

FRIENDS OF DUKINFIELD OLD HALL CHAPEL

Patron: Andrew Gwynne MP

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Dukinfield Old Hall Chapel

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Secretary:

Catherine Freeman

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Annual Report April 1st. 2018- March 31st.2019

Paragraph 1: The Committee met 5 times during this year - 29th. May 2018, 6th. August 2018, 15th. October 2018(AGM Meeting), 10th. December 2018, 4th. February 2019. Officers were appointed at the Annual General Meeting on 15th. October 2018 being:- Janet Ford - Chair, Jackie Tucker - Treasurer, Catherine Freeman - replaced Roy Parkes as Secretary, Jill Nichols - Membership Secretary
Other members - Christine Clough, Godfrey Travis, David Dawson, and Roy Parkes.

Paragraph 2: At the meeting of 29th. May concerns were expressed about the new fencing that had been put up around the Chapel site and whether planning permission had been sought. The street sign -Old Hall Street - had also been removed. It was decided that the Council be approached about both these issues. On the 4th. February the Committee was informed that David had acquired a sign and he and Roy would arrange for it to put in place. On the recommendation of Andrew Gwynne MP it was decided that the Friends should become a member of the Manchester branch of Heritage Trust Network at a joining fee of £50.

Paragraph 3: On the 6th. August Roy and David outlined the 3 possible approaches to the question of who should pay the costs of the conveyance

(i) insist that the vendor pays (ii) encourage and motivate the vendor to pay or at least contribute (iii) suggest a 3 way split vendor/Friends/Council
The third approach was suggested to the vendor but no response has been received as yet and the matter remains unresolved. On 17th. October an email was received from John Miller at Heritage Trust North West stating that it was possible that the Council could issue a Compulsory Purchase Order and hand it over to the HTNW. This email was sent to the Council and a reply is still awaited. Jill and Jackie attended the Council's East Strategic Neighbourhood Forum to raise the subject of the Chapel but were disappointed that it was not an open forum and couldn't speak.

Paragraph 4: Publicity events the Friends were involved in include the Dukinfield Library Exhibition, Manchester History Festival in the Central library, the Archaeology Festival and the Dukinfield Festival and Tameside Heritage Open Day where two sessions were held,organised by Jackie and Jill, with 15 attendees.

Paragraph 5: Tameside Archaeological Society had attended the meeting on 6th. August and expressed a willingness to help with archaeological matters in liaison with Salford University Archaeological Unit.

Paragraph 6: The Treasurer is in the process of exploring the possibility of reducing website costs by changing the current provider GoDaddy to Wordpress. New membership records have been established to comply with new Data Protection Laws.

Paragraph 7: During this year we have met at the homes of Janet Ford and Jill Nichols and we thank them for their hospitality.

Catherine Freeman, Secretary to the Committee 11th September 201

Highlight of the present Year!!

On the 24th. May 2019 the Committee received the exciting news via Gay Oliver that Mr Thomas Averill Duckenfield was going to visit Dukinfield on the 1st and 2nd July 2019 and wished to visit the Chapel.

Who is Thomas Averill Duckenfield III?

He is a lawyer with an impressive resume having graduated from Princeton University and Harvard. He has worked at Wong Flemming, a firm of Diversity Lawyers in Washington and at the present time, he is CEO of TDBgov Company in Washington which provides a range of services and personnel to the US government. In addition to this work, Thomas Duckenfield is involved in the Menokin Trust which is in the process of restoring an 18th. century house in Virginia USA.

Why did Thomas Averill Duckenfield visit Dukinfield?

Thomas has spent many years researching his family tree and has written a book "Barons and Bastards" - a History of the Duckenfield family from English Origins to an American presence. The English origins include Colonel Robert Duckenfield of English Civil War fame. His Great Grandson owned a Jamaican plantation from 1700 and his mulatto grandson Billy Duckenfield became a runaway slave in 1767 who was caught and resold to John Cross, a plantation owner in Hanover County, West Virginia, USA.



Gay Oliver of Tameside History Forum became aware of Thomas Duckenfield during her own research of the Duckenfield Family on this side of the Atlantic and tried to contact him without success. However, it was he, who having read on the internet an article written by Gay about the Duckenfields, made contact with her and they have been corresponding and sharing their research ever since. Hence his decision to visit Dukinfield. Once the Committee had received the news we "pulled out all the stops" to arrange a Civic Reception and a tour of all the sites relevant to the Duckenfield family, including, of course, a visit to the Chapel. I am sure you saw the coverage of the visit in the local press and maybe on the BBC North West News. It was a privilege to meet Mr Duckenfield and his lovely family and the Friends hope that this connection will be maintained for a very long time.

Friends of Dukinfield Old Hall Chapel

The Eighth Annual General Meeting

Open to all those interested in the future of the Building

Monday 7th. October 2019

10.30am

at Old Chapel (Unitarian) Community Hall

Old Road, Chapel Hill, Dukinfield, SK16 4EN

To be able to vote would members please pay any outstanding 2019-2020 subscriptions (£5) to the Treasurer before the commencement of the meeting.

The AGM will be followed by a Committee Meeting, to which all present will be invited.

AGENDA

Item 1: Quorum.

Item 2: Minutes of the Seventh Annual General Meeting held on 15th. October 2018.

Item 3: Annual Report 1st. April 2018 to 31st. March 2019.

Item 4: Annual Accounts 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019.

Item 5: Election of Officers, to take office at the conclusion of the AGM. The current holders have agreed to continue for another year. Other nominations can be accepted at the meeting.

Chair - Janet Ford

Vice -Chair - Valerie Bowker

Treasurer- Jackie Tucker

Membership Secretary - Jill Nichols

Secretary - Catherine Freeman

Item 6: Election of not more than 8 members to the Committee.

All current members (named in the Annual Report) retire at the end of the AGM but are eligible for re-election. Other nominations can be accepted from the meeting.

Catherine Freeman

Secretary

24th. September 2019