

Waltham Abbey Royal Gunpowder Mills – Report of Councillor Helen Kane

Meeting held with the Directors on the 22nd of February 2014.

The Chairman opened the meeting thanking everyone present. He mentioned the three publicity events that had raised the profile of the site to a wider audience as Jeremy Paxton had visited the site when he was filming a documentary about the World War I, The TV programme “Flog it” and the “Antiques Shop”. As a result the Gunpowder Mills had been given major exposure through the national TV channels.

The Chairman introduced Mr Brian Harvey, with a proposal as a new trustee. The members agreed the nomination.

Report from the Chief Executive:

Year end report: With 20,000 visitors, school visits have proven very successful, so the company is continuing with the educational functions and birthday parties.

The storms caused enough damage to close the site for one day. Volunteers had cleared the branches fallen from the trees and had worked on the L160 building /Barn roof which was badly damaged. The cost of maintaining the site is increasing, more than what has been budgeted for but the company is optimistic that this will be balanced with the amount of visitors. There is a Conservation Management Plan in place.

The Deer management is on -going. At the moment there are 40 deer on site, the target is 16-20.

The official opening, other than school visits, was from half term 15-23 February and Easter from 5-21 April. The company is concentrating on school visits for KS1 and KS2 from January to almost the end of the year.

In general the Waltham Abbey Gunpowder Mills have an excellent record of visitors for all ages, but especially for children , attracting young visitors not only from the local schools but from all over the UK.

Councillor Helen Kane