

Frinton & Walton Heritage Trust



NEWSLETTER

Winter 2019 / Spring 2020



Charles William Scott,
Frinton's first policeman, cycling towards
Kirby Cross on the Frinton Road.
See the Archivist's article on page 8.

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Chairman's Notes

Tony Barrett

The most important news for members is that your committee has reluctantly felt the need to set a closing date for Walton Maritime Museum: 31 August 2020. There has been no movement from Tendring District Council and it seems that there is no alternative to closure. Your committee is already looking for 'homes' for the various exhibits in the Museum. Away from Walton much remedial work is being done at various locations but the outstanding list of work is long and our teams will have had a busy autumn.

We have welcomed to the Committee Gill Thomas and Guy Montague-Smith as our new publicity team, Gill being in charge of the Trust's Facebook page.

Tuesday mornings have produced a steady stream of visitors sitting in the beautiful surroundings of the Cottage Garden. The Trust has supported *Frinton in Bloom* wherever possible. The results were very satisfactory; the town was again awarded an RHS Gold Medal. The *Resorting to the Coast* (RttC) project has finished and Tendring Heritage Cultural Group (THCG) has held its first meeting. We hope this legacy of RttC will show a long-term benefit to the Trust.

On 12 September 74 members enjoyed a splendid 35th anniversary supper at Frinton Golf Club. Linda Ellis and Ann Gladwell organized everything so well and we extend our thanks to them; it was, in addition, a financial success.

The new plant sales stall has been erected in the Cottage Garden, thanks to Alan Bowler, Martin Leech and the team, and was in use at Apple Day on 12 October. The weather that day varied between 'awful' and 'dreadful' but our team of volunteers, led by Ann Gladwell, worked wonders. Some 300 people came through the gate and, whilst income was less than hoped for, we can say 'it could have been worse'.

Our summer season is over; by the time you read these notes we will have enjoyed two winter social evenings. In December, for our Christmas social, Lisa Strong is coming to sing so make a note in your diaries for 3 December. Lisa is friend of many years standing; she is good and always worth hearing.

Finally a plea for help: your committee is revising the Trust's Constitution. A move to our becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organization is clearly necessary to reduce the potential financial liability of our trustees. Most of the initial work has been done, but the Trust needs someone with good computer skills and some legal/charity knowledge to move the project forward. If you think you can help then ring me on 01255 674678.

"Happy Christmas to you all!"

Apple Day

Ann Gladwell

“It was the Best of Times; it was the Worst of Times.” What better way to start this Apple Day report, than to quote Charles Dickens!

You could describe Saturday, 12 October as the worst of times because of the grim weather and our takings of £1,600 which were several hundred down from our usual expectations.



But it was also the best of times because our volunteers still turned out in strength: 300 people braved the weather to support us, and we still made £1,600, despite everything!

The bric-a-brac certainly helped save the day. It seems that people in general just love to sort through, until they find that special something. I always manage to donate a couple of things, but end up buying twice as much to take home!

The Committee decided in the Spring to keep the entrance fee at £1, but to charge for tea and coffee. This move wasn't popular with everyone, but as Trust costs go up, so must prices, I suppose. It did mean that with entry numbers being down due to the weather, money could still be earned by selling refreshments, somewhat off-setting our loss of gate revenue on such a rainy day.

Anyway, the Committee will discuss this matter further, and then decide if the changes are worthwhile and should be made permanent or not.

I think, however, that the closing time of 2pm, that was introduced in the Spring, was very popular amongst the stall-holders, who yet again, were rather soggy. And, rather against form, I let customers into the Gardens before the official opening time. I've never done this before, and certainly, not all stall-holders were ready to receive customers.



However, I'd looked at the forecast, and knew that we needed to get people into the Gardens as quickly as possible, because once the rain started, it was clear that it would be set in for the rest of the day.

Let's all make a gigantic effort for the Spring Fayre in 2020. Firstly, we need more cakes and savouries because a couple of our bakers just cannot manage the work anymore. We need bottles and jars for the Bottle Tombola. I've already stored half-a-dozen bottles in my loft, and I've got room for plenty more!

Our selection of bric-a-brac was pretty extensive this time and we hope it will continue. We also had some great raffle prizes donated; so, again, let's keep the



momentum going! And, yes, we've got plants arranged on our magnificent new plant stand, but other donations are happily welcomed, not to mention the books, jewellery and toiletries!

Dear volunteers, thank you so much for always turning out, especially some of our newer members, who may have felt a little shell-shocked by the time the fayre closed, or should I say, was washed away!

