

Watton Society Report to Watton Town Council. 20th April 2021

Grants

We had £60.80p balance from previous grants and have recently received a grant of £500.00.

Plaques and Heritage Trail

We have now ordered five plaques from Mercury Phillips as follows having obtained permissions for wording and placing from the owners of the properties or areas concerned.

The Old Railway Hotel

The Church Street Level Crossing

Knott's Yard

Loch Neaton

Site of Watton Railway Station

The cost for these five plaques will be £299.44.

There are at the moment two further plaques we would like to obtain and place. These are for firstly what was previously known as Harvey House and secondly for the Stevens Almshouses. Both of these properties are listed in the Heritage Trail booklet.

There was a plaque on Harvey House when it was known as Quinton House, but this was destroyed during building work. This is an imposing and important property and we feel it should be marked as such. The plaque would have appropriate wording to celebrate the building's history in Watton, to be agreed with the owners along with the placing. However we have not been able to ascertain who the owners of the building are and any help with this would be appreciated.

Stevens Almshouses are set too far back from the road for a plaque to be placed on them. Also it would not be desirable for people to be coming close to the buildings in order to read the plaque. Therefore it would need to be placed nearer the road, so a substantial post would be needed.

Fixing materials for plaques need to be obtained. We also need to fit protection material when the plaques are vulnerable to damage.

When the new plaques are in place and we know whether we can put plaques on Harvey House and the Almshouses we shall produce a leaflet to go into the Heritage Trail booklet giving updates. We still have quite a lot of Heritage Trail booklets and it is not cost effective to produce new ones. There will be a cost for materials for the leaflet.

Other expenditure we will have are website costs, updating and advice.

Other News.

During the period of lockdowns we have suspended subscriptions as we have not been able to hold our meetings as normal. We hope that in the near future we will be able to arrange face to face meetings again. In the meantime we have kept in close touch with our members through newsletters and have held a zoom meeting. This meeting was on the Mid Norfolk Railway and we were delighted with the attendance of thirty seven of our forty eight members. We are now considering further activities for this spring and summer.

We held the **Watton in Bloom** competition for the front gardens of Watton last year and will hold it again this year, as the Mayor has kindly agreed to judge it again for us.

We have also held the **poster competition** for children and shall do so again this year.

We have put some **quizzes in** the Wayland News and hope to continue with this as we are unable to arrange our usual annual quiz at the moment. We cannot thank Julian enough for his unfailing help over this especially difficult time.

The committee of the Watton Society – Leigh Cannon, Margaret Cator, Margaret Herbert, John and Judy Kerr, John Ward.