end of October, we held our first Black History Event at the Community Fire Station. Lynwood Newman, one of our committee members was our speaker and he gave an interesting history of Slavery in the USA. The notorious triangular route with its horrifying 'middle passage' should never be forgotten as a demonstration of man's inhumanity to man. Lynwood's presentation was supported by Elisabeth Orrell (Weymouth and Portland Fairtrade Zone), Joyce Fannon (for Purple Teardrop Campaign, who could not send a representative) and Dave Corbin from the SouthWest Dorset Multicultural network. There were some 60 attendees including our Honorary President Madame Mayor and her husband Michael.

These events have given our society a lot of confidence in working together to raise funds. We are starting to build up a list of supporters in the town who while not members, are happy to attend our functions.

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ANNEX A

There was excellent media coverage for the TFB Society events with posters around the town, and preview and post event press releases.

The success of these events could not be achieved without the enthusiastic help of the committee and members such as Janet Marlborough, Margie Buxton and Joe and Anne Buxton.

Fund raising

We have achieved many donations and stone sponsors throughout the year and our thanks go to so many generous people. John Fannon will give you details in his Treasurers report.

However the picture is less rosy with regard to achieving contributions from various from the many Grant Awarding Organisations. The problems seem to be mainly that our project is fairly unique and it is difficult to meet the terms of reference that the trustees of these grant awarding bodies required. However, we are in the process of formulating another application to the Arts Council. You recall that the Council forked out a lot of money in 2012 for sculptures at Littlemore and also painting deckchairs on the Esplanade – and when we made our last application in 2013, we suspected that there was a smidgeon of ‘Weymouth have already had a lot of money in 2012 – other areas need to be given their fair share..’. There were of course other technical and managerial issues and we got some positive feedback and advice on how to improve these. We are in a better position today than in 2013, especially since we have raised a considerable amount ourselves.

Education

Joyce Fannon has continued to give presentations to local groups and the Charity commission was most interested in these when considering our application.

The Society has effectively pursued the following educational initiatives in the past 12 months:

- A total of 60 presentations reached since 2012, mainly to adult groups (6 given in past year).
- The above includes a Primary School initiative delivered in 2014 to two local schools, linked to Fairtrade. There were contributions from 7 pupils on the subject of Freedom. The artwork was most touching and was posted on our website and also at our black History Month Event later in the year.
- October 2014 our first Black History Month Event with presentations by Lynwood Newman and by our networking partners.
- The Society website has been accessed by people from 118 different countries; the three main being UK, USA and Brazil.
- We are down to the last 1,000 of our Society promotional leaflets which act as an educational tool at various Society presentations. (4,000 have been distributed to date).

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ANNEX A

- Excellent media coverage for TFB Society events both preview press releases and post-event press releases.
- **The monument is at the heart of our educational programme as it will stand to educate the public for years to come on the importance of TFB as part of Weymouth's heritage.**

Newsletters

We sent out 4 newsletters last year, in January, February, May and October. (Our latest newsletter was sent out in January). Our main administration costs for the society (not counting the costs of running events) are the production of the newsletters. But these are an essential part of a society's rationale – to keep up the interest of its members.

Website

As mentioned above, 118 countries have visited the website www.thomasfowellbuxton.org.uk, the most recent being Norway (12 February). Looking at the visitor statistics there have been 94,500 page requests during 2014.

We have a continual call for material for the website. Experience shows that websites which are continually being updated figure highly in the google ratings.

Looking ahead

We are putting together what we hope is an interesting, informative and exciting programme for this year. John Fannon will speak about this later on in the meeting. Also we need to put in extra effort to raise funds by one means or another. We are pinning a lot of hopes on the Arts Council but would be grateful for any fairy godmothers or godfathers that put in an appearance. We have raised over £10,000 so far – a magnificent achievement from a standing start. But this is only about one-third of the way ahead.

This ladies and gentlemen, concludes the report of the trustees. A synopsis of this report will form part of our annual report to the Charity Commission.

ANNEX B

THOMAS FOWELL BUXTON SOCIETY (TREASURER'S REPORT)

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2014

INCOME	£	£
Membership Subscriptions	295.00	
Presentations	75.00	
Donations	60	
Stone Sponsorship	3955.00	
Fund Raising	1411.07	
Grants	<u>0.00</u>	
		5796.07
EXPENDITURE		
Postage, Stationery and Publicity	184.46	
Presentation Expenses	671.50	
Monument Expenses	195.00	
Meetings	53.26	
Administrative Expenses	<u>41.63</u>	
		1145.85
SURPLUS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		<u><u>4650.22</u></u>

BALANCES AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2014

CURRENT ASSETS

Balance in TFBS account	1540.74
Balance in Monument Fund	<u>7652.00</u>
	<u><u>9192.74</u></u>

ACCUMULATED FUND

Opening balance	4542.52
Surplus/(Deficit) For The Year	<u>4650.22</u>
	<u><u>9192.74</u></u>

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 2014

Signed:



Matthew Hillman MAAT ACMA CGMA
Independent Examiner

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