On a final note, I need to apologise to any of the volunteers that I have managed to confuse! Generally speaking, I either contact people by phone or speak to them face-to-face, and ask them if they are able to help at the next fayre. Potentially, this could be several weeks before the event. Some answer in the negative, while others say they will let me know because they are not sure if they will be free on that date. If they answer in the affirmative, I tick them off immediately, and it is quite likely that I won't speak to them again prior to the actual day. This has left some volunteers unsure whether they are still needed or not. Logistically, with about 50 people to speak to, a follow-up phone call is not really feasible. All I can say is, if you are unsure or can't recall previous conversations, then please give me a ring on 852914. Likewise, if you have agreed to attend but subsequently are unable to, please let me know in advance if at all possible.

Thank you once again to all our wonderful volunteers. See you at the Trust's Spring Fayre - on Saturday, 16 May 2020!



Trevor Bright Railway Museum

Tony Barrett

Little has changed in the past few months: visitors have enjoyed the displays (one man coming from Welwyn Garden City especially to see the exhibition of German Railway Bridges) but numbers remain low and our advertising is clearly inadequate. Exposure on Facebook will hopefully improve this position.

We plan to make entries in some railway magazines for clearly our members are not particularly interested and we therefore need to attract visitors from outside our area. Groups are really the answer for, as well as giving the Trust useful publicity, we can charge a modest fee thus improving our financial position.

We are concerned that all too often the waiting room at Frinton station is closed and our useful extension is not available. We fear that the illness of the usual ticket office clerk is not likely to improve the situation. It is likely that the planned 'opening event' at the Station will be delayed until early 2020. Members should check our website for up-to-date information in the New Year. Planning for 2020 is underway with the emphasis being on growth outside. Hopefully the semaphore signal will be erected by next season with the reconstructed original Walton ticket office also in place. As always my thanks go to my support team who make my task easier. To add to the usual list of David Bavister, Geoff Griggs and my wife Barbara, I should like to acknowledge help given by Alan Bowler, Martin Leech and our overworked Secretary, Brian Jennings.

The Trust's 35th Anniversary Dinner

John Barter

75 members and guests celebrated the Trust's 35th anniversary with a dinner at Frinton Golf Club on Thursday, 12 September 2019. Our President, Rachel Baldwin, welcomed the attendees and summarised the achievements of the Trust since 1984: the development of Walton Maritime Museum, Frinton Crossing Cottage & Garden, the Trevor Bright Railway Museum, and the rescue & restoration of *James Stevens No.14* lifeboat.

The President then proposed the toast to the Trust and its members with a glass of prosecco. Following the dinner many took part in simple country dancing to music of the *Jasper Ceilidh Band* before drawing the raffle, which raised £162 for *James Stevens No.14*. Everyone seemed to have a good time.

Our thanks particularly go to Linda Ellis and Ann Gladwell for all their skills in organising the event. We now look forward to our 40th anniversary.... !

Frinton in Bloom 2019

Rachel Baldwin

It has become something of a habit for Frinton to shine in the *Anglia in Bloom* competition, and so it was this year. At the awards ceremony in September, the town was again awarded an RHS Gold Medal. The judging panel said:

‘The gold winning Frinton Town continues to excel with its vibrant floral displays and continues to maintain the area to a very high standard throughout the year. This is mainly down to the hard working and enthusiastic In Bloom Team. The judges were treated to a leisurely tour of this very colourful and vibrant town. Key persons were stationed at strategic points to discuss their project in detail with the judges and this added to the enjoyment of the visit. It was interesting to note how knowledgeable the pupils were at Frinton Primary School, with a group of students at selected points to explain the technical aspects of their project. It was incredible that the Spinney garden Project was completed in 12 weeks. Well done everyone who is involved with Frinton in Bloom.’

Six individual sections of the town’s entry also achieved the Gold Standard in their own right: Tendring Technology College’s Eco Pond Project in the Biodiversity category, our own Crossing Cottage Garden in the Best Community Project class, the Triangle Shopping Centre in the Best Commercial Area section, Frinton & Kirby Beavers’ allotment in the Grow Your Own category and Frinton Primary Schools’ Gardening Club in the Best Young People (aged under 12) project. Tendring District Council’s Crescent Gardens won Gold twice: in the Best Local Authority Display class and in the Small Park category this year.

For many years, David Foster has led Frinton’s *In Bloom* team of volunteers. There is always much work in the run-up to judging which is normally in July. More helpers are always wanted, and residents who would like to be involved can get in touch with David Foster through the Heritage Trust. The whole town owes David a great debt of gratitude for his unflagging enthusiasm in running *Frinton in Bloom* which he seems to have done so successfully for ever!



