

Frinton & Walton Heritage Trust



NEWSLETTER

Summer / Autumn 2021



Monsoon Season in Frinton

See article on page 14.

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10 Years' Service

The editorial team, David & Rachel, have given notice to the Executive Committee that, after over ten years of producing the Trust newsletters, they would like to hand over the responsibility to some fresh volunteers.

A combination of (whizz) DTP skills and an eye for textual detail are required. Please get in touch if you fancy the challenge!

Outgoing Chairman's Notes

Tony Barrett

In February Brian Jennings decided to give up working for the Trust. As I will have said at the Annual General Meeting, there is, in life, a time to stay and a time to go whether one is paid or a volunteer and we should be grateful to Brian for all the work he has done over many years and for his continued cooperation which we are all grateful to receive. Brian's decision has involved the three remaining officers with considerable extra work but we have received support from all the other members of the executive committee and the Trust is now powering ahead once again. Linda Ellis agreed to act as Trust Secretary until the AGM and has now agreed to continue until the end of 2021 at which time the new constitution should come into effect.

The pandemic continues to make life difficult. It has not been possible to reopen our two remaining museums but it is planned to open the cottage garden on Tuesday mornings from 8 June. In the absence of a social secretary, I have arranged a provisional programme of talks for the coming autumn and spring seasons together with a Christmas lunch at Frinton Golf Club. Mike Talbot has agreed to lead the New Year's Day Walk (see Diary of Events). Clearly all future plans depend on government guidelines regarding the pandemic.

In May Ann Gladwell and her team were able to organise another produce sale which raised some £700. Members should be very grateful to her. Hopefully similar sales for bric-a-brac and books will be possible.

The Trust has ceased its involvement with the Old Lifeboat House (Walton Maritime Museum). The artefacts previously located in the museum have been moved to various local storage sites. No progress has been possible on finding new premises. Again the pandemic prevents much initiative in this area. Much sorting is required in the cottage. John Barter and myself, working with Liz Bruce, will be redesigning the layout of the rooms in the cottage as the Trust seeks to move back towards its core activities of preservation and conservation.

The biggest concern of the executive committee remains **James Stevens No.14**. It is clear that to return the boat to seaworthiness is beyond the financial resources of the Trust. It is currently being assessed in a boatyard but a decision on its future will need to be made soon.

Much work is being done in the cottage garden and Alan Bowler and his team are doing a splendid job as they catch up following the pandemic. We should be grateful to Rethna Flaxman and the gardeners for keeping the cottage garden in such good condition bearing in mind the current difficulties.

My notes regarding the future, published in the last newsletter, did not provoke much in the way of a response. Without more members and volunteers as well as better publicity, many of the ideas I put forward will not be possible, so please look around to see whether you can help. During the summer the team which drafted the new constitution will be preparing a management plan which should reduce the committee work of many of the volunteers.

On re-reading my notes of the past year or so, I see that I repeatedly write “these are my last notes as your chairman”. I have said more goodbyes than Frank Sinatra! By the time you read these notes John Barter will hopefully have been elected as your Chairman and I urge you all to support him and his team as I shall be doing. The last year has certainly been a challenge but the support of my colleagues has been wholehearted and I firmly believe that it is this commitment from the members and the officers that will allow the Trust to have a bright future. In closing I would like to pay tribute and thanks to our retiring president, Rachel Baldwin, who has done so much for the Trust over many years and without whose advice my own task would have been so much more difficult.

Calling all Volunteers

Volunteer Day on Saturday, 28 August: 2 pm to 4 pm in the Crossing Cottage Garden, Station Approach, Frinton-on-Sea

The Trust would like to invite all volunteers, past and present, to come and have tea and cake in the cottage garden as a ‘thank you’.

If you have ever done stewarding duty at Walton Maritime Museum in the past, served as crew on ***James•Stevens•No.14***, helped in the cottage garden pulling the odd weed, stood tea duty on a Tuesday morning in the cottage or at the evening socials, delivered the newsletter, and/or helped with the May and October Fayres, this means YOU.

