

# Bilton Historical Society Newsletter

If you need to get in touch or have something to offer,  
email [bhsnewsletter@ntlworld.com](mailto:bhsnewsletter@ntlworld.com) or contact Keith Burton on (01423) 569907

## **Bilton Historical Society AGM Postponed and Lecture on April 1<sup>st</sup> Cancelled**

Due to these unprecedented circumstances and the rapidly developing COVID19 virus situation, the Committee held an emergency online/telephone meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020. Amongst many items the Committee agreed to:-

- Postpone the AGM and cancel the lecture on April 1<sup>st</sup> together with all of its other activities at the Bilton Community Centre until further notice.
- Accept the Chairman's and Treasurer's 2019/2020 reports. Please see below.
- Accept the resignation of Geoff Deighton as Secretary and thank him for his many years of service on the Committee.
- The other 2019/2020 Officers and Committee Members remaining in post and that Alan Gould would be appointed Secretary.

### 2020/2021 Committee members

Chairman:	John Branson
Treasurer:	Peter Barnes
Secretary:	Alan Gould
Membership Secretary:	Wendy Warren
Committee:	Isabella Ladigus, Shirley Dunwell and George Thrower

The Society will continue to keep in contact with its Membership by newsletter, email, phone and website ( [www.biltonhistoricalsociety.org.uk/](http://www.biltonhistoricalsociety.org.uk/) ). With home isolation it is preferred that we minimise communication by post. Therefore, could those members who have received a paper copy of this newsletter and have an email address, please inform Alan Gould, email [ajgould.alan@gmail.com](mailto:ajgould.alan@gmail.com) or telephone 01423 203097, so that we can remain in contact with you digitally. Members with no email will continue to receive information and updates by post, or phone.

*The Committee*

## **Bilton Historical Society Chairman's Annual Report 2019/2020**

The society exists to contribute towards an understanding of local history and the local heritage, also to provide and preserve memories of the past for local people, which would otherwise be lost. It has three principal areas of activity the Newsletter, a lecture programme and a study group which meets on Tuesday mornings.

The society was founded in 1996, and since that time has generated and collected much information relevant to Bilton history. The long-term project to index, scan and store this information in digital form is continuing. The ultimate objective is to make available a usable comprehensive database.

Geoff Deighton wished to step down from the committee at the AGM and relinquish his post as secretary, but as we have had to postpone the AGM due to the COVID19 virus, the committee has accepted his resignation on your behalf and appointed Alan Gould in his place.

The society is indebted to Geoff for all his hard work over the past 18 years.

Our thanks go to Keith Burton who tries to produce a quarterly newsletter but he points out that he is very reliant on input from members and welcomes any contributions. He is always

looking for new snippets of information and articles on local history to include in the coming issues.

The high standard of talks arranged by Isabella Ladigus has resulted in the members evenings being very well attended again this year. Please continue with your support and keep up the good attendance.

The transcription of the latest Bilton Grange School logbooks has been completed and a disc given to the school. The project on the history of Bilton Endowed School is continuing, as is the work on the street survey which is being transferred to a computer file.

We have reprinted our booklet "History of Bilton Grange School" and our Heritage Walk leaflet with the help of a grant from North Yorkshire County Councillor, Paul Haslam, Locality Budgets, which has also enabled us to purchase a hard disc to back up our files.

Bill Williams booklet "Bilton Through the Ages" has been reprinted by the Bilton Conservation Group with the addition of an extra chapter to bring it up to date. We have copies for sale, both at meetings and on the website.

We are very grateful to Studio Harrogate for hosting the Society's website, and thanks are due to Peter Barnes for his work as Treasurer and to Wendy Warren as Membership Secretary.

This year our paid up membership has fallen to 79. It would be more but, unfortunately, 20 members have not paid their subs. There has been a decrease in the number coming to the Study Group, mainly due to age related illnesses. We still need help in typing up documents, and anybody with knowledge of the use of spreadsheets would be particularly welcome. As well as desk work there is opportunity to explore the local area. We had hoped that the society would be attractive to those who have recently retired and are looking for something to keep them mentally stimulated during retirement, but, apart from Alan, we have had no such new members for several years. Where are you? What would you like us to be doing for you to become involved?

*John Branson Chairman*

### **Bilton Historical Society Summary of Accounts year ended 29 February 2020**

1. Total income was £1,969 and total expenditure £2,216 - causing a deficit for the year of £247.
2. Members' subscriptions and Other donations were £448, compared with £494 for the cost of running the Society – i.e. newsletter, General administration and Affiliation fees (which includes insurance).
3. We received a grant from NYCC Locality Budget of £388 as a contribution towards the cost of a new edition of our Bilton Grange School booklet, a new Nidd Gorge Heritage leaflet and hard disk drives for the Society's archives.
4. Members' evenings were well supported during the year and contributed a small surplus of £33.
5. The Study Group expenditure in the year was £1,150 (principally room hire) whereas income was £716 made up of members' contributions and donations for talks.
6. Total funds brought forward was £4,612 less the deficit gives a balance carried forward of £4,365.
7. The accounts were audited by Brian Selvidge again and we offer our thanks for continuing to carry out this chore.

*Peter Barnes Honorary Treasurer*