

Our last social event, the first after our Events' Officer left, had a very small attendance and it was decided that the problems associated with events in general should be discussed in Any Other Business.

7 Events' Officer's Report

Unfortunately, our Events' Officer, Alison Younger, left for personal reasons earlier in the year. During her time she met with Chris Bryant from Chorley Arts Council and helped secure funding for the Dialect Day. She also organised the rota for Cuerdon Valley Sunday Market and organised and ran the Lancashire Concert during Fylde Festival. She organised three monthly socials, the first with a talk by Lindsay Smith on Dancing Masters and the second with a talk by Chris Pollington on the Lancashire Union Railway. Both these talks came after a short Lancashire Society meeting and finished with music, songs and poems from members. The third meeting, scheduled for December 2010, had to be cancelled due to the snow.

BH proposed a vote of thanks to Alison on behalf of the committee and society as a whole, for all the hard work she has undertaken. This was unanimously agreed by all present.

8 Archivist's Report

Unfortunately, CP has been unwell for some time and felt he has not been able to commit enough time and concentration to the archives. The website, however, continues to grow and develop. Some re-design is taking place to 'de-clutter' the home page and this has started with a notice board feature. Questions sent by members can be put there and other members can get in touch to (hopefully) supply the answers. CP wondered how long the questions should be left there.

CP has put the poems of JT Baron, the Blackburn poet, onto the site. The originals we had were newspaper cuttings from the old LDS. Diana Rushton, head of local history at Blackburn library, allowed her volunteer, Stephen Smith, to deduplicate them against the library's own archive. We left the originals with the library and loaded the resultant file onto our website. I have recently obtained another set of cuttings from Helen Baron, widow of the late John Baron, JTB's great grandson. Stephen is going to compare them against the others and again we'll get the copies and the library will hold the originals. These documents are scanned jpeg images that take quite a long time to load. CP will make site users aware that many archived images may be slow to load due to the size of the archive.

The archive will be divided into three parts: Photographs, Film and Audio Poetry. CP drew our attention to a website called 'Yorkshire for All' which has all kinds of film about Yorkshire, from old steam engines to holiday destinations. He wondered if

Lancashire has a similar website as he has been unable to find one. BC commented that the Leyland Historical Society has film on an external site and will make enquiries.

Due to the problem of slow loading of jpeg images on the site, BH and MD have offered to type up some of the poems that will be used for the Audio Poetry part of the archive. BC will ask members of the Edwin Waugh Society and the Lancashire Authors if they would like to take part in the recordings, either by reading their own dialect work or by reading a favourite poem or article by a dialect poet.

9 Publicity Officer's Report

'Palatine People' the newsletter of the Lancashire Society, has done extremely well although MD commented that it has been harder to get submissions from the membership this time. The latest edition will be available in a few weeks but will only be available via the website unless specifically requested.

MD has made contact with local newspapers and we also have contact with Alison O'Brien, Phil Brown and John Gilmore from local radio stations. Libraries remain very interested in our projects, as do Astley Hall and Brockholes.

Recently, MD was contacted by Alex Fisher regarding events at Burscough Wharf, which is a development of the old British Waterways buildings. The Lancashire Society will be involved in a Lancashire night being held in June and at their open days.

Following the reports, the committee was dissolved and elections took place.

10 Election of Officers

Chairman:	Brian Calderbank	Proposed by MD, seconded DB
Treasurer:	Andrew Hindley	Proposed by BC, seconded CP
Secretary:	Barbara Hindley	Proposed by CP, seconded MD
Archivist:	Chris Pollington	Proposed by BH, seconded BC
Publicity Officer:	Mark Dowding	Proposed by DB, seconded BH
General Members:	Alex Fisher, Johnny Matthews, Maggi Huyton	

11 Any Other Business:

BH queried whether we should have social events as they are usually very poorly attended. CP commented that 'Poetry Slams' are very popular but BC remarked that dialect poetry is particularly unfashionable with both the Edwin Waugh and Lancashire Authors suffering from diminishing membership. BC proposed the way

forward should be to offer entertainment to outside bodies and perhaps have two events within the society or produced by the society, one of which would be the Lancashire Concert during Fylde Folk Festival.

MD asked about the trophies belonging to the Lancashire Society and given out on Dialect Day, as the competition is going to be held in Louth this year. BC said that the trophies would be put up at Louth but would have some sort of engraving on them to say that they belong/started out with the Lancashire Society.

- 12 There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.40pm and the date for the **next AGM was set for Thursday March 22nd 2012**. Time and venue will be decided nearer the day.