

WILMSLOW HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MAY 2023 NEWSLETTER

Dear Historical Society Member(s)

As always the late Spring Newsletter looks back over the last 8 months and forward to the coming year. We also include details of the upcoming AGM.

I am pleased to say it has been a busy and successful year. With the worst of Covid behind us your Committee has been able to organise and deliver a full programme as well as bring some “extras” to the table.

Last year we heralded a number of things including a full programme of talks, the on- line membership system, a Christmas Social, possible trips, Turing developments and participation in community events and links to the wider Local History community.

I am pleased to report that all of these were delivered in one form or another! Further details will be found in the attached reports.

Membership and the Committee

Our membership hovers just below 100 which is a healthy place to be – and Corey – our Treasurer, reports a useful bank balance – whilst Susan Cooper as our Secretary constantly does her magic.

Thanks to Alan and Hilary – again – also Mike, we now have a full programme of speakers for the year 23/24 - see below for full details.

Over and above those mentioned, it is my pleasure to thank each and every member of the Committee – on your behalf – for each of the big and little things they do to serve the Society and keep us informed, educated and entertained – and in particular Sue Jones for keeping us all “refreshed” at every meeting. I hope you will join me in supporting their collective re-appointment for next year.

However, there is always room on the Committee for additional members to bring new ideas and lighten the load. In particular we have vacancies for the roles of Speaker Secretary (to source speakers for 24/25) and Membership Secretary (to oversee the membership registration and recruitment). Please step forward, we don’t stand on ceremony on the Committee – and the biscuits every six to eight weeks or so are normally pretty good!

Other News

Work is underway on two significant projects. The joint work of the last two years with friends at Wilmslow Civic Trust on developing a commemoration to Alan Turing has continued apace. We have shared questionnaires, held open lectures, sponsored a Park Run, commissioned and distributed an original portrait, held history walks and attended public events - all of which confirm a genuine local public interest. This culminated in a recent on-line symposium bringing together, by invitation, scientists, mathematicians, council representatives, artists and educators. A number of sites around Wilmslow have been suggested as possible focal points or locations for a permanent feature celebrating Turing. Details and photos of the output of the symposium and other feedback are available if requested.

The planning group’s intention is to seek funding based around this brief that would resource an artist or artists to lead the Wilmslow community towards a final proposal and commissioned design. Once a final design is agreed – the planning group will seek to work closely with the artist to access the necessary private and public funds to deliver the commemoration.

Many thanks to Jon Kelly, Alan Cooper and Stuart Kinsey for helping to bring us to a point where perhaps we are ready to issue an outline artist brief and bid to the Arts Council.

Secondly, we have initiated a dialogue with friends at Alderley Edge History Society and others further afield about the potential to develop an approach to recording digitally what the Society holds as archives in various boxes in lofts and garages!

Whilst very early days, it is already clear that we are not alone in the desire to widen access to what we have and what we have researched and published over many years. Thanks go to Ian Black and Mike Partridge for starting the running on this work. Several members have voiced their willingness to be involved in the recording work and we hope to be connecting with you when we know the best approach to technology and methodology.

Mike Partridge is also to be thanked for his on-going work developing our website at www.wilmslowhistoricalsociety.org

See you at the AGM!

With best wishes

On behalf of all your Committee.

David Briggs

PROGRAMME FOR 2023 - 24

DATE	SPEAKER	TITLE
	2023	
13 September	Melanie Giles	Bog Bodies
11 October	Stephen Birchall	Altrincham Dissenters - Politics, Religion, Alcohol and Freedom in late Victorian Altrincham.
8 November	Judy Popley	History of Granada TV
13 December		Christmas Social - food, drink, raffle and quiz
	2024	
10 January	Neil Sheldon	Alan Turing , the Man and his Legacy
14 February	Rosalie David	Egyptian Mummies - a scientific resource
13 March	Craig White	Edith Nesbitt , Strines and the Railway Children
10 April	Mike Nevell	Roman Northwich
8 May	WHS	Members' Talks - AGM

WILMSLOW HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting will be held at The United Reformed Church Large Hall, Chapel Lane, Wilmslow on Wednesday, 10th May 2023

A G E N D A

1. Welcome
2. Purpose of the Meeting Chair: David Briggs
3. Minutes of Last AGM DB
4. Invitation for any items for AOB
5. Introduction of the 2022/23 Committee
6. Officers' reports attached:
 - a. Treasurer Corey Hughes
 - b. Membership David Briggs
 - c. Speaker Secretary Alan Cooper
 - d. Chair David Briggs
7. Proposed agenda and programme for the year ahead - see Newsletter
8. Nominations for Committee membership
9. Items identified for AOB at the start of the meeting
10. Date of Next Annual General Meeting 8th May 2024

Some appropriately timed pictures of the 1911
Coronation for George V. Bank Square



Station Road/Manchester Road



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Wilmslow Historical Society held at The United Reformed Church Large Hall, Chapel Lane, Wilmslow on Wednesday, 8th June 2022

