



Wigan Local History & Heritage Society

Minutes of the Members' Meeting on Monday 21st November 2022 via Zoom at 7:00pm

1. Number of Members present and Apologies received.

Present: 16

Apologies: Peter Fleetwood, David Fox, John Richardson, Jan Thomas, Lynn Sahin

2. Minutes of previous meeting October 2022.

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as an accurate account.

Proposer: Karen Garner

Seconder: Paul Kenyon

Agreed unanimously.

3. Matters Arising:

Action Points:

November 21 AP5: completed. Galleries Assets Consultation.

A meeting between WC and WLHHS has taken place and there is ongoing communication. It was agreed that this would now go forward as a project.

July AP1: visits.

Requests have been received from 8 members who missed the first trip to organise another visit to St Wilfred's Church, Standish for a guided tour.

Andy will contact the Church to request this.

August AP1: Raising the Profile of history and heritage in Wigan Town Centre

Still no response to email sent to RM at WC.

It was agreed that this would go forward as a project.

October AP1: Research Market Hall Clock

Correspondence received in the form of a newspaper article about the Market Hall Clock from 1870s via SM. However, the article concerned the outside clock, overlooking the market square, made by a Wigan Clockmaker.

Further research to be continued.

October AP3: order screen and trolley - ongoing

October AP4: create a calendar of trips and events - ongoing

October AP5: clarify seating numbers with Real Crafty

Completed, the number is 75



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4. Treasurer Report:

Membership is now up to 87 members.

Secretary is holding a total of £355 in cash and cheques ready to be banked.

5. Working Group Reports:

Cultural Consortium:

Neil reported on the recently organised light festival.

An invitation for a third installation on King Street is to go out.

Archives and Training:

Andy reported on his correspondence with Eleanor at Wigan Council Storage Facility and ideas on how WLHHS can help to research on exhibits.

KSHAZ:

No report

6. Websites and Social Media Reports.

WLHHS going from strength to strength on SM:

WLHHS FB Info Page has well over 3K followers with a grading by FB of high engagement.

WLHH FB group has reached a membership of 1.6K since its launch in August and has very good engagement.

Twitter following growing with over 1K followers.

7. At Risk Building of the Month

No report.

8. Wigan Buildings:

Andy reported on the activity of the group.

An interesting discussion took place around the Haigh Estate Auctions and the subject of global changes taking place during the 1920s which led to a 'perfect storm' for country estates.

9. Trips, Visits, Events:

November has proved to be a very busy month.

A visit to St John's Church in Wigan is at the planning stage and is almost ready to be offered to members, in the New Year. - Marie

A visit to the Old Courts is being investigated. - Lynn



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Hallgate Brewery is to be contacted to enquire about evening tours and access arrangements.
- Denise

Hidden History of Standish is to be offered as a future event. - Jim

10. Christmas Quiz: confirm arrangements:

It was agreed to keep the cost of the buffet at £5 per head.

Raffle prizes will be requested from members and the money collected in the sale of raffle tickets will offset any shortfall in budget.

Paul kindly offered to devise quiz questions and be quiz master.

47 tickets sold to date

Real Crafty estimate potential seating for max 100 with 50 chairs and bench seating around edges.

It was agreed to limit numbers to 70

11. Member research updates:

Will Sharp updated the meeting on progress made with his very interesting research into 'Who Made Wigan's Churches' and has agreed to 'pencil' him in for a possible presentation in August.

John Richardson informed the meeting that he is in the process of building a list of common Wigan surnames which he would like to share with members at some stage.

11. Any other Business

An update on Andy's talk about the Walmesley family: A member of the family is in correspondence with him and thanked him for his extensive research. They are hoping to visit at some stage in the future.

Denise informed the meeting that she has photographed the Walmesley family grave stones in Newbury and has a profile and description of the persons buried there, carried out by Friends of the Cemetery group.

A Zoom meeting between Chair and Secretary to be arranged to discuss next steps for setting up a project group to help raise the profile of Wigan's rich history and heritage in Town Centre.

12. Date and time of next meeting.

Monday December 12th: Christmas Quiz and Party

Monday January 16th 2023 WLHHS Members' meeting via Zoom