If you are new to the area or have more time on your hands now, come along and see what the Trust does and maybe you will feel tempted to ‘have a go’.

Liz, our archivist, would love to find someone to help in her fantastical world of artefacts, archives and exhibitions.

Linda, our acting secretary, would like to hand over the Honorary Secretary’s role at the end of 2021. She would like to find someone soon so that the next six months would give them an opportunity to ‘learn the ropes’.

We are also in need of some marketing expertise.

And, as you will see on page 15, some more gardeners would help to maintain the Cottage Garden, our pride and joy.

What's in a Name?

The Name of the 'Road' Series - John Barter

Chatting to a friend who lives on the Frinton Park Estate, he was wondering why the roads in the Estate are mostly named for towns and villages in Essex.

In the Trust's archives there is a study thesis by I.P. Harris (2003) entitled *Oliver Hill, A Review of the Architectural Style of Oliver Hill, FRIBA and the 1930s Frinton Park Estate Project* which describes the Estate's development. Oliver Hill (1887-1962) was the nationally-known main architect appointed by the South Coast Property Development Company Ltd which had taken over the development of 300 acres of prime agricultural land, costing £1,100, either side of the railway line between Frinton and Walton. Previous attempts from 1926 onwards to develop the land had largely fallen by the wayside. Frinton Park Estate was to be a showcase of 1930s architecture: a complete new town of about 1,200 houses with a shopping centre, new railway station, town hall, bank, college and a large hotel built into the cliff. A number of churches for different denominations were also included in the plans, similar in concept to Hampstead Garden Suburb. The borders of the Estate included Pole Barn Lane to the south-east and Elm Tree Avenue to the west thus including much of the area now occupied by Frinton Homelands. Walton Road, built in 1926, and the railway line, moved inland from the cliff edge in 1922, cut through the Estate.

The 1934 plan of Frinton Park Estate, much adapted over the next two years, shows many roads with Essex place names. Most of the roads are called "Ways". If one looks at a current map of Frinton and Walton, the roads still named for Essex villages and towns are listed here with possible sources from my own imagination:

Waltham Way: for Waltham Abbey, founded by King Harold II before the Battle of Hastings in 1066, or for Great and Little Waltham near Chelmsford.

Quendon Way: for Quendon situated between Stansted Mountfitchet and Newport in north-west Essex.

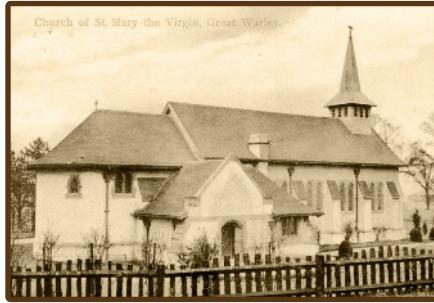


Graces Walk: for Graces Walk leading to Graces Lane, between Little Baddow and Danbury. I had never heard of it until I bought a postcard image of Graces Walk at the York Racecourse Postcard Fair on a Trust visit many years ago.

Audley Way: for Audley End near Stansted Mountfitchet and its great English Heritage house of the same name.

Rainham Way: for Rainham on the banks of the River Thames between Dagenham and South Ockenden.

Warley Way: for Great and Little Warley, south of Brentwood. Great Warley is famous for its 1902 memorial parish church in the Arts and Crafts style of architecture: its wonderful jewel-like interior and silver aluminium-lined chancel apse walls.



Marney Way: for Layer Marney and Layer Marney Tower, which the Trust visited for a tour several years ago.

Easton Way: shown as a Close on the July 1934 map where Easton Way is now. Easton Lodge was a Victorian Gothic style stately home in Little Easton, now famous for its park and gardens. Little Easton and Great Easton lie just north of Great Dunmow.

Cliff Way, *The Leas*, *Central Avenue* and *Woodside* are not specifically Essex place names but were named for features, as are *The Greensward* and *Pedlars Wood*.

On the north side of the railway line, on either side of Walton Road, we have:

Royden Way: for Royden and Royden Hamlet, west of Harlow on the border of Essex and Hertfordshire.

