

Wigan Local History and Heritage Society

Minutes of the meeting held on: Monday 11th November 2019 at 7pm.

1. Presentation:

Marianne Howell gave a very interesting and informative presentation on: WIGAN'S RAILWAYS AND A 19th CENTURY STATION MASTER Peter Peters - a life given to the London and North West Railway. This illustrated talk by Marianne, sketched the development of the railways in Wigan, but was focussed more particularly on one stationmaster at Wigan North Western Station, whose working life was spent on the railways and who met an untimely death because of it.

This was followed by a short interval and guests were then invited to remain for the members meeting which followed shortly after. The secretary pointed out that this would be in an observatory capacity only as guests would be unable to take part in any voting procedures.

Members meeting:

1. Apologies:

Apologies were received from Sheila Ramsdale and Gordon Ramsdale.

2. Minutes of last meeting held on Tuesday 8th October 2019

Agreed as an accurate account by Nick Howell and Audrey Welsh

3. Matters arising.

There were no matters arising.

4. Election of unfilled Officer Posts:

1. Treasurer 2. Membership Secretary

The Posts remain unfilled and the election will be carried over to the next meeting.

5. Treasurer Report.

The treasurer reported a bank balance of £126.50

6. Secretary Report - Clare Kenyon.

The secretary gave an update report on background issues occurring in October and November:

- Social Media pages have been set up on Facebook and Twitter (@localhist1) in order to inform members and the local community about the Local History society, and also to encourage new guests and members to attend the meetings.
- A messenger group for members only has been set up and is being well used by members for information.

- An email account has been set up: wiganlocalhistoryandheritagesociety@outlook.com

- Projector screen:

A discussion took place regarding suitable screens.

- Christmas:

A discussion took place about possible venues for the December Christmas Party. It was left with the secretary to organise.

- Collated group interests:

A request was made that any members who hadn't yet expressed an area of personal historic interest to please do so, and then these can be collated.

- Future meetings: A discussion followed and a list of speakers and topics was agreed for the meetings in 2020.

7. Wigan Historic Buildings Preservation Trust Report - Peter Fleetwood.

- Peter reported that a letter of support for the Haigh Woodland Park Heritage Lottery Bid had been submitted to IHL.
- He gave an update on the whereabouts of the Common Seal saved from the demolition of the town hall, (1870's Moot Hall with Latin inscription)
- A discussion took place about the BLINT list and Caroline Heaven volunteered to take photographs on behalf of the group.
- It was very disappointing to hear that records of the Gidlow Sisters paintings and the stained glass window from Wigan Infirmary cannot be found in the archives. It was agreed that the matter will be followed up by Peter and the group until these artifacts and assets can be tracked down.
- Ken Scally reminded the group that any photographs used on Social Media should also quote the source.

8. Setting up a Wigan Local History and Heritage Hub Network. - Peter Fleetwood.

Peter outlined the idea of the group setting up a history/heritage hub. This was favourably received by members.

9. Programme of Speakers for 2019-20 based on the specific interests of members.

This was duly agreed.

10. Christmas Meeting arrangements.

This was left with the secretary to organise.

11. Any other business.

There was no other business.