



## Wigan Local History & Heritage Society

Minutes of Members Meeting held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023 via Zoom at 7:00pm

1. Number of Members present and Apologies for absence.

16 members present.

Apologies received:

David Fox, John Richardson, Bob Sanders, Lynn Sahin, Lesley Price.

2. Minutes of previous meeting March 2023.

Unanimously agreed as an accurate account of the meeting after adding Pam Thomas to the list of Apologies for Absence.

Proposer: Paul Kenyon

Secunder: Rita Fell

3. Matters Arising: Clare

Action Points Progress:

Previous outstanding action points now completed except for the ordering of new screen and IT Trolley, which are currently out of stock.

**Feb AP2 - Write to Wigan Council outlining WLHHS Aims to raise profile of History and Heritage in Wigan Town Centre - completed.**

**Feb AP3 - Arrange meeting of Save The Market Clock Group - Carry forward - Clare.**

4. Treasurer update - Neil L

Update given: £1,700 in bank account. Subscriptions now 102 full price plus 3 half price.

5. Working Group reports:

Cultural Consortium - Neil no progress from last month.

Archives and Training - Andy - Archives staff pleased with work done so far, Grace's Guide has been very useful when researching certain artifacts. A cloggers' bench was discussed.



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March AP1 - prepare an article on Wigan Clockmakers for Past Forward - Derek

KS HAZ research group - Jan - report circulated to members prior to the meeting.

### 6. Websites and Social Media Reports. Peter/Clare

Peter reported there were 4,500 visitors to web site last month and 240 articles had been accessed. The average time on the site is 5.5 minutes.

Clare reported that WLHHS FB Information Page has 3,143 followers, WLHH Group has 2,150 members with an average of 10 new members joining daily. Twitter account is growing now has 1,044 followers.

### 7. At Risk Building of the Month - Peter F see agenda item 13

### 8. Wigan Buildings -

Andy same as last month, awaiting Spring. Discussed the importance of George Heaton, an influential Wigan architect of his time. The Victoria Buildings in King Street being a good example.

### 9. Trips, visits, events - events team

Not been possible to meet.

Suggestions for possible walks and visits:

Leeds Liverpool Canal - Neil

Guided Tour of Archives, Wigan and Leigh - Clare and Andy

Guided walk of train routes North of Wigan to 20 Bridges and 7 Bridges - Paul and Andy.

### 10. 2023 Presentations - Clare

Changes have been made to the schedule of presentations for 2023, making it necessary to pay for some of the speakers:

January: Twenty influential Northerners by Brian Groom

February: The Price of Coal by Ken Scally

March: Alfred Waterhouse - Sean Jinks - paid

April: Not just the 3Rs - Louise Wade - paid

May: A walk through history along the Leeds Liverpool Canal from Adlington to Top Lock by Paul Kenyon,



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June: Early Wigan Rugby by Neil Davies.

July: Climate Change and Geology - How it changed the North. By Brian Groom.

August: Who Made Wigan Churches - Will and Pat Sharp.

September: Heritage Open Days by KSHAZ Group Presentation

October: History of Haigh Hall by Al and Al

November: History of the Cricket Club by Peter Fleetwood.

December: Christmas Quiz and Party - WLHHS members and guests only.

### 11. Newsletter - Clare.

It has been suggested that a new look newsletter should be published bimonthly.

6 issues:

February, April, June, August, October and December.

Member contributions have been gladly received and will be published throughout the year.

Many thanks to: Chris Thompson, Rita Fell, Derek Winstanley, Bill Woodcock, John Richardson, Christine Barbour Moore, Paul Boothby, Sue Maiden.

Please keep these coming in.

### 12. Alfred Waterhouse Chapels

A discussion took place:

Thanks was given to Peter Fleetwood for highlighting the state of the Chapels in his buildings at risk feature in January. This was again highlighted by Sean Jinks in his presentation in Feb.

This opened up many concerns on different social media platforms.

A main concern is about the funding that was allocated by Wigan Council to make the buildings watertight in March 2019. The work was never started and through Freedom of Information it has been discovered that the unspent funding is now 'under review.'

Where does the Society go with this?

As a meeting has been arranged between Wigan Buildings and the Heritage Champion, Councillor T Halliwell on 29<sup>th</sup> March, it was decided to continue with the discussion at the next meeting.

### 13. Member Research updates - open

1. Member John Richardson has sent in a query about Sam Woods MP for Ince in Makerfield during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. His query was about the constituency of Makerfield in general and its relationship with Wigan, and when things changed.

A discussion took place: Local Gov Act in the 1970s assimilated the Urban District Councils into Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council, things became more localised and boundary



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changes were made to the constituency. Ince was at one time in the past a manor, Makerfield was made up of several different manors.

2. Jim reported that 400 copies of the Standishway booklet have been sold with all proceeds going to charity. This leaves 100 copies yet to be sold.

If any member would like to purchase a copy, they are priced at £5. It was agreed to promote this at meetings.

### 14. Any other Business

1. Derek informed the meeting that Linda and himself will be visiting Wigan 24<sup>th</sup> June to 5<sup>th</sup> July.

2. The Kennet boat has been fitted out as a museum and has been awarded Red Wheel Status. It was suggested that Neil could book a viewing time for the Society between 3<sup>rd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> June.

3. Visit to St John's Church has been put on hold as Tony Hilton the guide has been in hospital and is feeling frail.

### 14. Date and time of next meetings.

#### 1. Presentation: 17th April at 7pm at Real Crafty Wigan.

This will now take place on 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of April because of Easter holidays:

Not Just the 3Rs by Louise Wade

Members Meeting: 24<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm via Zoom.