

## **NEW EARSWICK LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

### **Report by the Chair**

#### **AGM April 2021**

At the end of 2018, following the re-opening of the Folk Hall, the idea of a New Earswick Local History Society was suggested by The Rowntree Society. The first meeting was held in late 2018 and in early 2019 the first speaker attended. The group continued to meet throughout the year, and into the next, with attendance from approximately 25 to 30 people.

A trustee committee was formed and thanks to their work the Society has charitable status, an email account, a bank account and a bank balance thanks to funding from the local Ward Committee and the New Earswick Parish Council.

What we don't have currently is the ability to meet due to the pandemic, and the meetings are on hold until further notice. This unfortunately makes us unable to fulfil one of the main aims of the society in providing a forum for locals, and other interested parties, to exchange ideas and information about the history of this village. An aim which we achieved beyond expectation, during the first year of existence, with several well attended monthly talks from various speakers.

The topics included a talk on the Cocoa Works magazine, a student archaeologist shared his knowledge and an archivist from Explore York encouraged the society to make use of the York Archive. A trip to Scalby and Scarborough took place in September 2019 to hear about and visit the Rowntree's family origins and legacy in that area.

Examples of potential areas of interest are listed below:

- The Embroiderer's Guild demonstrated interest in providing a wall hanging for the Folk Hall and following discussion with the trustees have produced a design incorporating the NELHS symbol.
- Conversations were taking place to gain active support from The University of York with particular note of the Borthwick archives which hold much of the history of the village.
- A sub-group are researching a project to put up a number of information panels in the village to provide information on the history of the buildings. We are checking which buildings might be suitable with the village. Socially- distanced outdoor meetings are taking place in April to discuss this project with interested parties.
- The trustees are working on setting up a simple website to keep people informed of the Society's activities and display some of the material we hold. This will give the Society the opportunity to disseminate the results of any findings to a wider audience. A funding application has been made and granted to support this objective.

Hopefully all these avenues can be pursued again in the near future. The research and documentation provided by the attendees was exemplary, and confirms the need for the society to continue. The local knowledge within the village is in danger of being lost as time goes on and the volume of photos, books and memories shared at the meetings proved this point.

In conclusion there is enormous interest in continuing the Society, from residents and non-residents but also from the academic world. The enthusiasm and energy embedded in this unique village will move this forward and hopefully the meetings will re-start in the not too distant future.

Sue Glenton

Chair of New Earswick Local History Society

