Copies of emails between CW and CD in April 2013
Received from more than one source

From: Chris Williams
Sent: Wednesday, April 10, 2013 5:37 PM
To: CHRIS
Cc: Frank King ; Graham Stapleton ; Jackie Jones ; Chris Lusby Taylor ; David Brown ; Bill Visick
Subject: Faversham noon dial

Dear Chris,

Thank you for the pamphlet on your noon line dial. Certainly something extra to look out for when I'm next in Faversham.

Might I take this opportunity to pass on some feedback and intelligence picked up at and since Edinburgh? It will not surprise you to hear that several members have looked at www.ppowers.com and have noticed that the Faversham noon line dial appears prominently, but is not on the Society's website.

When asked why I have responded that it is very recent news and I suspect it is in the pipeline as far as the Society's website is concerned. When pressed on why it appears on Patrick's I responded that I do not know, but did point out you were unaware of its recent 'severe deterioration' in terms of criticism of the Society. That spares us immediate embarrassment, but will not hold water for any length of time.

I therefore suggest you immediately submit a Faversham noon dial news item and image for the Society's website. That will at least avoid any impression that you are favouring his, over the Society's official, website. It is of course for you to decide whether, in the light of the Edinburgh Forum and Frank's 9 April letter to Patrick, it is appropriate, as President and a previous Chairman, to appear to be supporting, or be associated with, Patrick's site.

I look forward to hearing from you soon - you will appreciate that time is of the essence.

All the best.

Chris

PS You can reply to this email address or the one given in the Bulletin. Alternatively you can reply in hard copy to me at Peirce House, Charing, Kent, TN27 0HU.

On Wed, Apr 10, 2013 at 7:11 PM, CHRIS <chrisdaniel180@btinternet.com> wrote:

Dear Chris,

Thank you for this information concerning Patrick’s website and that of the BSS. In fact, the leaflet that I gave you only came out on 3 April and, although Patrick asked me to send him something for his website, I have not yet had time to produce anything for any website, let alone Patrick’s..! Furthermore, I would not favour Patrick’s website above that of the BSS. I suspect that Patrick picked this information up in the same way as did Fred Sawyer and Jim Tallman, which had been published promptly in the Faversham News, following an interview with me. So, if time is of the essence, it will have to wait until I am able to make use of it...honi soit qui mal y pense..!

With all good wishes

Chris

From: Chris Williams
Sent: Wednesday, April 10, 2013 8:54 PM
To: CHRIS
Subject: Re: Faversham noon dial

Dear Chris,

I hear what you say but I fear for the consequences of remaining on pause for any length of time. So much so I am duty bound to respond.

It is most heartening to hear you would not favour Patrick's site over the official one and that you did not provide copy to it. But it does not look like that. The hard (visible) facts of the matter are that:-

1.. Your name appears prominently in two pieces on Patrick's site. (He has also associated you in printed material he has circulated to some members).
2.. Council is resolved as indicated in Frank's 9 April letter to bring the matter to closure.
3.. Individual members are already requesting Patrick to take down site content referring to them.

As I indicated in my previous email the appearance of your (apparent/continued) association with his website is there for all to see. The fact you have not positively requested it doesn't make it look one iota better. The fact it remains there indicates you have not sought its removal. (Your doing so would also unambiguously convey the membership's opinion to Patrick - actions speak louder than words).

It would be both extraordinarily sad, and entirely avoidable, were it to appear that you, the Society's President and Chairman for most of its life, had been outflanked by the opinion and actions of members and the policies of Council.

No one would be more saddened than me. I only took on the role of Secretary because of your powers of persuasion. Plus I am on public record that I accepted nomination as Secretary out of personal respect for you. Your words at your last AGM that the 'Society is [with Frank and myself] in safe hands' still rings in my ears.

All the best.

Chris

On Thu, Apr 11, 2013 at 4:16 PM, CHRIS <chrisdaniel180@btinternet.com> wrote:

Dear Chris,

Thank you for your concern on this matter; but the only information, in respect of the Faversham Guildhall noon-mark, which I have provided is the leaflet that I gave you. (The material on the RGO mean time noon-mark, which appeared earlier on the BSS website, was specifically requested by Frank King, if memory serves me right.) As I said previously, I have, as yet, not drafted out anything for any website and don't propose to do so until the weather permits me to correct the Faversham noon-mark and until I have a good photograph to support such an entry. I don't spend much time looking at websites and I have only very recently looked at Patrick's and that of the BSS. In the circumstances, perhaps you would be kind enough to put a suitable piece on the BSS website, on my behalf, with this information. When the noon-mark has been corrected and is working properly, you may like to come over to see it.

The Faversham News came out a week ago, covering the event, which was immediately picked up by Fred Sawyer and Jim Tallman in the USA and you might care to look at the same source. The Faversham Times came out today with much the same coverage.

