



Wimborne History Festival

Chairman's Annual Report Feb 2017 – Feb 2018

Accounting period Feb 2017 – 2018:

The Accounts for 2017/18 have been filed at Companies House and I would like to thank our Treasurer Ian Faulkner for managing the accounts over this period, and would also like to thank Accountants Thomas and Woolven for reviewing and submitting the accounts on behalf of Wimborne History Festival Ltd.

Changes at Board Level

During the period Feb 17 – Feb 18 the following changes were made:

James Webb and Andy Williams were appointed as Directors during summer 2017.

Ian Faulkner stood down as a Director in summer 2017; he has, however, remained as an independent Treasurer.

Malcolm Angel and Kelly Webb stood down as Directors in February 2018.

On behalf of the Board the Chair would like to thank both Malcolm and Kelly for their support and hard work to help the development of the Wimborne History Festival Board and Festival plans.

Dr Alistair Somerville Ford joined the Board temporarily but had to step down due to ill health. On behalf of the Board the Chair would like to thank Alistair for his support and advice during this time.

The Chair would also like to thank James and Andy for their support in the planning process for the 2018 Festival during this period.

Projects

HLF funded project at St Michaels School – Bronze Age Interpretation Board

In the Autumn term of 2017 the final project with St Michaels School was completed. The new interpretation board was unveiled by Cllr Derek Burt, the Chairman of East Dorset District Council.

The project was to design and illustrate a Bronze Age Barrow Interpretation board to inform present and future pupils from the school about the scheduled ancient monument within the school grounds. This was funded by the HLF and had involved the clearing of the barrow the previous year. Archaeologist Keith Child taught the children about the Bronze Age and about barrows and their purpose. The Priest's

House Museum provided some bronze-age artefacts for the children to see, which may have been buried in a barrow such as theirs.

Martin Brown, the illustrator from Horrible Histories, and Graphic Designer Richard Broadway then worked with the children to help them draw illustrations for the board to accompany text about their Bronze Age Barrow.



Archaeologist Julian Richards had talked to students in an assembly to the whole school about this important archaeological feature the year before, and kindly agreed to help launch the board and spoke to

the audience of children, parents and invited guests. Each of the children were presented with a mini version of the interpretation board. Match funding for this project had been provided by Colehill Parish Council.

Photo shows WHF Directors with Julian, Keith, Martin and the five pupils.

WHF would like to extend its thanks to those who made this final 2016 HLF funded project possible

- Martin Brown
- Richard Broadway
- Lynda White
- Rachel Limb
- Keith Childs
- Priest's House Museum
- All the staff involved at St Michaels School
- The five year 5 pupils who created the art work
- Colehill Parish Council
- Peter Sriven
- Julian Richards
- The Heritage Lottery Fund

Planning for 2018 Festival

February 2017 to February 2018 was otherwise a quiet period of planning for summer 2018, with little financial activity.

After much discussion the Board decided to alter the format used for the 2016 Festival and to hold a Festival with just one theme, to keep planning and expenditure

under control and to focus more deeply on one era over the weekend. As the '100 years armistice' would be the same year it was decided to commemorate this 100 year anniversary in Wimborne with project work to explore life in Wimborne during WW1, and 100 years since women won the right to vote, through Living History activities and project work.

Having considered the feedback from our first Festival, in 2016, it was agreed that the Festival would be brought fully into the town centre, to enable more people to interact with it as free event. This decision, however, put the committee in the position of having to raise all the expenditure through grants and sponsorship rather than through income on the gate.

A fundraising plan was drawn up for this period.. An Heritage Lottery Fund application would require the raising of sufficient match funding; fortunately for the committee a donation to the Festival was given.

The Board of Directors would like to extend the warmest of thanks to our sponsor, Dr Alistair Somerville Ford, for giving us the donation and enabling us to apply (successfully) for HLF funding. It also enabled us to appoint Historical Productions to provide the Living History weekend programme of activities and to appoint project manager Rachel Limb to progress the Festival programme planning. Funding applications to both the Wimborne Minster Town Council and Wimborne BID were also successful.

