

7.Membership Secretary's Report:

Present total membership:	<u>53</u>
Of those: Ordinary and Family:	45
Corporate:	8

Paid to date: 46
In arrears: 7

3 new members were gained last year.

The mills on N.W.M.G. leaflet which are not members were sent a letter inviting them to join but there has been no response.

8.Reports on Mills:

a. Marsh Mill: John Ingham from Melrose did not attend the meeting so there is no update about the repairs or the early termination of the lease.

Margaret was invited to a meeting of the Thornton Action Group which is now taking an interest in the future of the mill and are interested in liaising with us. Their united opinion is that W.B.C. should complete their 20 year lease.

Following complaints about the lack of access to the upper (machinery) floors, and contact with Councillor Ron Greenhough, a volunteer system is in the process of being put into place to support Graham James who is employed to work there.

Margaret has had a meeting with two officers from W.B.C. about publicity and beginning the process.

b.Lytham Mill: Work is in progress to obtain the timber necessary to construct the two new sails and repair the fantail, all damaged by the gales earlier in 2010. Work to be carried out by Joe Gillett and his son Nicholas.

c.Little Marton Mill: It has been agreed that work can be carried out to remove the mound at the side of the mill to prevent water ingress.

It is anticipated that the toilets will be removed and replaced with a better invalid toilet and also a domestic area created for the making of refreshments etc.

The amount of money for these and other projects has been reduced so priority has to be re-thought.

d.Bunbury Mill: Although a Trust has been formed to take over Bunbury Mill we have received no information as to progress.

9.Publicity

Margaret - Table-top displays to publicise the group and encourage new members were held at – Lytham (History Day), UCLAN (Preston), CNWRS Lancaster University, Staining (Fylde).

A few items were sold and one new member gained.

A two day event is booked this year at a classic vehicle event near Fleetwood.

Also part of a display in Marsh Mill for “Mills Open Weekend” and later part of a display in Heron Corn Mill celebrating thirty years of the N.W.M.G.

If anyone can suggest other suitable venues please contact Margaret.

30 Year Anniversary of the North West Mills Group
Special Display at Heron Corn Mill
28th, 29th, & 30th May 2011

Audrey said that although there had been a good response from certain mills and members, it is disappointing that more mills have not agreed to send some material for representation. She is in the process of drawing up a promotional leaflet.

10.Outings:

Steve is to follow up suggestion that we may be able to visit Muncaster Mill and Eskdale/ Boot on one visit.

He is also to investigate a possible visit to Mickle Trafford Mill in Cheshire.

Nether Alderley has been suggested but is only visited by arrangement.

A casual visit may be arranged by Margaret to Milton Mill in Cumbria which is privately owned and not open to the public.

11.Election of Officers & Committee

Chairman: Steve Whiteley has resigned from the position but is willing to continue on the committee.

Minutes Secretary: Janet Edmunds has resigned from the role and the committee due to other pressures.

Website Manager: Steve Williams has resigned due to other pressures.

Charles will ask Mike Brereton if he will take it on again.

Egbert Peereboom has been unable to play an active part on the committee and Steve will ask him whether he wishes to continue.

The following are willing to continue for another year:

Treasurer: Jim Woodward- Nutt

Membership Secretary: Margaret Croker

Newsletter Editor: Stuart Mousdale

(Secretary: vacant)

Ordinary Committee Members:

Mike Brereton (see above)

Charles Rowntree

Mildred Cookson – (in her absence)

Shirley Matthews – (in her absence)

Elected to join the Committee:

Stuart Hobbs from Heron Corn Mill, who agreed to be **Chairman**.

Audrey Steeley from Heron Corn Mill.

As there is no secretary it was agreed that the minutes at Committee Meetings would be taken in turn by a member present.

*At this point in the meeting Steve Whiteley stood down as Chairman and Stuart Hobbs took the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

The new Committee is as follows:

Chairman:	Stuart Hobbs
Treasurer:	Jim Woodward-Nutt
Membership Sec.:	Margaret Croker
Newsletter Editor:	Stuart Mousdale
Website Manager:	Mike Brereton (to be confirmed)

Ordinary Members:

Mildred Cookson
Shirley Matthews
Charles Rowntree
Audrey Steeley
Steve Whiteley

The Future of the Group:

A discussion took place about why anyone should wish to join and whether we are of any help to mills with publicity;

The original intentions of the group such as research and hands-on activities seem to have faded due to ageing membership and lower numbers.

Stuart Hobbs will contact other mills to ask what they might like from us in the way of help.

Any Other Business:

Charles gave us a description of the remains of a mill site owned by Blair Williamson, our latest new member who lives at Ulverston. Spoil from a neighbouring excavation site had been dumped on the mill site at Little Carlton Mill. Mr. Williamson is working at trying to excavate the mill remains and has exposed part of a mill stone. So far legalities have got in the way.

Date of the next Annual General Meeting: To Be Arranged due to the uncertainty of the W.B.C./Melrose arrangements and therefore the availability of the meeting room.

The Meeting closed at: 3.30p.m.