With all good wishes,

Chris

From: Chris Williams
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2013 10:40 AM
To: CHRIS
Subject: Faversham noon dial

Dear Chris,

Hmm... I'll do a deal with you. We will concoct something on the Faversham dial for you on the BSS website when you have got your name and dial off the PP site - the vital matter your last two emails to me remain silent on.

It is very easy to do. Ian Butson emailed PP asking for all material referring to him to be taken down. PP did it within hours. It will take you longer than each of your two email replies to me.

Such a modest action will visibly and unambiguously demonstrate that the President is four square behind the Edinburgh Forum and supporting Council. If you allow PP to continue 'to trade off your name' that will not appear to be the case: and by default PP will detect there is still mileage in his activities.

As tomorrow is already a week since the Forum, it will no longer be credible or possible for us to continue to explain your association with the PP site in a benign fashion.

All the best.

Chris

From: CHRIS
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2013 4:22 PM
To: Chris Williams
Cc: fhk1@cam.ac.uk
Subject: Re: Faversham noon dial

Dear Chris,

No deal..! When I handed over the Chairmanship of the British Sundial Society to Frank King, I gave up my involvement in resolving the Society's problems and its politics. As President of the Society, I have refrained from commenting on, or criticising the management of the Society, or its membership. So far as I know, Patrick Powers obtained his information in the same way as Fred Sawyer and Jim Tallman, via the Faversham News website.. As previously stated, I have not produced any information, concerning the Faversham Guildhall noon-mark for any website, and I don't intend to respond to the implied threat in your e-mail, which I take as a piece of impertinence..!

Regards

Chris

Date: Thu, 18 Apr 2013 17:34:23
From: CHRIS <chrisdaniel180@btinternet.com>Add chrisdaniel180@btinternet.com to my Address Book
To: treasurer@sundialsoc.org.uk, membership@sundialsoc.org.uk, conferences@sundialsoc.org.uk, 2014@sundialsoc.org.uk

Subject: Fw: Faversham noon dial
As the original e-mail in this exchange was copied to you, I think that you should be acquainted with the remaining e-mails.

Regards

Chris

From: Chris Williams
Sent: Thursday, April 18, 2013 8:43 PM
To: CHRIS
Cc: Frank King
Subject: after Edinburgh

Dear Chris,

Thank you for the 12 April email explaining how you see things - that non intervention is the most appropriate stance for you as President.

Being Secretary includes a rag bag of unenviable tasks - tasks exposing the messenger as much as the message! One such is to ensure that everyone, everyone, hears what they need to hear. Following views widely expressed at and after Edinburgh that is all I was seeking to do. I note your decision not to intervene regarding www.ppowers. It is entirely up to you to decide when and if circumstances question 'non intervention'.

I also note you felt able to intervene at Edinburgh by expressing concern with Council's Grants Policy paper. This prompts another Secretarial task - that Council hears everything, everything, it needs to hear. Having publicly voiced concerns Council respectfully requests that you share them with us. We look forward to hearing from you and, hopefully, allaying your concerns.

All the best.

Chris

Date: Fri, 19 Apr 2013 17:31:35
From: CHRIS chrisdaniel180@btinternet.com To: Chris Williams chkwilliams@googlemail.com
Cc: Frank.King@cl.cam.ac.uk, treasurer@sundialsoc.org.uk, membership@sundialsoc.org.uk, conferences@sundialsoc.org.uk, 2014@sundialsoc.org.uk

Subject: Re: after Edinburgh
Dear Chris,

I think that you may assume that, after 22 years as Chairman of the British Sundial Society, I have some idea of the duties and problems of the Society's Secretary..!

Whilst I really do not believe that I should interfere in Council matters, you will recall that, in Edinburgh, I asked the Chairman's permission to "intervene" to ensure that your well-crafted "green paper" on the Grants Policy was not implemented without proper discussion with the Membership. Since the Discussion Forum is informal, without minutes being taken, where votes would be invalid, it is right and proper that your paper should be discussed at the AGM, or promulgated in the BSS Newsletter, to the entire Membership, for their approval or not, as the case may be.

I must admit that, on my retirement from the Chairmanship, I believed that I had left the Society, specifically the Council, in good hands. However, you now say that the Council respectfully requests me to share my concerns with them. In the circumstances, I regret to say that I have gained the impression that you have a compulsive need to control the views of the Council, presumably to ensure that everyone, everyone, hears what you think they need to hear. If I am wrong, I apologise; but, in my view, standing up at a meeting of the Council and shouting at another member of Council, to elicit a desired response, is not an action befitting the Secretary of any learned Society..!

I assume that you consider it to be entirely unnecessary to apologise for your earlier impertinent, uncalled for remarks..?

Regards

Chris
