

Spurn, Kilnsea & Easington Local Studies Group (SKEALS)

Chair's Report for 2021/22

The SKEALS group is now in its 16th year, having been formed in 2006 to coincide with the publishing of Jan Crowther's book, 'The people along the sand'. Jan stood down as Chair at the Annual General Meeting held last October. We are happy to say she remains a lifelong member and Honorary President. The group currently has a membership of around 24 and a management committee made up of 5 of the members. At present, the committee consists of myself, Nick Jackson as Chair, Diane Horncastle as Secretary and Kim Dalton, Treasurer, Mike Welton who is our Archivist and manager of our publications and digital material and Sarah Pattison, who is our Webmaster.

Although it is only 6 months since our last AGM, with the relaxing of the covid restrictions, we have brought the meeting back in line with our constitution.

It has been an up and down period since our last meeting. Sadly, we have lost two of the group's valued members and friends, Robina Herrington, and Joan Maxwell. We have also had to suspend our programme of events until very recently, again due to the covid restrictions. On the upside, however, we were able once again to supply the pictures for the annual gas terminals calendar. Our thanks go to the members who contributed to it. Due to the pandemic, we only had a short time to put it together.

Book sales continue to go well and is our largest income provider at the moment. Our thanks go to Mike Welton for his work on managing the publication sales. The group has published several books and publications over the years, on various local topics.

The constitution was updated at the February 2022 ordinary meeting. The changes allowed for more members to sit on the management committee and includes a section on Internet Banking and Budget Control. Our thanks go to Kim Dalton for her tireless work keeping and preparing our accounts, and who is currently changing over our bank account to internet banking. Providing a safer and cheaper way of banking.

Our website is a tremendous asset, as it contains a large archive historical data and images, as well as recording our events and visits over the years. The website was beginning to look a bit old and tired, as it was set up some time ago. We are extremely pleased to be able to announce, that the website has now been completely revamped and been given a more modern look and feel. The information it contains is still the same and nothing has been lost. Our thanks go to Sarah Pattison, who has spent many a long evening putting the new website together.

On Saturday 23rd of April, a dozen or so members and friends visited the churches at Holmpton and Hollym. Our thanks go to Andy Clubley for organising the visit. It marked a milestone, as it was our first trip out as a group for a couple of years due to covid restrictions. The visit will be the first to be recorded on the new look website.

Looking forward, we hope to have a full programme of events and visits this year. There are already 2 or 3 visits and talks being organised by members. Trips to Beverley, Barton, and Hull Trinity House are on the horizon, as well as talks from Simon Davies and Alec Gill. Our thanks go to Jan Crowther, Pat Swales, Di Horncastle, and Ken Walker for getting the ball rolling.

I must also give a special thanks to Di Horncastle, who has over the years taken on the unofficial job of Social Secretary. This can involve a lot of work besides her official duty as group Secretary. Rather than put the burden on one member to organise events or visits, we now hope individual members can get involved in our programme and share the workload.

We have already been asked to provide the photos for the 2023 Gas Terminals calendar. This year we ask all local residents who are eligible to receive a calendar, to be part of the calendar production. The theme for the 2023 calendar is 'Seasons'. We have been advertising this on social media and in the monthly newsletter and will continue to do so during the year.

Finally, we welcome new members Angie Jackson and Steph Walker to the group. All members are thanked for their continued support. Spread the word and encourage new members. We want SKEALS to grow and go from strength to strength. We cannot do that without your support.

Nick Jackson, Chair of SKEALS

April 2022