Heronsgate: for Heronsgate, between Brentwood and Billericay.

Bardfield Way: there are several contenders: Bardfield End Green, Little Bardfield & Great Bardfield all between Thaxted and Finchingfield, and nearby Bardfield Saling.



Walden Way: for Saffron Walden.

Stansted Way: for Stansted Mountfitchet near Bishop's Stortford.

Newport Way: for Newport, south of Saffron Walden.

Temple Close: for Cressing Temple near Braintree with its marvellous medieval Templar tithe barns.

Rochford Way: for Rochford, the old town just north of Southend.

Ockendon Way: for Ockendon, another ancient village in South Essex.

Burnham Close: off Grimston Way, for Burnham-on-Crouch, the famous sailing centre south of Maldon.

Clays Road presents me with a problem in sourcing its name and will have to be further researched. A possibility is that it is named for Clayhall in Ilford which was part of old Essex. However, it was not one of the original road names on the July 1934 map.

There were roads named in the original design which were never used nor built: Bergholt Way, Blackwater, Clavering Way, Danbury Way, Dedham Way, Elsenham Way, Hadleigh Way, Mistley Way, Pitsea Way and Theydon Way.



The ethos of the Frinton Park Estate was gradually forgotten. The area between the railway line and the cliff tops above the sea became a forgotten backwater until the resurgence of interest in Modernist architecture during the last 20 years.

To conclude, it seems to me that decision makers: councillors, local authority officials and subsequent developers, moved away from naming roads after Essex place names in the 1970s when the Frinton Homelands and the Frietuna Estate were being further developed and infilled with housing right up to Turpins Lane, so that we now have a continuous swathe of dwellings merging one village into the next.

As mentioned in previous articles, we have already noted that the town planners started promoting local field names, alms charities and other local historical references, which provides us with a mine for further extraction of nuggets of interest for future articles. If you have any suggestions on “paths” or “roads” of research, please get in touch.

The Trevor Bright Railway Museum - Report

Tony Barrett

Sadly the museum remains closed and, with the current social distancing rules in place, it is unlikely to open in 2021. Outside the museum itself, however, there has been considerable activity in those areas where there is some responsibility. A display board been erected in the booking hall at Frinton-on-Sea station and another will be put in place there shortly. Work on the roundel over the fireplace in the hall will go ahead in due course. The question of information boards on the station platform is being reconsidered as those currently displayed (not erected by the Trust) are both lacking in detail and, in places, offering information which is incorrect.

The railway gates in the station yard are in poor condition and discussions are underway with carpenters/joiners as to what could be done by way of repair/replacement. Work has been done on refurbishing the Track Points transferred from the Walton Maritime Museum; a site has been chosen so that visitors will be able to view them easily and safely. Consideration is being given to attaching the arm of the signal originally in use between Walton-on-the-Naze and Frinton-on-Sea to the side of the cottage. This will further increase the number of artefacts to be observed outside the museum. The beauty of the garden will not be impaired in any way and it will make a further contribution to Frinton in Bloom. It also means that there will be more to show those disabled visitors who cannot get into the museum itself.

The Peanut Vending Machine, normally on show when the museum is open, has been cleaned and restored to full working order. A set of platform lights recently obtained is being rewired and will go on show in due course. The fencing around the museum, which is not the responsibility of the Trust and which we are not permitted to repair, is in a poor state. Hopefully, Greater Anglia will soon deal with this. Meanwhile, it is intended to repaint the outside of the museum in the autumn.

Members will appreciate that there is 'a lot going on' but it will take a while to complete the works detailed above.

Disclaimer

The publication of material in this newsletter does not
imply that the views or opinions expressed
are shared by the editor,
Frinton & Walton Heritage Trust,
or any persons other than the named author.

The Trevor Bright Railway Museum - History

Part Two of a Short History by Tony Barrett

Following Trevor's death, my colleague Geoff Griggs and I muddled our way through the 2017 season but our hearts were not really in it. After Trevor's funeral his widow Jackie gave the collection taken (well in excess of £1,000) to the railway museum.

