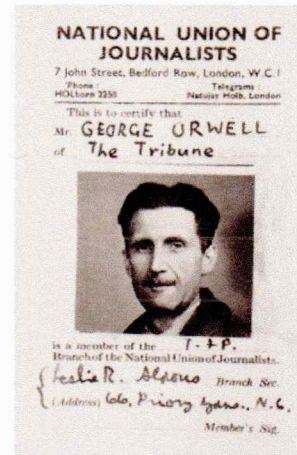


SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 2022-2023

This past season's lectures have been 'back to normal' at the Nordic Centre, held as advertised.



The two easily recognised pictures are on the branch's website, www.herha.org.uk. and reflect the range of our lectures. In October Glenn Burgess spoke about George Orwell's writings influencing the post World War 2 generation, and the tension between his socialist commitment and his bitter criticism of restricted liberty in many socialist regimes. The amazing BBC archives with tapes of television and radio programmes, and all the background material were part of the lecture in November related to the BBC's centenary. To avoid the darkest evenings we did not meet until late February when John Bernasconi spoke on 'Art and Celebrity in the Renaissance', with a gallery of art slides; and in March Barbara English showed how we can see in the Bayeux Tapestry picture of Harold 11's January 1066 coronation the traditions which featured in Charles 111's ceremony. Both talks were advertised by the Friends of the Ferens and about ten visitors came to both events. As this branch is part of the national Historical Association every President tries to visit each of the 50 branches during three years in office. Professor Peter Mandler, a contemporary historian, came in April and we enjoyed considering through the talk 'The jogger, the mugger and the hipster' the changes as groups were moved from inner cities to newer areas and the younger, often professional, families moved in and smartened up old areas. This evening there is a new topic for us to enjoy; 'Cricket in Yorkshire'.

All our meetings have been at the Nordic Centre, which most still know as the Danish Church. The welcome here, and the relaxed atmosphere, as well as all who come, make this a venue which encourages discussion. Our speakers often comment on the friendly and preceptive questions they get, and how discussions open up. Thank you to everyone.

The branch's visits this season have been really appreciated. Barton upon Humber reveals a changing and prosperous community in every street. Richard Clark was excellent in guiding us on our September visit. Last week we were fascinated by Hornsea Museum which has been developed in a 300 year old farm house and outbuildings. Volunteer guides enabled us to find out about local farm and market town life in the last two centuries. Thanks to Vivien and Duncan Feetham for arranging these visits.

Membership. The national Historical Association membership has almost doubled in the past five years, mainly as teachers joined to benefit from excellent education materials online. National members linked to this branch are from all over East Yorkshire and a few from the South Bank. Total: 73. Local members: about 20. Communication to members and many others whom the committee hopes will be interested is important. Since 2021 we have a website; www.herha.org.uk which is updated to inform people about talks and the speakers. Our email list enables reminder information about events to be sent, and is open for anyone. If you wish to join this, please see Vivien.

Sylvia Usher. 16.05.23