

Save Our Stute Monthly Meeting - 11th May 2022

Attendees: Sue Clarke (chair), Dene Clarke, Michelle Armstrong, Colin White, Samantha Townsend, Jane Hackworth-Young, Paul Harle, Kelly Ambrosini (minutes), John Raw, Dave Reynolds, Hazel Johnson

Apologies: Lisa Knight, Anth Knight, Lisa Turnbull

Minutes – accepted. Some actions still to be addressed: DR to organise joint meeting between SOS and committee, C34 form to be submitted. PH will have a look at the stage to see what work needs to be done to make it secure and safe.

Financial update

Current balance not given, SC to update group asap with figures.
SC –Accounts almost ready to send to HMRC. Low tax bill expected.

Volunteer hours update

Hours logged for April – 53 ½ Group were reminded to log any outstanding hours

Upcoming events

May Quingo – Quiz is written

Hank and the Hot Dogs – very low ticket sales but hoping the event can still ahead in the hope that some tickets will go at the last minute, with additional tickets being sold on the door on the evening.

Breakfast Club – tickets are now starting to move, still plenty of time to promote.

JUBILEE EVENTS WERE DISCUSSED TOWARDS THE END OF THE MEETING WHEN HJ JOINED

Heritage Rail Event (17th July) – JR updated the group on the progress of this event. 17 stalls will be in attendance. The event has been advertised in the Globe magazine and posters / leaflets will be distributed. It is hoped that the Shildon Singers will perform and that a buffet style refreshment offer will be in place. A walking tour will also be available, led by JHY

Activities – group agreed that the refreshing of the outdoor boxes be assigned to the Stute Women to organise

- All thanked PH for his generous efforts of installing lights in the committee room as well as fixing the perimeter fence outside. PH mentioned that some steel fencing could be available FOC if the committee were agreeable to replacing the fence. **ACTION – SC/MA/CW to take this to the committee**

Heritage Compass update

DR updated the group on the course so far. He emphasised the need for better working practises, in both SOS/SHA and SRI committee. Committee need to take on more responsibility. JHY questioned whether this could be emphasised in a joint meeting. Suggested that we should remind the committee of what state the business / building was in before we stepped in and how much it's improved since.

Committee update

CW reported that the committee have a laptop for membership renewals but this has not been seen since it was first acquired and was taken away by one of the committee members. There has been a resignation on the committee and no new appointments. Committee are keen to have a projector and screen installed in the main hall to show sporting events, films, etc. Could now mean that the Stute could be a conference facility.

CW expressed his frustration at the lack of forward thinking and proactivity of some committee members. JHY offered to help express concerns / ideas in a meeting, emphasising from her point of view how important the organisation of the Institute is and what Timothy Hackworth's vision for an Institute was.

Jubilee Celebrations

HJ updated the meeting on the planned events for the Jubilee celebrations. It was agreed that proceeds from the Race Night will be donated to the Quinn's Retreat charity.

AOB

- Stairwell project – Darren Blood to start work on redecorating the stairwell on Sat 14th May
- JHY has donated a large number of pictures and railway magazines to the Institute in the hope that the pictures will be displayed and that the magazines can be catalogues in a library, along with our existing collection of reading material. Thanks were given to Jane for this generous donation.
- ST alerted the group to a number of funding opportunities with the AAP, the co-op and Durham Community Action – strongly advised we put together costed wish-lists in the event that we can apply for some funding
- ST reported that she had visited Darlington Railway Institute with the Friends of the S and DR and their business model was compared to SRI. Encouraged SRI to have some cultural exchanges with DRI
- DR informed the group that SHA public liability insurance is due (£140)
- DR also reported that a company tendering a bid for the Railway Museum's 2nd shed is looking to potentially house some volunteer groups. **ACTION – DR to send blueprint document so they can see what type of group we are and what our aims are**
- DR has written to Durham Community Trust where he has asked for independent advice on what form / constitution SRI should adopt
- PH has agreed to look at the stage in the main hall with a view to making any necessary repairs. The group insisted that Paul be paid for his work.

Next meeting Wednesday 8th June at 7.15pm, middle room, first floor, SRI