Just after Easter 2017, as planned, we opened with the exhibition of *Transport of the 20th Century* and added *Timetables of the Past* which included an example from 1848. We were also able to highlight a copy of the 1866 railway map of East Anglia as a companion to our post-1923 map of the London and North Eastern Railway area. That year saw Trevor's final contribution with us displaying the model of Frinton railway station which he had almost completed; I put on the chimneys to finish it. It now occupies a central position in the museum. Sadly only the main building was completed before he died; we had measured all the buildings, and the plan was to recreate the whole station in miniature. The final addition for the season was a large picture of the new mural on Frinton railway station taken and prepared by Martin Leach.

A special exhibition was arranged to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the opening of Walton station and the line had a visit from the steam engine *Tornado*•60163 in August which was enjoyed by all of us. We opened the museum on Saturday afternoons in August and, as part of National Heritage Weekend, in September but visitors were poor in number on Tuesday mornings.

On Easter Saturday 2018, on a day when the weather was only marginally better than when the gates were closed by Trevor in 2012, Jackie named the museum

“The Trevor Bright Railway Museum”.

For us it was a day of great sadness but also of pride in what we had achieved. It was also, of course, a time to move on. A photograph of Trevor is on view as you enter the museum; he is looking out and reminding us of our core values and objectives.

In that year our largest exhibition yet, *Engines from around the World*, showed some 70 models with notes on each one. It was a great pleasure to put together some of Tony Baxter's photographs for our display entitled *The Line in the 1980s*. Tony has been a loyal supporter of the museum since its inception and I have been much indebted to him for many photographs. We were also able to complete our collection of British postal stamps depicting trains and stations.

2018 saw us begin to move outside. We already had the Sack Barrow in the garden but now we began to use the railings for photographs, etc. We also began to plan to arrange displays in the waiting room at Frinton railway station. David Bavister joined us thus strengthening the stewarding team of Geoff, my wife Barbara and myself. Sadly visitor numbers remained low and the lack of good publicity was clearly one of the causes.

We approached 2019 differently for it was obvious that we could not expand inside (lack of space) and so we sought to improve visibility outside. We arranged more photographs on the railings and no less than five photographic offerings in the station waiting room on Frinton itself, another to commemorate 60 years of electrification of the line. A third illustrated engines prior to 1959 while the fourth showed photographs of the train units used after that date. A board giving details of the Trust was erected and a formal opening took place in November.

We also took possession of a wooden bench found in a store room at Dovercourt station. The bench is at least 100 years old and has been splendidly restored by the *Essex & South Suffolk Community Rail Partnership* (ESSCRP) before being given to the Trust and placed in the waiting room. It is intended that a plaque be attached. We were beginning to become a museum on two sites with the station being more accessible to disabled visitors whose wheelchairs will not go through our museum door. Visitor numbers remained low apart from Bank Holidays, for now we opened on all of the days when these occurred, as well as major events.

What can one say about 2020? The museum did not open although the basic displays had been refurbished and new displays arranged. From time to time the waiting room at the station was open and an exhibition of the iconic 309 class train is there for all to see. Thanks to the archives of the museum and, in particular, work done some years ago by Jerry Russell, I was able, with the help of Liz Bruce and John Barter, to produce an information board to be sited on the platform at Walton-on-the-Naze station. This was arranged at the request of ESSCRP with whom we continue to work closely. We are looking at the possibility of doing something similar at Frinton station.

Inevitably our plans for widening our activities within the auspices of the museum are on hold but the Track Points previously displayed in the Walton Maritime Museum, and which came from the Walton/Frinton track, are being restored and will be put on display in the Cottage Garden early next year, if not sooner. At the station a display board has been erected in the booking hall and a further board will be put up shortly. The old Railway Gates, in the station yard, are in a sad state and their future will demand careful thought. Strictly speaking, this is a matter for the Trust as a whole, but the Railway Museum would wish to have some involvement in their future.

I write this in the middle of May; the museum remains closed and is unlikely to open this year but there are many plans for the future. One can only hope that one day we may be able to see what that future will be like.