The Board agreed the Festival was to have a local community flavour and any (limited) marketing budget would focus on promotion in Wimborne/East Dorset.

Other work during this period included collaboration with other Wimborne Festivals including creating a shared storage project and shared equipment marking a new period of closer collaboration with event committees.

New Writing Competition

Local Historian Janet Seal also launched a new Wimborne History Festival writing competition for schools and community. Janet intends to repeat this successful project for 2020.

This concludes the report for 2017/18

WHF 2018

Although the Board will be reporting on WHF 2018 at our next AGM in 2019, I would like to take the opportunity now to comment on how thrilled the Directors were with the reception our 2018 Festival received from the Community.

Our greatest aim in 2018 was to connect with the people of Wimborne - to educate and involve them in exploring the Wimborne's heritage and people during WW1 as well as informing about the history of the era.

The Silent Soldier project was undoubtedly the highlight of the weekend – it was both a moving and poignant reminder of the sacrifice our own community made during WW1, and the Board of Directors would like to specially thank Gill and Tony Horitz for such a professional production, which provided such a special commemoration for Wimborne. The project combined professional actors and volunteers who worked tirelessly in blistering heat; we would like to specially mention their work, which touched the heart of all who met them.

The feedback we gathered from July's Festival was incredibly positive and has given us confidence to continue to deliver our future Festivals with the same ingredient of local heritage mingled with a flavour of life during the period of history chosen, through living history activity and projects.



The Festival would not be possible without collaboration with many people and organisations and the Board Directors would like to give an enormous thanks to the following people for making the 2018 Festival happen:

Funders:

Sponsors & Funders

Dr Alistair Ford
AKA Builders
The Heritage Lottery Fund
Wimborne Minster Town Council
Wimborne BID
Colehill Parish Council
Christchurch and East Dorset District Council
Ian Faulkner
Thomas and Woolven

Partners

Allenbourn Middle School

Allendale Centre Staff and Volunteers
Andrew Chorley – Photographer
Café on the Square
Chris Brown - Historian
Dorset Police and Fire Service
East Dorset Heritage Trust
Gullivers Bookshop
Historical Productions and all the Living History Groups
Imperial War Museum
Michele O Brien
Priest's House Museum Staff and Volunteers
QE School
Radio Wimborne
State of Play Arts & Alistair Nisbett
Stour and Avon Magazine
The Minster, Churchwardens and volunteers
The Royal British Legion
The Royal Signals Museum
The Silent Soldiers (actors)
Village Green Café
Vision Wimborne
Walford Mill Crafts
White Sheep Marketing Solutions
Wimborne Army Cadets
Wimborne Camera Club
Wimborne History Festival Volunteers
Wimborne Minster Folk Festival
Wimborne Rotary Club
Wimborne Rugby Club

Project Manager

Special Thanks to the hard work and expertise from our Project Manager Rachel Limb for pulling the entire WHF 2018 programme together (White Sheep Marketing Solutions).

Website & Facebook

Our website continues to be a source of information about our activities and plans.

Our Governance documents can also be sourced from here as well as a gallery of photos from past events and projects.

www.wimbornehistoryfestival.org.uk

Finally – into the future

We are excited to announce:

WHF Festival - July 18 & 19 2020

SITT Festival beginning July 20 or July 27

Both Festivals will have a Georgian Wimborne theme

...more details will be put up on the websites as the plans progress.

The Directors would welcome helping hands from the community to assist us, get involved and help either to plan, organise or deliver the 2020 Festival.

More details on how to volunteer are on our website.

Sting in the Tale Festival - July 2019

WHF has offered '**Sting in the Tale** a festival of stories' a governance structure and taken it under the Company Wimborne History Festival Ltd during 2018.

Mike Rogers has joined the Board of Wimborne History Festival Limited, and will be leading on a come-back Sting in the Tale Festival in July 2019 with support from the rest of the Board.

However it is crucial a new SITT management committee is recruited – so please if you can help, let us know.