From the Archives

Liz Bruce

Looking through the archives' old postcard collection, I have come across a potted history of Frinton-on-Sea's first policeman, Charles William Scott, written by his grand-daughter. Alan Hillier has also provided information from several censuses.

Charles was born on 6 May 1871 and transferred from Grays Police to be Frinton's constable in 1901. Here is an image of him (fifth from left) with his colleagues in Grays before his move to Frinton.



Here PC Scott can be seen riding his bicycle along Frinton Road towards Kirby Cross. According to the 1901 census, he lived with his family at Tendring so he probably cycled this route frequently.



A highlight of his days in Frinton would have been when Station Road was renamed Connaught Avenue by the Duchess of Connaught on 16 September 1904. We know he was on duty that day. [The Duke of Connaught, meanwhile,



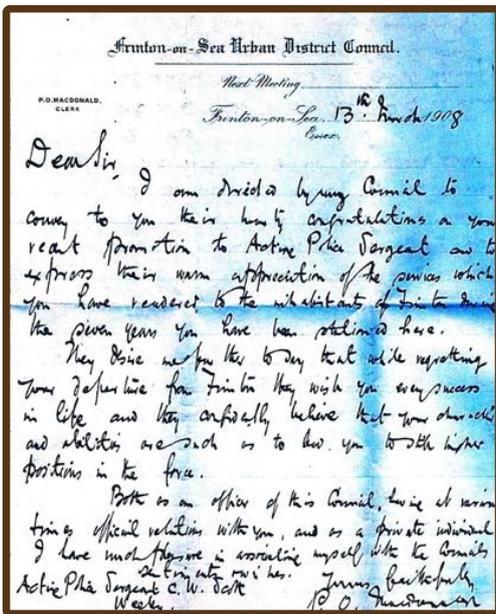
was inspecting military manoeuvres on Clacton beach.] The plaque commemorating this event (left) is mounted on Ashlyns House (below).

Another image shows him in a very

posh, probably new, motorcar outside the same building, on the corner of Ashlyns Road and Connaught Avenue, not far from Ratcliffe's Garage in Connaught Avenue. The little boys look very impressed.....with the car!



When Scott left Frinton in 1908, he received a handwritten letter from the Urban District Council, congratulating him on becoming an Acting Police Sergeant and to express the councillors' appreciation of the services he had rendered to the inhabitants of Frinton during his seven years stationed in the town. The 1911 census records him living at the High Street, Weeley as a Sergeant of Police, but we don't know where he worked after he left Frinton.



Charles married Annie Louise May of Southend at the end of 1895. They had a daughter, Edith May, and a son, Wilfred Preston. Wilfred is also recorded as living in Weeley and trained as an apprentice to Henry Ratcliffe, General Engineers of Great Holland & Frinton, from 1 November

1910 for five years when he probably went off to war. By 1939 Wilfred was living in Finchley as a buyer of aviation instruments and mechanical transport.

After retirement, Charles and Annie lived in Braintree for the rest of their lives. Charles carried out some duties for the County Court in Braintree including cycling miles over a wide area collecting court fines. He died in 1957, aged 86.

If you would like to know more about Frinton's early days, why not purchase a copy of "Frinton-on-Sea: A Brief History and Guide" available from the Trust, price £9.95.

Diary of Trust Events

Tuesday, 3 December: Christmas Social Evening. We will be entertained by talented local singer, Lisa Strong, prior to our Christmas Supper. Please bring a plate of food to share as usual. Venue: McGRIGOR HALL, Frinton-on-Sea at 7.30pm. Admission £3 members, £5 non-members.

Tuesday, 17 December: Christmas Coffee Morning (with mince pies!) at FRINTON CROSSING COTTAGE, 10am to noon.

Wednesday, 1 January 2020: New Year's Day Walk led by Mike Talbot followed by mulled wine and your shared food back at the Cottage. Meet at FRINTON CROSSING COTTAGE at 11am. A donation of £2 towards the cost of the wine would be welcome.

Tuesday, 21 January: Winter Coffee Morning at FRINTON CROSSING COTTAGE, 10am to noon.

Thursday, 23 January: Fundraising Supper Evening for *James Stevens No.14* at Walton & Frinton Yacht Club, Mill Lane, Walton-on-the-Naze, followed by a short slide-show. £22 per head: 7pm for 7.30pm. For bookings, or if you need transport, please contact Linda Ellis on 01255 852993 or the Trust Secretary via email.

Tuesday, 4 February: Winter Social Evening: 'From a Small Suitcase to 24 Years', a personal perspective of living and working in Hong Kong from 1990 to 2014 by Trust member, Dr Josie Close. Her experiences including the opening up of Vietnam in the time of 'swaps', Hong Kong's growing air pollution and environmental concerns, the business sector's role, and the hand-back of Hong Kong to China in 1997. Venue: McGRIGOR HALL, Frinton-on-Sea at 7.30pm. Admission £3 members, £5 non-members.

