



# Wigan Local History & Heritage Society

Minutes of the Members Meeting held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021 via Zoom at 7:00pm

## 1. Number of Members present and Apologies for absence:

12 members were present.

Apologies were received from Pam Thomas, Carol Greenwood, Jim Meehan

## 2. Minutes of previous meeting March 2021:

The minutes were circulated via email prior to the meeting.

Error item 10 amended to read Date and time of next meeting 19<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm.

The minutes were then agreed as an accurate account of the meeting:

Proposed by Andy L and seconded by Lynne Sahar

## 3. Matters Arising:

### Completed:

**March AP1:** A Zoom meeting took place regarding Wigan Pier Project. Neil L

### Ongoing:

**Feb AP3. Investigate if any buildings within KS HAZ were once used as industrial buildings. Ashleigh B, Bill A**

**Feb AP4. Arrange to set up Internet Banking and PayPal facilities to enable members to pay for future subscriptions directly online - Sheila R**

**March AP2. Set up a Local Listings Meeting: agree letter to Council - Clare K, Ashleigh B, Andy L**

## 4. Projects update:

**The Wigan Buildings Website:** updates made to specific buildings to include social history details. Caroline H has photographed Golbourne area and identified a building at risk.

Volunteers to photograph and research buildings still needed.

As last month:

### **Gidlow Sisters project:**

The search to find the missing paintings of the sisters and the stained glass window continues.

### **Plantation Gates:**

HLF2 Wigan Council has announced a successful bid. A consultation meeting with key stakeholders soon to be arranged.

### **Common Seal Stonework:**

No further progress to date. It was suggested that a good site for this will be within the KS HAZ area.

## 5. Working Group Reports:

### **King Street Cultural Consortia:**

Clare K gave brief update on the progress of the project. Concern has been expressed regarding duplication of research, looking for ways to resolve this.

### **King Street Heritage Action Zone:**

Clare K gave brief outline of the 3 strands of the project.

The Street That Was is the project strand involving research by WLHHS.

A Dropbox depository is being shared by members of the working group to store research and any relevant documents they find.

Other members gave updates on their research for example, Rowbottom Square, Grimes family, Free Masons, Faggy Lane Bridge, Minorca Hotel, Alfred Waterhouse, County Playhouse.

Richard is writing an article for the June edition of Past Forward on the Free Masons and the Leader Building.

### **Archives:**

Peter reported on progress:

Over 50 offers from general public to volunteer but Covid restrictions do not allow for large groups.

A pilot consisting of 6-7 members from KS HAZ group will take place soon. All volunteers will be included at some time in the future.

Scanner will be kept in Local Studies from 20<sup>th</sup> May.

Collections volunteers need to be registered with the Community Partnership.

Wigan Central Councillors donated a Brighter Borough grant of £500 towards the cost of a new laptop to be used with the scanner.

### **Wigan Pier Project:**

Neil L reported: a huge amount of interest in the project and 9 people had met to cut through quite a few theories on the origins of the basin and buildings. Early days and stacks of information to get through. Meeting productive. History of the canal and the Douglas Navigation and buildings - a need to document what is known with the evidence and then document the different interpretations.

A free online talk on the History of Wigan Pier-The Way We Were by Jim Holian will take place on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> May at 1-2pm.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/checkout-external?eid=142697332563&ref=eios>

### **April AP1. Neil send a link to Ashleigh B and Derek W to check out some information.**

Working Groups are open to all members, more volunteers are needed to assist with research.

Please inform secretary of your interest.

#### 6. Websites and Social Media Reports:

Peter F reported on the growing numbers visiting the WLHHS website.

Clare K reported on the success of the FB and Twitter Pages with the number of new followers growing every day. 2074 followers on FB and 553 on Twitter.

Beginning to post about the KS HAZ project The Street That Was and asking for memories - very popular, reached over 8000 within a few hours

AS a result of this combined success membership has continued to grow steadily with a total of 97 members.

#### 7. Discussion regarding reports:

Discussions took place as the reports were given.

#### 8. A proposal to commission a piece of art work in dedication to Wigan Cotton Workers.

Derek W outlined a proposal to create a piece of art from different wood forms in dedication to the Wigan Cotton workers.

Derek has kindly offered to do this free of charge as his legacy through WLHHS to the workers.

He has suggested that it may be best displayed within a building in the Wigan Pier Complex.

Derek shared pics of some of his other wooden art forms to exemplify the excellent quality and standard of his work.

### **April AP2. Contact Neil Harris to inform him of Derek's proposal, and a suggestion that it may be displayed within the Pier Complex. - Clare K**

#### 9. Any Other Business:

Andy L informed the group of an incident at Beech Hill Farm involving the demolition of a listed wall. He is chasing this up with the Council.

#### 10. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm via Zoom