



Wigan Local History & Heritage Society

Minutes of the Members' Meeting on Monday 15th August 2022 via Zoom at 7:00pm

1. Number of Members present and Apologies received:

There were 17 members present.

Apologies received from: David Fox, Bob Sanders, Pam Thomas, Elaine Walsh, Marie Garner.

2. Minutes of previous meeting July 2022.

The minutes were agreed unanimously with two minor amendments.

Proposer: Karen Garner

Seconder: Paul Kenyon

3. Matters Arising: Clare

Action Points review:

Nov AP5

remains outstanding from November 2021:

It relates to correspondence with Wigan Council regarding a request from the Society to be involved through a working group in the proposed disposal and relocation of assets removed from the Galleries prior to demolition.

There has been no further correspondence since The Chair's email to Hayley Fielding outlining the background to the initial request.

Action: Derek to draft a further letter to Hayley Fielding.

June AP2: Consult with WAS on ways to improve the profile of the Roman Hypocaust in Millgate - Jim.

Update: ongoing.

A discussion ensued on the ways to improve the heritage profile of Wigan in general.

It was decided to set up a Zoom meeting to discuss in further detail.

July AP1: Request a further guided tour of St Wilfred's Church for members who had missed the last one - Andy - ongoing.

Aug AP1: Set up a Zoom meeting to discuss ways to improve the heritage profile in Wigan - Clare



Wigan Local History & Heritage Society

4. Treasurer update and membership subscriptions - Neil L

The treasurer reported on the finances of the Society: around £700 in bank account and around £1,300 in tangible assets.

A final detailed report will be shared at the AGM in September.

5. Working Group Reports:

Archives and Training - Andy: Joan Livesey has requested help with the next exhibition in the Museum of Wigan life. The theme is entertainment and she has accessed the talks on the WLHHS YouTube Channel on Wigan Little Theatre - Ron Hunt, Cinemas of Wigan - John Gostellow, and Brass-bands - Pete Moss.

Aug AP2: Ask Ken Scally if he can offer any help. - Clare

Cultural Consortium: Neil reported on progress with the first round of commissioned artists exhibitions which are to be installed in King Street.

KSHAZ The Street That Was Project: Jan reported and gave an update on the ongoing research and works.

6. Websites and Social Media Reports. Peter/Clare

Peter reported that the website is still continuing to attract between 4-5 thousand visitors.

New articles continue to be published regularly with a latest one from Derek.

LiDAR maps are available for areas around Wigan.

Heritage Buildings FB Page is growing and has over 600 member.

Clare reported on a new WLHH FB group which has been set up to complement the current successful WLHHS FB page, which currently has a following of over 3 thousand people.

The reason for setting up a new group is to allow the public more freedom to post their own local history based articles or pics more easily. The WLHHS FB Page will run alongside the FB group. It will be used to give information relating to the Society and Presentations etc. whereas the group will be free to promote all aspects of Local History in Wigan.

WLHHS Twitter Page is also growing with a current following of 885.

A request was put out for additional administrators.

Jim, Andy, Clare are admins on WLHHS FB Page.



Wigan Local History & Heritage Society

Clare and Karen are admins on WLHH FB group
Clare and Rita are admins on Twitter.

7. Presentations and Research Projects: Clare

The calendar for 22-23 Talks is filling up:

2022

12th September: WLHHS Presentation A Heritage Open Day Event: The Changing Face of Wigan Part 1 by Dylan Harris and Part 2 by Ken Scally.

10th October: Times of Change - Episode 1 A Look at the Former Westwood Estate by Andy Lomax

14th November: A History of Thomas Linacre by Dr. Eric Curless.

12th December: Christmas Quiz, Buffet and Entertainment by Ken Scally.

2023

9th January Northern Portraits: 20 Northerners that have fascinated and Inspired Me. by Brian Groom.

13th February: Wigan Cricket Club. By Peter Fleetwood.

13th March: A Stretch of the Leeds Liverpool Canal. By Paul Kenyon.

10th April: A Dog, a Duke, and a Dowager. By Jim Meehan.

8th May: Wigan Music and Theatres. By Ken Scally.

12th June: To be arranged (pencilled in Derek Winstanley)

10th July: Climate Change and Geography. How it changed the North. By Brian Groom

14th August: To be arranged.

11th September: To be arranged.

Please get in touch with Secretary if you would like to offer a talk.

WLHHS member Will Sharp outlined his latest research project on Wigan Churches which will include a lot of social history content. Will is working alongside his sister on the project and will keep us updated.

8. At Risk Building of the Month - Peter F

No report this month.

9. Wigan Buildings - Andy L

Andy reported on the growing success of the Heritage Buildings FB group.



Wigan Local History & Heritage Society

The Makerfield Rambler is assisting with this and they are currently working their way through the list of buildings formulated by Philip Powell in the 1990s.

10. Heritage Open Days - Jim

Jim shared his screen and outlined the plans for the Heritage Open Day events scheduled in September.

11. Trips and Visits: Clare, Lynn, Denise

A trip to St George's Hall in Liverpool to see the current exhibition: The History Whisperer is to be arranged for any interested members.

Other places of interest were suggested for future trips and visits:

Trencherfield Mill when engine running

St Johns Church, Standishgate which has the largest unsupported ceiling in Europe.

St Wilfred's Church, Standish.

The Standish Way - an historical walk.

20 Bridges.

Lancashire Mining Museum.

Worsley Delph.- industrial archaeology- Barton aqueduct. Jim offered to lead on this.

Dam House. Heritage Tour

Wigan Parish Church.

Leyland Valley railway systems - spaghetti junction of its day - a walking tour. Paul

Kenyon offered to lead on this.

The Archives - Wigan and Leigh

12. Any Other Business:

1. Ron Hunt has purchased some Haigh Hall Prints and is offering them for sale through the Society with a suggested price of £5 per print.

2. An inaugural meeting of the newly formed Haigh Hall Heritage Society will take place in the vestibule of Haigh Hall on at 6pm on Friday September 30th. Representatives from WLHHS have been invited.



Wigan Local History & Heritage Society

13. Date and time of next meeting:

Monday 12th September: WLHHS Presentation A Heritage Open Day Event: The Changing Face of Wigan Part 1 by Dylan Harris and Part 2 by Ken Scally at The Real Crafty Pub Wigan.

Monday 19th September via Zoom at 7pm.
WLHHS Annual General Meeting.

Nominations required in writing for Officer positions: Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary.