



Bassetlaw Heritage Network 4th July 2023

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Introductions and updates from partners
3. SPF Heritage and Arts funding – Georgina Lancaster
4. Heritage Week / Open Days
5. Other opportunities for collaboration and funding
6. AOB

Minutes – Tuesday 4th July 2023 – at Bassetlaw Museum

Attendees:

Fran Walker, Worksop Priory and Gatehouse Trust & BCVS
Rachel Wood, BCVS
Laura Sercombe, Bassetlaw Museum
Georgina Lancaster, Bassetlaw District Council UKSPF
Michael Tagg, Bassetlaw District Council
Jim Anderson, Friends of Retford Station
Diane Hunt, Walks of Life Museum
Sally Mitchell, Museum of the Horse
Jane Harrison, Bassetlaw District Council
Ruthie Boyes, Aurora Heritage & Wellbeing

Apologies:

Andria Birch, BCVS
Julie Barlow, Leverton Windmill

The meeting was chaired by LS and minuted by RW.

LS opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

LS gave an update on the Museum activities and their plans for the summer holidays which includes a variety of free activities for children throughout the six-week break.

She also mentioned their new exhibition and costume project.

They are also making big plans for Heritage Open Day which will be mentioned later.





MT explained his role at the council and how they can help with planning applications, consent for listed buildings, heritage at risk projects and support with bids to the heritage at risk fund. He is heavily involved with lots of projects and offered his support to all attendees. He also mentioned that he is currently supporting FW with repairs and improvements to the Gatehouse.

FW introduces herself and her role as Chair for both The Gatehouse Trust and BCVS. She shared the news that the Gatehouse Trust are currently in the process of applying for funding to repair the Gatehouse and get the gates back on. She also shared some history on how the Trust supported the upgrade of The Old Abbey School, which is the current BCVS office.

FW would also like everyone to watch the film that was created for the Gatehouse Trust to showcase the deep history of the building: <http://www.wpgct.org.uk/worksop-priory-gatehouse-the-movie/>

MT added that they are in the process of submitting a Historic England Repairs Grant for the gates which will fund 80% of the cost and various fundraising initiatives are taking place to raise the remaining 20%.

JA spoke about the work taking place by Friends of Retford Station. LNER currently leases the facilities to the group. It is a listed building and platform 1 is currently To Let which they hope will soon be used by something exciting. JA spoke about how the location of the station restricts visiting. They are currently waiting for the tea room to open, which should be soon, and they hope to have an art room and model railway in there again for the summer.

JA also gave the group an update on the Notts Bus Connect which can help support visits to any location in Bassetlaw and that it is easy to “book a bus” on the app or by telephone. Attendees all agreed to share the service to help increase visitors to each location.

DH spoke about the current projects taking place at the Walks of Life museum and their ongoing work with young people. They currently have a timeline of the Tuxford Railway which has helped visitor numbers. They are keen to grow their craft offerings to increase visitor numbers. They have been attending schools with their “what’s in the box” outreach work which has been popular. She also mentioned International Charity Day and how they are offering free stalls in the barn to local charities and groups on 16th September which will also include a talk on the Dambusters.

SM talked about the work taking place at the Museum of the Horse and their new “History of the Side Saddle” exhibition. This is on from now until the end of September and will also offer a talk and tour. Booking is required.

JH mentioned she is involved with lots of projects at the Council. There are plans to install Changing Places toilets at Retford Station and plans in place for one at Langold Lake and Kings Park. She also explained that they would like to do more at Creative Village in Worksop but that funding has run out and they are looking at options.

RB explained that Aurora is in their 4th and final year of their Health and Heritage project and is currently in the evaluation stage. They have successfully been awarded funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund to extend the offering as a legacy. This will include a creative programme and an increase to the art therapy. RB also explained that the new funding has also allowed Aurora to employ new people to help build on the success. This includes a Health and Heritage Coordinator, Business Development Officer and a Digital Communications Officer – recruitment is going well and they hope to have the new recruits in place soon.