The images below illustrate some of the artefacts we have acquired over the last few months. From left to right and top to bottom: Walton-on-Naze Platform Ticket; Monthly Return Ticket, Third Class, Liverpool St to Frinton on Sea, issued 4th September 1939; Frinton Platform Ticket; Kirby Cross Station Lamp; Model of Frinton Railway Station made by the late Trevor Bright; Clippers for punching tickets; Platform 2 Sign for Walton; Trackside Warning Horn; Platform Sign for Walton; Indicator Board from Liverpool Street Station.



Diary of Trust Events

All events are 'provisional' and are subject to government restrictions.

Frinton Crossing Cottage Garden, Station Approach, Frinton

Coffee Mornings in the Garden

Tuesdays: 10 am to noon

We are now back in the Cottage Garden every Tuesday morning until the end of September. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 restrictions, we will not be able to open up the Cottage and Railway museums. However, we will be serving tea, coffee and biscuits and there will be the opportunity to purchase preserves, plants from the garden or any surplus homegrown produce that is donated. We will also have local history books, posters and cards for sale. Come and enjoy the calm and tranquillity of the gardens!

Grand Bric-a-Brac Sale

Saturday, 21 August: 10.30 am to 12.30 pm

This is the second of our bric-a-brac sales this summer but it will be not our usual full day event. There will be no admission charge and no refreshments available, but a donation would be much appreciated. We have small items of furniture as well as the usual bric-a-brac and, if restrictions permit, costume jewellery, toiletries, scarves and books. Contact Ian Heard if you have any donations to the bric-a-brac stock on 07747 035375; he can arrange collection.

Volunteer Day

Saturday, 28 August: 2 pm to 4 pm

Anyone who has volunteered for the Trust in the past, or who would like to get involved in the future, is invited to 'tea and cake' and to meet other like-minded members and friends. Full details on page 4.

Save the Date! COVID-19 permitting, we hope to run our usual autumn **Apple Day Fayre on Saturday, 9 October**. Look out for announcements on the website and in the noticeboard at the Cottage.

Members' Summer Outings

The Essex Collection of Art from Latin America (ESCALA)

Thursday, 9 September at 2 pm

Our visit on Thursday, 10 June to the University of Essex (ESCALA) had to be postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions. But we are pleased that the curator has now allocated a new date for the visit. Full details of this event were included in the last newsletter. Cost: £8 per person to be made at the time of booking. The visit will be limited to 20 Trust members. To book your place, put your name on the list at the cottage or contact Tony Barrett, telephone 01255 674678. Final arrangements will be distributed nearer the time of the visit.

Other Events

Tuesday, 7 December 2021

Instead of our usual evening social with shared food, we have planned a lunch at Frinton Golf Club. There will be full details in the next newsletter and/or on the website.

Saturday, 1 January 2022

New Year's Day Walk led by Mike Talbot. Details in the next newsletter and/or on the website.

Social Evenings at the McGrigor Hall, Fourth Avenue, Frinton-on-Sea: 7.30 pm

Admission: £2 members, £3 non-members

Tuesday, 5 October 2021: *COUNTING BIRDS IN THE WALTON BACKWATERS*

Kevin Marsden's wide-ranging illustrated talk about the wildlife so close to us.

Tuesday, 2 November: *80 YEARS OF FRINTON SUMMER THEATRE*

Jacey Dias, author of *Frinton Summer Theatre: 80 Glorious Years*, is a trustee of the theatre and a member of Frinton & Walton Heritage Trust. She will share with us her insights about the history of the theatre as well as her experience of researching and writing the book.

Tuesday, 1 February 2022: *FRINTON'S FRONT*

John Barter will introduce and preview *Postcards from ... Frinton's Front*, the Trust's long-awaited book.

Tuesday, 1 March: *COAST TO COAST*

David Bavister's illustrated talk about his UK walk undertaken in support of charities in Kenya.

Tuesday, 5 April: *MEMORIES OF BLOWERS AND COOPER, 1903 - 1998*

Robin Cooper, grandson of *Blowers and Cooper's* founder George Cooper, will share his memories of Frinton's ironmongers and hardware store and its history in an illustrated talk.

From the Editor

Digital articles and / or images for inclusion in the Autumn / Winter edition of this newsletter should be sent to secretary@fwheritage.co.uk. Please ensure that material for inclusion is submitted no later than **Saturday, 16 October**. Material received after this deadline will not be included. Information to be incorporated into the 'Diary of Trust Events' section should be sent, preferably by email, to Linda Ellis (ellis.barter@gmail.com) by **Saturday, 9 October**.

Please also see '10 Years' Service' on page 2.

Monsoon Season in Frinton

also known as

The 'Small' Garden Sale: Saturday, 8 May

Ann Gladwell

Just a little catch-up, to let you know how garden fundraising is progressing. Cast your mind back to the weather in May. Here's a reminder: very wet! And keeping in line with that general weather pattern, Saturday 8 May didn't disappoint! It absolutely bucketed down for most of the time that we were open to the public. In fact, the volunteers got so wet they forgot what 'dry' felt like!

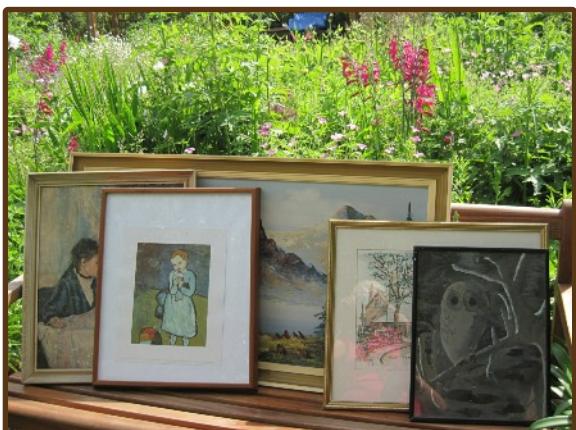
The current need to keep events smaller than usual meant we only planned to sell plants, marmalades/preserves and cakes. Despite the torrential rain, a hundred or so people braved the elements and raised over £700. Personally I regard that as a minor miracle brought about by dedicated volunteers and supporters of the Trust. One visitor said that she turned up to support all the Trust's events regardless of weather conditions!

I'm saying a special 'thank you' to Rachel Baldwin, whose vast supplies of marmalade and preserves (made by her own fair hand) occupied one whole stall which, together with the plant stall, raised the lion's share of the money.

The cake stall sold out in 30 minutes! Unfortunately we didn't have nearly enough stock; we could have sold out several times over. So, many thanks to the bakers among you who turned up with your goodies. But also this is an impassioned plea asking more members to bake when we next have a sale where cakes, pastries, quiches, etc, are to be sold. We can only sell what we've got!

So, thanks again, volunteers and supporters.

PS: There is just time to report, before the newsletter's deadline, on the results of the 'Grand' Bric-a-Brac Sale held on 12 June.



Well, it was another day to be reckoned with. The sun shone for a start; I'm sure that can't be right, can it?

And there was more bric-a-brac stock than I ever need, or want, to see again! I suppose the clue is in the wording: 'Grand' Bric-a-Brac Sale.



Several hundred people visited. The culmination of all the volunteers' hard work was an amazing £1,100. So well done to everyone for all the blood, sweat and tears!



Please put Saturday, 21 August in your diaries for the next garden sale.

Garden Musings

Marion Mear

I think the word to describe the Cottage Garden at the moment is 'lush'. The weather has been on our side for once: plenty of rain followed by long days which, if not hot, have definitely been warm. Unfortunately this suits the weeds as well, and we don't have enough manpower to pull them all up! We do our best though and it's good to report that several infrastructure projects are now under way. The arbour that just dripped with roses, clematis and honeysuckle, making it a joy to sit under in the summer, was, we discovered, no longer safe to sit under, so rather than have it collapse on an unwary head, the rebuilding, led by Alan, is racing ahead. It looks marvellous already, and if you were at the bric-a-brac sale on 12 June, or can join us for a coffee and chat on a Tuesday morning, you'll be able to admire what they have achieved, and maybe the repainted weather vane too.

