

## CHAIR'S REPORT FOR SPURN, KILNSEA AND EASINGTON AREA LOCAL STUDIES GROUP FOR 2019/21

SKEALS was formed in the summer of 2006, so we are now into our 15th Year. The Management Committee at present consists of myself, Jan Crowther, as Chair, with Heather Gatt as Vice-Chair. Diane Horncastle as Secretary, with Kim Dalton, Treasurer, and Mike Welton, Archivist and manager of our publications, and our digital material. Since the first lockdown Nick Jackson has been added to the Management Committee. I am standing down as Chair at the AGM as I have moved to Beverley to be nearer to family but would want to remain a member. Heather, our Vice Chair, has also said she wishes to stand down. So, we need replacements for both these roles. Other Officers are, I understand, happy to continue. In 2019 we were very pleased to welcome several new members.

The AGM had been planned for May 2020, but like just about every social activity it has had to be postponed. We had a good programme planned but from March all such activities were put on hold. As soon as meetings can take place, we shall hold it.

Perhaps our most significant recent achievement was the publication of a new book — *Philip Warrener Loten: taxidermist and museum creator*, by Mike Welton. We had applied for a grant from Easington Enhancement Fund to pay for its publication and to reprint an earlier book — *Memories of Spurn* by George Jarrett. We were very pleased and grateful to be awarded this grant and would like to thank Easington Parish Council, which manages the fund. Design wing designed the Loten book for us, and it has been very well received.

Our usual meeting is the third Tuesday in the month. Our programme of events over the last year (effectively 2019) included a very successful exhibition to launch the new publication on Philip Loten, in All Saints' Church Easington. As usual we had a presence at the Spurn Bird Observatory Migration Festival in September. In October we manned a stall at the History Book Fair at Hull Minster. We had three very successful outings. Our talks programme was well-attended. We also had several members' meetings, one of which included scrutiny of all the photographs submitted for the gas company's calendar for 2020. We are most grateful to Dave Longhorn for preparing the photographs. The calendar was distributed to all households in the parish and this year some went to Skeffling too. We had to plan the calendar for 2021 without all our members available for discussion. Accordingly, the Management Committee carried out the task. The subject matter was Trades and Occupations of the Eastend Area. We are grateful to Mike Welton for researching and providing the photographs and Nick Jackson for preparing the photos for print and everyone who helped.

We have been fortunate to have help from Lee Cousins with our web site. With the help of a sub-committee Lee has updated the site. He has now indicated he wishes to retire as our web master and Sarah Pattison has agreed to take over.

Book sales continue and the leaflets advertising the Trail are spread far and wide. Our books are on sale at Vowles at Patrington, at the Crown and Anchor, Kilnsea, and at the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust Visitor Centre.

Phone box. The traditional phone box in Easington has been decommissioned and was offered by Easington Parish Council to Skeals for care and refurbishment. I would like to thank Mike Welton for being the leading light in this enterprise and raising funds and carrying out much of the work, which is now complete and much appreciated by all.

JAN CROWTHER. May

2021

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