

# **AGM Report 2010**

**By Steve Whiteley March 2010**

## **1. Registration**

The meeting started at 1.15 pm with 17 members attending, plus John Ingham of Melrose Investments, the owners of Marsh Mill.

Charles Rowntree (Committee Member); Russell Jackson; Angela Denby; Steve Williams; Egbert Peereboom; Mildred Cookson (Committee Member); Janet Edmunds; Jim Woodward-Nott; Shirley McCauley; Margaret Croker; G. Ibbetson; Wendy Venables; Alan Campbell; Sylvia Campbell; David Hutton (Treasurer); Shirley Matthews; Steve Whiteley (Acting Chairman).

## **2. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from: Duncan Hutt; Peter Ellis; Stuart & Judith Mousdale.

## **3. Minutes of Previous AGM**

The minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2009 were summarised by the Chairman and accepted as a true record.

## **4. Chairman's Report**

Steve pointed out that at the last AGM he had resigned the Chairmanship but agreed to stay on the Committee. He had expected Stuart to Chair this meeting but in his absence he was prepared to Chair it himself.

Stuart has successfully edited and distributed four newsletters ( No. 89 in May 2009; 90 in August; 91 in November; and 92 in February 2010).

A visit to Rossett Mill near Wrexham in September was organised, again by Stuart, and enjoyed by seven members. We had lunch together in a local pub then spent the afternoon being entertained by the mill owner Michael Kilgannon who gave us a comprehensive tour of both the mill and the living quarters attached.

Finally, an appeal was made for volunteers to join the Committee and Steve thanked Stuart and the other Committee members for their work during the last year..

## **5. Treasurer's Report & Accounts**

David Hutton noted that the group's finances remained healthy. A copy of the balance sheet and breakdown of income and expenditure, audited by Stuart, for the previous 12 months was distributed to the meeting. David drew the attention of the meeting to the need to renew subscriptions for 2010 membership.

The balance brought forward from 2008 into 2009 was £1643.78

Balance carried forward into 2010 is £1513,76

Total Income was £754.48

Membership for 2009 was 62

## **6. Election of Officers & Committee**

Steve suggested that those Committee members prepared to serve again should be elected en bloc:

These were:

Mike Brereton (in his absence)

Mildred Cookson

David Hutton

Stuart Mousdale (in his absence)

Charles Rowntree

Steve Whiteley

The various roles within the Committee that required filling were:

Chairman

General Secretary

Treasurer

Membership Secretary

Editor

Archivist

Jim Woodward-Nutt volunteered to become Treasurer

Margaret Croker offered to take on the role of Membership Secretary

David Hutton said that he would stay on the Committee as Archivist

Steve Williams offered to help with the web site.

Shirley Matthews volunteered to act as Publicity Manager

Janet Edmunds said she would join the Committee

Egbert Peereboom also volunteered to join the Committee

Steve Whiteley agreed to act as Chairman until another volunteer could be found for the post..

It was hoped that Stuart Mousdale would agree to stay on as Editor or take on another post.

Steve thanked everyone concerned and expressed his delight at the influx of new blood into the Committee.

## **7. The Future of the Group.**

At last year's AGM there had been discussion about the failure of the group to grow and doubt was expressed that it was sustainable. This year looks so much better with new members on the Committee and new Officers. Discussion was much more positive. It was agreed that we would attempt to organise at least three events, continue to publish the quarterly Newsletter, freshen up the web site and look again at the Information Leaflet.. In the context of the latter, Mildred said that she understood that the efforts of SPAB to publish leaflets on behalf of Groups did not look as they would materialise. It would appear that

Geraldine Mathieson will publish the Lincolnshire leaflet but not those she had planned for the other regional groups.

## **8. Any Other Business**

Charles reminded the meeting that Mike Davies-Shiel had successfully guided a walk round the Ambleside watermills in 2008 but has since died. His widow has been sent condolences on behalf of us all at NWMG. His extensive library containing items on both mills and local industrial history is to be preserved and Charles Rowntree and Mike Brereton are actively involved in digitising much of it for publication on a web site. The Cumbria Industrial History Society is expected to hold many of the archives.

David said that he was concerned that the council may ask us to remove our archive filing cabinets of which there are four. It was suggested and approved that Steve Williams would remove them and take them to Lytham for future use. He would, of course, need to get approval from his committee to do this but he thought they would be happy to help.

John Ingham addressed the meeting regarding the condition of Marsh Mill and his contact with Wyre Borough Council (WBC) on this matter. Melrose Investments had acquired the site five years ago, but the mill was run by WBC, who show little apparent interest in conserving and promoting the windmill. WBC have a duty to maintain the mill, a grade 2\* listed building, but have undertaken little work recently. John asked for support from the NWMG to pressure WBC. into action.

## **9. Date of Next Meeting**

It was suggested that the 2011 AGM be planned for Saturday March 26<sup>th</sup> at Lytham Mill, the speaker to be Shirley Matthews on Little Marton Mill. Steve Williams will discuss this possibility with his Committee at Lytham and we will confirm arrangements at a later date.

After the conclusion of the formal business Mildred Cookson gave an illustrated talk on the windmills of Liverpool. Our thanks to her are recorded herewith. It was a most interesting talk with slides showing an age of Liverpool that is little known.

The meeting closed at 4.00 pm.

Steve Whiteley, 30 March 2010.

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