

TAMESIDE LOCAL HISTORY FORUM

SECRETARY'S REPORT for 2017

The AGM was held on the 28th February 2017 at Old Chapel Dukinfield at 2pm.

The Forum's meetings are always well attended with a good membership of groups and individuals. In 2020 we look forward to celebrating 20 years of acting as a voice for Heritage in Tameside.

In the last couple of years there were changes in the way Heritage is dealt with in Tameside because of the cuts in Council spending. We are very fortunate to have a wonderful Local Studies and Archives facility. The Forum has continued to support Local Studies and Archives in working together to keep Heritage on the agenda.

On the 16th March we held a short walk around Old Ashton to mark 12 months since Alan Rose passed away and were pleased to meet his wife at the start of the walk. On our return we went on to give Larysa Bolton our best wishes on leaving Local Studies to take on a new position at Manchester Central Library.

On the 20th March a Blue Plaque was placed on the 'Molly Malone' building in Ashton-under-Lyne by his family, to Arthur Brooke founder of Brooke Bond tea.

Audenshaw Local History Society unveiled a memorial marble stone at Rycroft Hall on the 14th March to John Ousey. The marble stone was saved by the group after the demolition of Red Hall several years ago.

On the 2nd April two of our members held a tour of Mossley St. George's church grounds.

After the successful Heritage Lottery bid to renovate Old Chapel church Dukinfield, tours were held to see the work done on the renovations.

Plans for a "Tameside Remembers Peterloo" event commemorating 200 years in 2019 were held in April.

Heritage Open days in Tameside which takes place the first week in September, was another successful weekend. The theme being "Behind Closed Doors" 32 events took place, this would not have happened without the dedication of volunteers giving their time and expertise.

Members from the History on Your Doorstep group continue to work on sorting old photos from the Reporter newspaper Archive donated to Local Studies. A project called "Smile" will include cataloguing/scanning and working in Partnership with L.S. and the Reporter. The group also visited Gorton Monastery and Central Library Manchester where Larysa Bolton gave us a tour of the building.

In June a Canadian couple visited Hyde and met with Val Bowker to research their ancestors the 'Hyde's' of Hyde Hall. This happened from a query on our website and has led to us meeting visitors from abroad and researching many subjects.

An enjoyable visit to Arley Hall followed by afternoon tea at Knutsford Unitarian church to see the graves of William and Elizabeth Gaskell.

Fairfield Moravians hosted The Greater Manchester Archaeological Federation Festival which covers Greater Manchester showing work done by Societies. The Tameside History Forum had displays of projects such as Newton Hall, Gorse Hall, TAS and many others.

Consultation meetings with Damien Burke from the Planning Dep. at TMBC have been very helpful on issues regarding Heritage in Tameside. Unfortunately he has now moved on but we are fortunate to have a new contact who has been able to answer some of the questions relating to planning and heritage.

A lovely afternoon was had by 40 of our members who attended a Christmas lunch at the Bridge Café at Portland Basin Museum. A traditional home cooked Christmas dinner with all the trimmings, followed by mince pies and chocolates. Thank you to all who brought raffle prizes. Much recommended to round off the year.