



## Wirksworth Civic & History Society

### Newsletter –March 2010

#### **Programme -**

18<sup>th</sup> March                      *A Fine Furniture Maker*                      Nicholas Hobbs

15<sup>th</sup> April\*                      *Derbyshire Portway*                      Steve Bailey

May, June & July will be outside visits; we have several options & some or all will be offered:

St James Church, Beeston –follow up to Nicholas Hobbs' talk

Tour of Eyam

Sheffield Assay Office

Derwent Valley Heritage Centre

Historic Derbyshire Pubs

\* *The meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> April will be followed by the AGM at 8.30pm*

#### **AGM**

As last year, the AGM will be held straight after the meeting on April 15<sup>th</sup> in the Baptist Meeting Room at approximately 8.30pm.

The agenda for the AGM and nomination sheet are attached to this newsletter.

#### **Church Walk Project – ‘Wirksworth’s Timeless Jewel’**

*Sadly*, the Heritage Lottery Fund rejected our Stage 1 Application for funding.

You may recall that the scope of the project included repairing and restoring the railings & plinth, repairing/replacing gullies & drains, removing the tarmac & laying authentic paving, creating a performance & display space on Community Square and building storage for the wheelie bins. Schools were to be involved with their work showcased on a new website; the College of the Peak would have demonstrated traditional heritage skills; the University of Derby an audio trail; interpretation boards & leaflets would be produced. The whole project would be recorded. *Sadly*, the HLF felt that the Councils were not sufficiently committed to the project. They did, however, commend our proposals for activities, education & skills.

We have written to Derbyshire County Council asking them to start discussions with us on work on the surface & drains.

The Derbyshire Dales District Council have agreed to meet us to start the process of examining what future maintenance is feasible for the railings & plinth (DDDC) for which they are responsible.

#### **Townscape Working Party - Ian Dare, Chair, TWP**

- Community Square – we are trying to get DDDC to smarten it up for this year.
- Another Buildings at Risk walk-round with Conservation Officer completed
- On-going campaign to remove excess & superfluous signage - "slippery road" finally gone!
- On-going correspondence with DDDC over street cleaning - request enhanced cleaning at specific areas, litter bin resited on Harrison Drive.

- Market Place bollards- trying to get them painted.
- General walk-rounds of town continued, noting various issues

### **40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner**

The event took place on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October in the Red Lion which provide a very good meal in a smart room.

The display of the achievements of the Civic Society since its inception and Graham's souvenir programme provided a great deal of interest & opportunities for reminiscence.

The evening was rounded off with an excellent presentation by Tanya Shaw and Adam Lathbury, both Conservation and Design Officers, Tanya with Derbyshire Dales District Council and Adam with Derbyshire County Council.

Thanks to all those who supported the celebration.

### **Planning Applications**

We are keeping an eye on planning applications submitted to Derbyshire Dales District Council. Most recently we opposed the proposed building of 27 houses on Wash Green; however, planning permission has been granted, with conditions.

We completely support the DDDC's efforts to provide affordable housing in Wirksworth & have suggested that they consider other, more appropriate sites, particularly the disused tarmac site on Cromford Road & the Kingsfield pub & car park site

### **Transition Wirksworth** –from Mike Ratcliffe

*Could Wirksworth become a "Transition Town"?*

What is transition? What will it mean for the town? How will it benefit me and my activity?

Do you have an interest in:

- ✓ Improving the environment, natural & built
- ✓ Developing the community, social & artistic
- ✓ Encouraging renewable energy, domestic & commercial
- ✓ Promoting the local economy, residents & traders

Do you want to make Wirksworth an even better town to live in? Then this is your special invitation to come along to The Red Lion function room at 7 for 7.30pm on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March to take part in an informal evening of discussion.

### **Town Spring Clean Day** – from Mike Ratcliffe, Town Council

Likely date Saturday April 10<sup>th</sup>, 10.00- 12.00.

There is a meeting for those interested in participating on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March in the Council Chamber at 7.00pm.

### **Subscription –reminder**

Subscriptions are now long overdue.

If you haven't paid, please make out your cheque for £6 per person out to Wirksworth Civic Society & send it to:

*Anne Brawn, Membership Secretary, 15 Yokecliffe Crescent, Wirksworth, DE4 4ER*

**Peter Gratton**

We were deeply saddened by the passing of Peter Gratton in January.

Peter was a respected member of the community who served the Civic Society over many years, including in the role of Chair.

We have lost a true gentleman and he is greatly missed.

**Pauline Barfield**

The news of Pauline's passing this month brought more sadness & a deep sense of loss.

Pauline was a staunch supporter of the Civic Society & of Graham's contribution to it.

She, too, is greatly missed.

**New Members**

You may be interested in the talks, just wish to support our activities or perhaps take an active part. Whatever your preference, we welcome new members.

***If you have any concerns about YOUR Town, do join us in our activities***

Yours sincerely,

*Colin Pidgeon*

Colin Pidgeon, Chair

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## **AGM**

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2010**

**Baptist Church Meeting Room 8.30pm (*after the lecture*)**

### **Agenda**

- 1. Apologies**
- 2. Minutes of previous AGM**
- 3. Matters arising**
- 4. Reports**
  - Chair**
  - Secretary**
  - Treasurer**
  - Chair of Townscape Working Party**
  - Events' Secretary**
  - Town Council**
- 5. Election of:**
  - Chair**
  - Secretary**
  - Treasurer**
  - Events' Secretary**
  - Committee**
- 7. Subscription 2009/010**
- 8. AOB**
- 9. Date & time of next AGM**



## Annual General Meeting

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2010 8.30pm Baptist Meeting Room

I wish to nominate:

- Chair ..... currently Colin Pidgeon
- Secretary ..... currently Janet Pidgeon
- Treasurer..... currently Janet Pidgeon
- Events' Secretary..... currently Graham Barfield
- Membership Secretary..... Currently Anne Brawn
- Committee..... currently Ian Dare,  
Adam Lathbury,  
Coopted members:  
Barry Joyce  
Mike Ratcliffe(Town Council  
Marian Vaughan (Heritage Centre)

I have approached the person concerned and s/he has agreed to stand

I would like to join the Committee Yes/ No

I do/do not intend to attend the AGM

Signed..... Name.....

*Please return to: Janet Pidgeon, 10 Summer Drive, Wirksworth, DE4 4EL*