



## TAMESIDE LOCAL HISTORY FORUM

### SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 2013

The year started with a visit to the University of Salford where several members had been invited to a workshop to process the finds from the Newton Hall dig.

We had a very interesting day, dating pottery and artifacts, and a buffet lunch with Mike Nevell and Brian Grimsditch Kerry and Vicky from the University.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> April the Newton Hall booklet was launched at Tameside Local Studies where Brian Grimsditch and Mike Nevell were there to sign copies.

With the Newton Hall project now ended we have now finalised the funding.

The Council cuts are still in place with public consultations re Library's to which the Forum have taken part in.

The Local List is still ongoing but we need to involve more volunteers so that completed lists can go forward to be adopted by TMBC.

The AGM for the Forum was held on the 12<sup>th</sup> February well attended by members at Dukinfield Old Chapel.

One of the lectures for the Newton Hall project was given by Norman Redhead at Local Studies on the 20<sup>th</sup> February, regarding the HER project, exploring and protecting Tameside's Heritage.

An exhibition of the Newton Hall dig was on show at Local Studies during March.

The Newton Hall information board was placed near to the front entrance of the Hall in April.

A walk around the newly renovated monuments in Stamford Park and a guided tour by Nicola Marshall was held in April. The Forum had a stand on the 28<sup>th</sup> for Tulip Sunday.

May 21<sup>st</sup> a visit to Lytham Hall by Forum members.

Alice Lock retired from Local Studies, Alice will be missed at Local Studies but we are very pleased that she has come to join us in the Forum.

5<sup>th</sup> July a visit by GM Building Trust and its members (50) to Newton Hall, welcomed by members of the Forum, Mike Nevell and Alan Rose who gave a talk on the project and the future plans for the hall.

30<sup>th</sup> July Forum meeting at Stamford Park thanks to Nicola Marshall for hosting the afternoon.

A meeting with Emma Varnam on the 9th August took place with Alan Rose and myself, to discuss the future of support from TMBC to the Forum. Due to the cuts all funding will have to come from other funding sources, volunteer groups will be asked to support events in the Borough. Due to the loss of the Ellen Barnes lectures it was proposed that the Forum may put in for funding to host them in future. Blue and brown Plaques will still be on the agenda. It is hoped that Town and Neighborhood teams, Greenspace and volunteer groups will work together on events in the 9 Towns.

21<sup>st</sup> September launch of Mary Owens book on 'Life in a cigarette factory'. For me this is what the Form is about supporting and encouraging individuals in their research. Well done Mary.

2<sup>nd</sup> October 'Flickering Memories' a lecture by the William's brothers on the past film/picture houses in Tameside was held at Newton Hall, a very interesting evening.

Happy 90<sup>th</sup> birthday Harry Lever, a memorable evening was had by all, from a collection by Forum members was a surprise visit by the 'Lancashire Society' to play for Harry, a cake and cheque was also presented to him.

I attended a G.M. Archaeology day in November hosted by the University of Salford an excellent programme of speakers on the recent excavations in G.M.

Heritage Consultation meetings have been on going with Councillor J. Lane, Officers from Conservation, Greenspace's, Museums and Local Studies, and representatives from local Historical groups.

We have been working with hospital staff, TMBC planning and Larysa Bolton to make sure that photos have been taken of the Darnton Road Infirmary, and memorabilia, including stained glass has been saved.

Heritage Open Days numbers were down this year, a leaflet for Tameside was produced by TMBC but we do need to attract new buildings/people.

An application for a series of lectures in Tameside hosted by the Forum groups was put in to Tameside 4 good funders in November.

This year there has been much difficulty around planning and the way we object to applications, we do not have the links we used to with the department due to cuts, a question of whether we need or have to up our insurance has arisen with much discussion. At the moment individuals are asked to respond to any buildings of historical interest in a planning application through the TMBC website and Norman Redhead.

Old Hall chapel work still ongoing by the Friends group, Bardsleys and the G.M. Building Trust to preserve the remains.

I would like to thank all the Officers and volunteers in the Forum who have supported me and the work of the Forum throughout 2013, also the Officers and staff from TMBC.

Brian Grimsditch, Mike Nevell and Norman Redhead from University of Salford.  
Christopher Kenyon, Judith Charlottes and everyone who has supported the Forum in 2013.

Although the last couple of years have been frustrating regarding the cuts in Council spending I am hoping that 2014 will encourage individuals to be more aware of the need to conserve and protect Tameside's heritage.

Christine Clough secretary Tameside Local History Forum.

February 2014