Tuesday, 18 February: Winter Coffee Morning at FRINTON CROSSING COTTAGE, 10am to noon.

Tuesday, 3 March: Winter Social Evening: 'Variety is the Spice of Life', a personal illustrated talk by Dr Dick Farrow from Clacton-on-Sea, including his life in General Practice, his work with the police, his perspective as principal medical officer at the 1971 Weeley Pop Festival (including film of this famous event), as well as his interest in the theatre and his appearance on the BBC's *One Show*. Venue: McGRIGOR HALL, Frinton-on-Sea at 7.30pm. Admission £3 members, £5 non-members.

Tuesday, 17 March: Winter Coffee Morning at FRINTON CROSSING COTTAGE, 10am to noon.

Thursday, 19 March: Fundraising Supper Evening for *James Stevens No.14* at FRINTON GOLF CLUB, Frinton-on-Sea followed by a short slide-show. £23per head; 7 pm for 7.30 pm. For bookings, or if you need transport, please contact Linda Ellis on 01255 852993 or via email secretary@fwheritage.co.uk.

Tuesday, 7 April: Winter Social Evening: ‘Memories of Blowers & Cooper’, Frinton’s ironmongery and hardware store from 1903 to 1998. An illustrated talk by Robin Cooper, grandson of its founder, George Cooper (1870-1967). Venue: McGRIGOR HALL, Frinton-on-Sea at 7.30pm. Admission £2 members, £3 non-members.

Easter Bank Holiday Weekend: Friday, 10 April to Monday, 13 April: Walton Maritime Museum, East Terrace, Walton-on-the-Naze, open daily 2pm to 4pm.

Easter Bank Holiday Weekend: Friday, 10 April to Monday, 13 April: Frinton Crossing Cottage Museum & Trevor Bright Railway Museum, both open daily 2-4pm.

Tuesday, 14 April: the season of weekly **Summer Coffee Mornings** starts at FRINTON CROSSING COTTAGE, open from 10am to noon.

Other events in 2020 can be previewed at:- www.fwheritage.co.uk/events with more information in our next newsletter which will be distributed at the end of March 2020.

Don’t forget to find us on Facebook too!



From the Editor **David Wicks**

Digital articles and / or images for inclusion in the Spring / Summer 2020 edition of this newsletter should be sent directly to me or to secretary@fwheritage.co.uk. Please ensure that material for inclusion is submitted no later than **Saturday, 15 February 2020**. Material received after this deadline will NOT BE INCLUDED. Information to be incorporated into the ‘*Diary of Trust Events*’ section should also be sent, preferably by email, to Brian Jennings (secretary@fwheritage.co.uk) by **Saturday, 8 February**.

Disclaimer: The publication of material in this newsletter does not imply that the views or opinions expressed are shared by the editor,
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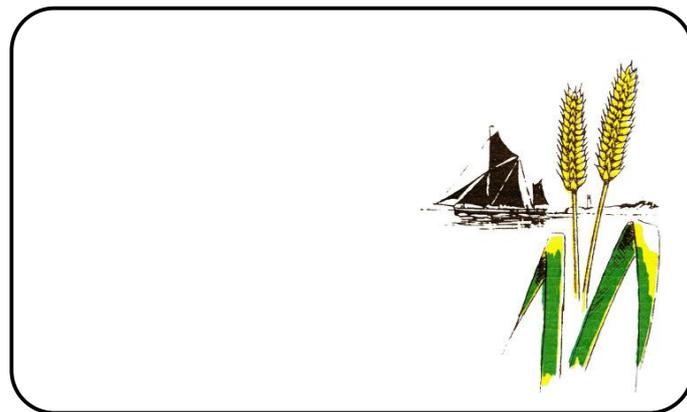
Please make a note now that VE Day will be celebrated on
Bank Holiday FRIDAY, 8 MAY.
(There will be no Bank Holiday on Monday, 4 May.)

On the evening of 8 May, Frinton & Walton Heritage Trust plans to light the
Naze Beacon, as we have done since 1988 to commemorate significant dates.

This will be followed on Saturday, 9 May by an exhibition at
Frinton Crossing Cottage on local events during the Second World War.
There will also be guided town walks.

The Spring Fayre will be on 16 May.

The Trust's AGM will be on 19 May at the McGrigor Hall.



Ask your friends to join the Trust!

For further information about the Trust, contact the Secretary,
Brian Jennings on 01255 861440 or email: secretary@fwheritage.co.uk

Visit us on www.fwheritage.co.uk

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