

## LANCASTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### NEWSLETTER JULY 2012

#### **Annual General Meeting**

As those of you who attended the AGM in April will be aware, our search for assistance with the cost of purchasing a digital projector and related equipment has been successful. The Galbraith Trust has awarded us a grant, for which we are most grateful. We have already purchased a new screen, which we are assured is less inclined to remove fingers than its predecessor, and are in the process of purchasing a projector and a lap-top computer.

Also at the AGM, the following officers were re-elected:

Chairperson	Mike Derbyshire
Treasurer	Maureen Leach
Membership Secretary	Sandra Burr
Excursions Secretary	Doug Alcock
Speakers Secretary	David Cox
Minutes Secretary	Judith Horsfield.

David Cox had expressed a wish to stand down from acting as Speakers Secretary; he continues in the post on the understanding that the society will seek a replacement for him during the coming year.

Rachel Newman and David Shotter were each elected to the committee for a three-year term. George Howson, Jim Price, Anne Shotter and Mike Winstanley continue as members of the committee.

#### ***Contrebis***

The next edition of our journal, *Contrebis* 33, is being produced in memory of Celia Norman, who was for many years treasurer of the society. It is another bumper, double issue and will be available at the September meeting. It will be a great help if members can collect their copies at meetings, since this saves us the considerable expenditure that is now involved in sending copies out by post.

The Publications Sub-Committee has now turned its attention to our next edition. This will contain articles on the history of Lancaster Castle and will be loosely based on the symposium on the history of the castle that the society organised about ten years ago in collaboration with Lancaster Civic Society.

We understand that the consultants appointed by the Duchy of Lancaster are continuing their work on plans for the future of the castle, although nothing has yet appeared publicly. The society was included in the consultation process. In a welcome development, various parts of the former prison are being progressively opened up and incorporated into tours that take place during various holiday weekends.

#### **Excursions**

We had an excellent turnout for the May excursion to Bewcastle and Carlisle. The great cross at Bewcastle, which provides a rare direct link with life in the North-West during the Dark Ages, would have justified the trip on its own. In addition, we visited the Tullie House Museum at Carlisle, with its fine Roman gallery, and had the option of also visiting the cathedral or the castle.

Unfortunately, our proposed half-day visit to Brigflatts Quaker Meeting House, near Sedbergh, did not prove popular and the trip had to be cancelled. We would be interested to know why this proposed outing was not attractive to members. We are always anxious to receive suggestions regarding excursions. Please pass on your ideas to any member of the committee.

Enclosed with this newsletter is an application form for our next trip, a full day in Yorkshire on 8th September, when we will visit East Riddlesden Hall, a National Trust property near Keighley, and Saltaire, a Victorian purpose-built industrial site and village near Shipley.

### **Membership**

Also enclosed with the newsletter is a form for renewing your membership of the society. Please return the form with a cheque for your subscription (unchanged from last year) to Sandra Burr, our membership secretary, who will then send you your membership card. Alternatively, you can pay at the first meeting of the new season and collect your membership card then. It would help Sandra if those people who have already joined waved their new membership card at her as they enter the hall.

The recent considerable increase in the cost of postage has added to our financial pressures. If you are able to receive correspondence by e-mail, please indicate this on your application form and thereby help to save us a significant amount of money.

### **Programme of Speakers**

We have a full programme of speakers booked for next session. Our meetings continue to take place in the St Paul's Hala Centre. The doors are open at 7:15 pm and the meetings start at 7:30 pm. Please put the following dates for the first three talks in your diary. We start on Thursday 27th September 2012, when Mike Winstanley will speak about "Quakers, Lonsdale Merchants and the Virgin Islands". The following month, on 25th October 2012, Norman Redhead will talk about "The Archaeology of Industrialisation in Manchester" and on 29th November 2012 Bill Shannon's talk will deal with "The Enclosure of Lowland Commons".

I do hope that you do decide to renew you membership – and that you will join us at the meetings in our forthcoming season, which I am sure will be as varied and interesting as those of last year.