No start yet on shingling the outside bed, but it hasn't been forgotten. A start has been made as the overlarge *phormiums* have been dug out, but the outside beds are not looking their best. Again, more manpower would help, but we plan to join forces on a Tuesday again, rather than working in separate groups which will make a real difference. And up at the Station, Jenny and the Railway Children continue to make Station Approach an attractive welcome to visitors.

We do very much look forward to Tuesday Coffee Mornings at the Garden starting again, as it's a real pleasure to be able to share the joy of the garden with others. And, maybe you could spare some time on Tuesdays to pull out a weed, tidy a bed or cut back something overgrown, thus sharing in a very special way.

Incoming Chair's Report

John Barter

At the Annual General Meeting on Tuesday, 29 June, I was voted in as Chair of this wonderful organisation. I recognize the honour you have bestowed on me and also the responsibility that goes with it. There are many challenges to face over coming months and years.

As Tony Barrett explained in his various reports, the Trust is metamorphosing yet again with many changes to its scope of work. However, the fundamental ethos and aims are still at the forefront of our thinking. We have so many practical issues to address and resolve and that will take time. Luckily we have a strong set of volunteers who are already working towards 'the future' which we hope will be brighter. This may sound like political claptrap but the sentiments are very true.

I am 64 years old and have been a member of the Trust for many years. My godmother, Jean Sanderson, was one of the first archivists until her death in 1992 when my mother, Joan Barter, took over from her until her death in 2006. My wife, Linda Ellis, has been a member and committee member since we moved back to Frinton in 2004.



Many of our members have joined when first moving to or holidaying in Walton and Frinton and have long associations with the Trust. New people have joined and found 'inspiration' and 'community' over the years.

We do need all our existing 300 or so members to evangelise on behalf of the Trust so that the energy of new members and volunteers can take the Trust into the future. Please talk to your neighbours and friends. The Trust can be great fun and worthwhile at the same time. Speak to your new neighbours as they move in.

We are planning to run a Volunteers' Day in the Cottage Garden on Saturday, 28 August with tea and cake to say a big 'thank you' to everyone who has ever volunteered their time to the Trust (see page 4). This will also be open to anyone who would like to learn more about the Trust; come along and find out.

The Future

The Trust desperately needs more space to store and show its many collections of artefacts, to help with the many enquiries from public and members and to use the collections to help with research projects that continually come in to the Trust. We need a new Heritage Hub Centre in Walton, nearer to the town centre and Pier, again to show off our Walton archival collections to the public and to promote Walton as the very special and historical town that it is.

We need many more members and volunteers to join us in developing the Trust over the coming months and years. We must continue to fight to protect the historical built environment in which we live and keep the conurbation of Walton, Frinton, Great Holland, Kirby Cross and Lower Kirby as the very special place which we love.

The 37th Annual General Meeting

Rachel Baldwin

The AGM that was held on Tuesday, 29 June 2021 covered the two years from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2021 as we were unable to meet in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. An annual report will be prepared and published with the next newsletter which is scheduled to be in circulation by the end of November. In the meantime, members may be interested in the main decisions that were taken at the meeting and to learn of the appointment of new officers. The meeting was quorate with over 30 members present.

Matters deferred from the 36th AGM covering the period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020 were concluded. The independently-examined accounts, which had been circulated in the 2020 summer newsletter, were approved. A report of the year's activities were read out for information. Nothing was raised under 'any other business'. The minutes of the 35th AGM held on 21 May 2019 were tabled and were accepted unanimously.

The chairman's report for the year ending 31 March 2021 was read out. The accounts for that year were presented by the treasurer, with the endorsement of the independent examiner, and were accepted by all present.

Reports covering the two-year period were read out for membership, Frinton museum & archives, Walton museum, Frinton cottage & garden, Trevor Bright Railway Museum, **James Stevens No.14**, the history group and, lastly, social media. There will be full transcripts in the forthcoming annual report.

