



Wigan Local History & Heritage Society

Minutes of the Members Meeting on Monday 27th June 2022 via Zoom at 7:00pm

1. Number of Members present and Apologies for absence.

17 members were present and apologies were received from:

John Richardson, Richard Simpson, Rita Fell, Lesley Price, Andy Kenyon, Paul Kenyon

2. Minutes of previous meeting in May 2022 were agreed to be an accurate account of the meeting:

Proposed by Karen Garner and seconded by Lynne Sahin.

Members then approved the minutes unanimously,

3. Matters Arising: Clare

Action Points

**November AP5, Galleries Asset Disposal, still ongoing,
Write to Melanie Lamb asking her to signpost who we need to correspond with. - Clare**

January AP5, Tribute to Wigan Cotton Workers Art work still ongoing. Decision made by Derek to keep hold of the sculpture until an appropriate place can be found for it in Wigan

**January AP6, Visit to Wigan Council Museum Storage Facility - completed.
5 members visited 14th Jun at 2pm, and on Friday 17th June at 10am a talk by Louisa Ataheri took place for a small group of members - Andy reported back and suggested that Louise Ataheri should be invited to join the Society.**

June AP1 - Andy to invite Louise Ataheri to join the Society.

February AP1, Training session on recording presentations - completed.

May AP1 - Write to members requesting if anyone would like to present their research to the Society members and guests -ongoing.

4. Report and feedback on various WLHHS activities May to June:

Boat Trip, visit to Wigan Hall, Canal Flight Walk, Coccium to Coal Miners Guided Walk, visit to St Matthews Church Highfield.

Suggestions for future trips and visits.

A variety of activities had been organised to coincide with Derek and Linda's visit to Wigan during May and June.



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A trip on the Leeds Liverpool Canal took place on 26th May with two boats, filled with 20 members and guests.

An informative booklet was produced by Paul Kenyon and it was decided to send a link to it for all members via the summer newsletter.

There was a guided tour of Arley Hall. Members learned about the rich history and heritage of that small stretch of the Canal. A very enjoyable trip was had by all.

The guided tour of Wigan Hall was conducted by the owner Phil Clarke. The hall is spectacular and we learned a little of its most recent history. Phil has asked if the Society can help with further research.

Jim conducted the Coccium to Coal Miners guided tour for Derek and his sister in law, Al and Al, the creative directors for Haigh Hall, also came along. It started at the site of the Roman hypercaust and concluded at the monument to the miners. It tells the story of the town from the Romans, through to the middle ages and the industrial revolution. Jim is happy to repeat the tour for any interested members.

It is also agreed that a virtual tour should be made available for those members unable to access it, and that it could be the subject of the September presentation during the Heritage Open Days weeks.

A discussion took place about the very low profile of the hypercaust in the history of the town and how this could be made more prominent.

Improved signage and information boards were discussed.

June AP2 - Consult with Bill Aldridge and WAS - Jim Meehan.

The vicar of St Mathews at Highfield conducted a guided tour of the church for members who were intrigued with its mining connections, and described it as a hidden gem. It is highly recommended to members wishing to visit.

June AP3 - contact Dave Whitter to arrange a further visit - Derek Winstanley.

Neil conducted a walk of the Canal Flight up to TopLock and back, which is a 2.5 mile History tour, he is happy to reinstate this walk for any interested members.

It was suggested that we have trips and visits annually.

Members came up with the following suggestions for visits:

Trencherfield Mill when the engine is running

St Johns Church Standishgate - it has the largest unsupported ceiling in Europe.

St Wilfred's Standish Grade 1 listed building

Standish way historical walk - 3 sections each 4 miles.

20 Bridges

June AP4- set up an events and trips committee - Lynn Sahin, Denise Walsh.



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5. Treasurer update and membership subscriptions - Neil L

It was reported that the bank balance has £770 in the account.

A further 4 people joined at the last meeting taking advantage of the half price membership subscription, taking membership up to 101.

6. At Risk Building of the Month - Peter F

Pagefield Hotel:

Peter shared a PowerPoint outlining the deterioration of the building.

7. Proposed Changes to the WLHHS Logo

Peter explained the reasons behind this proposed change. It is to be used as a point of reference on QR Code plaques linking a Heritage Trail on King Street to the WLHHS Website. It was agreed that this should be a temporary change to fit in with the design of the boards on this occasion and the established logo showing the plantation gates should be retained.

8. Working Group Reports:

Archives and Training: Covered by Andy earlier in the meeting.

Cultural Consortium: Neil L - Second round of artists call out.

KS HAZ The Street That Was: Clare/Jim - King Street Heritage Tour - QR Codes

9. Websites and Social Media Reports. Peter

Over 2.5k visits to website last month.

A new FB Group - Heritage Buildings of Wigan has been launched and already has attracted over 400 members. It is linked to the WLHHS and Wigan Buildings websites.

Peter outlined a list of new articles published.

Peter reported that the Common seal Stonework is currently with the planning department for a decision on its relocation.

10. Any other Business

None.

11. Date and time of next meeting:

July 11th Presentation at Real Crafty - Punching Above its Weight. Wigan's part in the brass band movement.

A presentation by Wigan local History and Heritage Society member, Pete Moss.

July 18th Members Meeting via Zoom at 7pm