JH described the area of Worksop that includes Priory Church, Old Abbey School, Priory Gatehouse, Aurora, the Cenotaph, Creative Village and the old Ryton Park Primary School as “Worksop’s Creative Cultural Quarter” which everyone agreed was an excellent name for this area.

RW gave an update on BCVS. She thanked MT for his support with new signage at the BCVS building which has taken a long time to get up due to the requirements of the listed building but they are in place now and look great.

RW also explained the plans BCVS have to document their 50th Anniversary with the support of Heritage Volunteers, which are currently being recruited. BCVS aims to exhibit their vast history, which includes an array of heritage, and showcase it in various way both online and offline and at an event later in the year.

RW also offered the support of BCVS to all attendees with funding applications, sharing of information, support recruiting volunteers, job vacancies, event sharing, and training opportunities and urged all attendees to ensure they have signed up the BCVS newsletter for all the latest information They can do this here: www.bcv.org.uk/newsletters

MT added that there are plans in plans for a CAMRA beer festival in Retford to promote the heritage of the pubs across the town and villages and to support them to stay open. There will be activities taking place throughout the festival. Some pubs are very isolated and he is keen to support them. Pub of the Year voting will change to help the non-town centre pubs have a chance with a fairer system. A bus tour of the pubs was suggested using the Notts Connect Bus or similar. SM suggested an exhibition of artifacts could be included as she has some 1930’s beer mats.

GL gave an update on the Heritage and Arts UKSPF funding. The funding will support Bassetlaw arts and heritage projects and is to be used for projects that need to be completed by March 2025. The applications will be live by 10/07/2023 and the funding is from £500 - £5,000. It is available to Bassetlaw heritage organisations that have a project idea that includes creativity and arts, includes pride and place, and takes into consideration the place based needs. She also updated members that Bassetlaw has the highest suicide rate in Notts and that anything that can also evidence support for suicide prevention would also be eligible to try and tackle this.

The funding round will open for approx. 4 weeks and projects need to be ready to start in September.

GL also offered her support with applying and developing ideas.

RW updated that another UKSPF funding stream will open soon that will be focussed on people and skills, and volunteering. RW added she would get confirmation on whether or not Organisations are allowed to apply for both if the projects are different. More details on this one will be revealed soon.

It was asked if volunteering can affect benefits. RW replied that Citizen’s Advice has a detailed section on their website regarding this but that people on benefits are allowed to volunteer and it is becoming more widely recognised by DWP and others how much volunteering can help people and support them in getting back into paid work with the skills and confidence they can gain.

RW again offered BCVS support to Organisations needing volunteers and explained the functions of the BCVS website and Volunteer Manager Accounts. RW asked if anyone will take age 15 volunteers as many Year 11 students that are not 16 until the end of August are interested in volunteering but there is a lack of opportunities for them. LS confirmed that the museum would be open to taking in from age 15 and so would DH at Walks of Life.

DH also mentioned the charity shop in Tuxford (CHINKS) is also open to younger volunteers and has taken Duke of Edinburgh students.





MT gave an update on the Rural England Fund. Charities can apply for capital works on repairs to buildings. RW will send this information to all attendees. Funding is a minimum of £10k and a maximum of £50k and VCSE orgs need to match fund 10% of their request. EOI are required by 18th July so there is not long to apply.

RW also mentioned National Lottery Awards for All is increasing to £20k from Autumn. She added now is the time to apply for funding if you meet the requirements of all these different funding streams, which most members do.

Members gave updates on Heritage Open Day/Weekend:

FW said GHT have plans for 16th September for an event at the Gatehouse.

LS shared the events taking place across Retford on 9th September.

RW will ask Stephanie Henry, POV Manager, if POV Volunteers would like to be involved as the theme is "Creativity Connected".

DH has an event on the 16th September.

SM is currently trying to register an event, we will share this when we know more.

RW reminded attendees that Leverton Windmill have their open weekend on 9th/10th September.

RW will add all Heritage Weekend events in Bassetlaw to a page on the BCVS website to share across the District. Please email rachel.wood@bcvs.org.uk if you have any more updates to share.

RW will send a poll via email to vote for a date for the next meeting.

LS and RW thanked everyone for attending.

Meeting closed.