David Thorpe of Mearns has taken on the role of President of the Trust; John Barter is now the Chair with Ian Heard as Vice Chair. Eileen Kelly remains as Treasurer and Linda Ellis as Acting Secretary until 31 December 2021.

The Executive Committee is currently made up of 13 members some of whom are also officers. Alan Bowler had been co-opted during the year and Ian Heard was co-opted at this AGM. Most committee members have specific responsibilities, as follows: Tony Barrett – Trevor Bright Railway Museum, CIO implementation & social evenings/outings organiser; John Barter – history group; Alan Bowler – building maintenance; Liz Bruce – archives & Frinton cottage museum; Anthea d'Ancey – newsletter distribution; Linda Ellis – publications & shop sales; Tim Foster – Frinton cottage front of house; Ann Gladwell – cottage garden co-ordinator; Ian Heard; Ted Maloney – membership secretary; Alan Thomas – ***James Stevens No.14***, Gill Thomas – webmaster & Facebook; David Wicks – newsletter editor.

Jeremy Russell remains as Life President; John Barter, Maggie Sandell, Tim Scott-Saunders, Mike Talbot and Alan Thomas as Trustees; Dawn Heard as Independent Examiner and June Dormant as Minute Secretary.

A proposal by the outgoing chairman to form a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), under the auspices of the Charities Commission (CC), via a new constitution which had been circulated to all members with the previous newsletter, was accepted unanimously. When the Charities Commission has approved the new constitution and it had been adopted, the financial year will then run from 1 January to 31 December and subscriptions will become due annually on 1 January.

The meeting was closed by the new Chair who thanked everybody for all their hard work, especially those who had left or were leaving office at this time.

The Closure of Walton Maritime Museum

John Barter

During 2020 and the early months of lockdown, the Trust was sadly faced with the impending closure of Walton Maritime Museum at the end of its lease on 17•April 2021.



Throughout the autumn and winter of 2020 a very sad but major piece of work was the redecoration and clearing of The Old Lifeboat House. The Trust had refurbished and looked after the building for nearly 40 years and were to give back the building to Tendring District Council.

Liz Bruce, Linda Ellis, Emma Filby and John Barter worked on photographing, recording, and packing up the smaller items in the Maritime Museum collection ready for storage. This took a number of very cold days to do. Mike Talbot, Brian Jennings and Martin Leach worked on photographing, packing and moving the larger items in the collection to storage facilities.

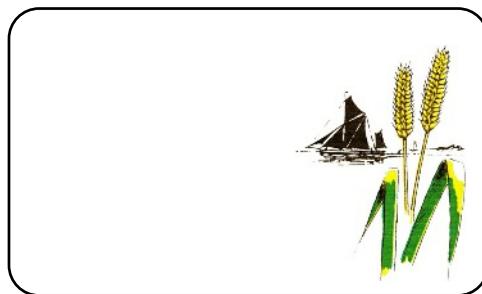


During the winter, Brian Jennings and Mike Talbot redecorated most of the interior and exterior of The Old Lifeboat House. After Brian's resignation in mid-February 2021, John Barter, with help from Ian Heard and his friend Richard, took over organising repairs to an internal wall and the final redecoration of the parts that were outstanding. The weathervane in the shape of a whale, originally from the Samuel Lewis Home up on the Naze, was the last item to be removed.

Finally, on 31 March 2021, a team of volunteers moved the very large items into storage. Thank you to the team that gave up their time to do this huge task: John Kirby, Mike Talbot, John Barter, Ian Heard, Tim Foster, Tim Scott-Saunders and Graham Austin (who are all in the photo), Richard who drove the van and took the photo, and Tom Madden who helped us load up at The Old Lifeboat House.



The building was handed back to Tendring District Council's Property Department on 8 April 2021 following an inspection by their assets surveyor, together with about nine sets of keys previously collected from our keyholders! It was a sad end to a significant part of the Trust's history.



Ask your friends to join the Trust!

For further information about the Trust, contact the Acting Secretary,
Linda Ellis on 01255 852993 or email: secretary@fwheritage.co.uk

Visit our website fwheritage.co.uk

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