

Report of Councillor H Kane on the Waltham Abbey Royal Gunpowder Mills Company Directors meeting held on the 16th of November 2013 at 11.00am

The Chairman, Mr John Bowles started the meeting with the news that the CEO, Mr Andrew Coates has renewed his contract.

There were no major problems from the storm – they only closed for one day in order to evaluate any damage.

The Foundation Trust came to visit the site to see any building repairs in progress, the railway etc; the Foundation Trust subsidises heavily the Waltham Abbey RGM.

The Chief Executive went through his report announcing that the amount of visitors for October were according to projections, a constant flow, although always aiming for a higher number.

At present a lot of the tickets are sold online, so the admin office will monitor through the postcode information where the visitors come from.

The café is still working very well attracting more visitors, although the gift shop is still under-performing.

Birthday parties are very popular in this site, especially as the educational visits have been so successful.

There is a lot of research for additional funding through different ways of fundraising.

The CEO also mentioned that the W/Abbey RGM have joined forces with CITEC – engaging long term unemployed people with voluntary work i.e. sweeping paths and generally keeping the place tidy, with some more important projects in mind for the near future.

The Royal Gunpowder Mills rely and are grateful for the amount of volunteers who help with the keep of the site.

This Christmas the only attraction will be the Christmas Pantomime organised by the Dance Group that occupy one of the buildings.

The attractions for the New Year 2014 will be announced in the February meeting.

Next Meeting is scheduled for Saturday the 21st of February 2014 at 11.00am