TAMESIDE LOCAL HISTORY FORUM

SECRETARY’S REPORT 2016

The AGM was held on the 23rd February 2016 and as always was very well attended.

A decision to join the Lancashire Local History Federation was made in 2016, which along with the Greater Manchester Federation will give the Forum contact with History and Archaeological groups throughout the Greater Manchester area.

Heritage Open days is still a priority event for the Forum members, the Theme WATER

New groups and individuals were involved in walks and talks on the programme featuring canals/rivers , Narrow boats, Reservoirs and Canoeing, church’s and baptisms. 30 events took place and a leaflet for Tameside was funded by The Manchester Guardian Society Charitable Trust. This event would not take place without the hundreds of volunteers who take part each year.

It was with great sadness that I had a phone call from Glenda Rose to say that E. Alan Rose our Chairman and founder member had passed away suddenly on the morning of the 21st March 2016. Alan was a much respected historian and friend to us all and he will be greatly missed. It has been proposed that we will remember him by way of a plaque or something appropriate.

The History on Your Doorstep group worked diligently researching the Cock brook area of Ashton which culminated in a wonderful exhibition at the Astley Cheetham Gallery. At the opening of the exhibition we were delighted to have Glenda and Michael Rose as our guests in naming it in memory of Alan. The History on your Doorstep group was founded by Alan and Jill Cronin 18 years ago.

The History on Your Doorstep group is now a research group meeting every Thursday at the Local Studies Library Ashton.

This year Dukinfield Old Chapel have been very successful in securing funding from HLF to restore the church to its former glory, a support letter from the Forum was sent to the funders.

Members from the Forum have volunteered to take schools and public on tours of the Old Ashton Baths now renovated for small business ventures.

A stall was manned by members to promote the Forum at the Manchester Histories Festival the Arcades shopping Centre Ashton and Stalybridge craft market in Stalybridge. Thanks to the volunteers and to Gay for the new promotional leaflet.

A visit to Llangollen was made by members in June where we had a lovely day visiting the beautiful Plas Newydd house and gardens.

A visit to St Lawrence’s church Denton was made by members to the exhibition Denton Local History Society held there, it was a wonderful exhibition of all things in our childhood.

The Friends of Dukinfield Old Hall Chapel have been active in securing the future of the remains of the chapel, and hopefully steps to move on the future of Newton Hall will soon be available.

On the 28th July Gorse Hall and the church’s connected to Beatrix Potter’s family commemorated 150 years of her birth, all the church’s opened for 4 days with exhibitions of the connections and a walk on Gorse Hall which sadly had to be abandoned due to heavy rain. The Mayor and Councillor J. Lane opened the events.

In November we held our yearly social which was held at the Bridge Café at Portland Basin Museum where everyone had a most enjoyable Christmas lunch and get together.

For the first time we had a Christmas tree at the Festival at St John’s church Hurst to promote the Form and its work, Heather very kindly made tags of all the members in the Forum. While we were there we took advantage of being able to see their Battle of the Somme display. This was by far the best local exhibition we had ever seen. The amount of attention to detail and the fact that they had encouraged local schools to participate - we were blown away.

On the whole 2016 was a difficult year but we are all determined to save and promote the Heritage in Tameside, individuals are doing fantastic work in research, publishing books, walks and talks.

I would like to thank everyone who has supported me in 2016 and to all the Officers who without their support we could not do what we do.

On a sad note we are sorry to hear that Larysa Boulton will be leaving Local Studies in March but we wish her all the very best for the future.

Thank you to you all.

Christine Clough Secretary Tameside Local History Forum