MINUTES

1. All present were welcomed by the Chair: David Briggs
2. The Chair outlined the purpose of the meeting and the process to be followed
3. Minutes of the last AGM were accepted by all those present
4. No items were identified or raised for Any Other Business
5. The retiring 2021/22 Committee were introduced to the meeting and thanked by the Chair and all present for their work and contributions. In particular Hilary Howard was thanked for her many years service in the role of Membership Secretary.
6. The Chair referred those present to the following reports which had been circulated prior to the meeting
 - a. Treasurer Corey Hughes
 - b. Membership Secretary Hilary Howard
 - c. Speaker Secretary Alan Cooper
 - d. Chair David BriggsAll reports were accepted without comment by those present.
7. The Chair briefly outlined the proposed agenda and programme for the year ahead that had been published in the Newsletter with the agenda. The programme was welcomed by all present and Alan Cooper and Hilary Howard were thanked for the work involved in organising. Alan Cooper announced that 2023/24 would be his last year in the role of Speaker Secretary.
8. The Chair highlighted the Society's membership of the Cheshire Local History Association and confirmed the Committee's intention to continue membership.
9. No election was deemed necessary for Committee membership for the year ahead.

The Committee for 2022/23 were identified as:

David Briggs: Chair/Membership Sec.	Mike Partridge: IT/Website
Susan Cooper: Secretary	Sue Jones
Corey Hughes: Treasurer	Cllr. Jon Kelly
Alan Cooper: Speaker Secretary with	Pam Savage
Hilary Howard	Michael Scaife
Jon Armstrong: Archives	
10. AOB: None
11. Date of Next Annual General Meeting 10th May 2023

TREASURER'S REPORT 2022-23

I'd like to, once again, extend my thanks to the committee for allowing me to stand as Treasurer for a second year. It has been exciting and challenging for me, with the implementation of Paypal and other payment systems to the Society. It has also seen the return of the Christmas Social and general excursions to places of historical interest postponed because of Covid.

Though our outlays this year are greater than previous years, this is due partly to rising costs but also to necessary expenses. Perhaps the best example would be the new projector that was procured over the summer. However, the Society remains stable financially, our assets only a little below what we had last year. As we continue into 2023 the Society seems in healthy shape, with good finances and an increasingly active .

Corey Hughes

MEMBERSHIP REPORT 2022-23

The past year saw the introduction of the on-line membership system – backed up by Pay Pal or BACs options to pay fees. Over 50% of the membership took up this option so we will be repeating it for 2023/24. This has meant that significantly less admin time has been required – so please consider for this year when the time arrives.

It has been very satisfying to see about ten new members joining in the year – and we hope we have not disappointed!

We will communicate with all members during the Summer to let you know when the new registration process begins.

David Briggs

SPEAKER SECRETARIES' REPORT 2022 - 23

Hilary, David and Alan were able to book 8 speakers for September 2022 to May 2023. All presentations seem to have been well received especially as we are now able to offer tea, coffee and biscuits as a welcome. Numbers in the audience ranged from 45+ to 60+. The 8 topics as always covered a wide spectrum but this time there were more local subjects than usual: national - Post War Britain; local - Quakers, Congleton Hoard, Lydia Becker, Chester, the Americans Over Here, the Cheshire Archives and the Hankinsons. The Committee decided to jettison the inclusion of a speaker at the Christmas Social opting instead for a programme of welcoming drink, quiz, raffle and excellent food delivered by Janet Kelly and her team. The feedback on this was overwhelmingly positive.

Alan Cooper

CHAIR'S REPORT 2022-23

Alongside our core activities of eight excellent lectures – organised by Hilary Howard and Alan Cooper, we have successfully delivered the Christmas Social, a week of walking tours around Wilmslow, a stand at the Wilmslow Nature Festival and a trip to Adlington Hall. The on-line membership application process and on-line payment system had few teething problems – and is now firmly in place for next year and beyond.

The year has also seen the sharing of a number of new papers – including those on Clegg's, The Lindow Rifle Range from Jon Kelly, one on Dean Row as well as two newsletters. We will always welcome any similar papers for circulation if members would like to share them.

David Briggs

WILMSLOW HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

1 April 2020 - 31 March 2023

RECEIPTS	2023	2022	2021	2020
Subscriptions	1335	1413	0	1284
Visitors' Fees	13	0	0	164
Sales of Publications	0	0	0	32
Interest Received	30	40	83	99
Christmas Party Surplus	0	0	0	0
Trip Surplus	25	0	0	0
Sundries	0	30	0	0
TOTAL RECEIPTS	1403	1483	83	1579
PAYMENTS				
Hire of Hall	670	307	222	394
Hall Costs	0	80	130	170
Lecturers' Fees	557	360	0	400
Trip Deficit	0	0	0	0
Insurance	75	75	75	75
External Subscriptions	0	20	20	20
Printing, Posting, Stationary etc	162	425	113	169
AGM expenses	12	0	0	0
Advertising	0	18	0	33
Computer Purchases	286	0	0	0
Sundries	289	238	0	0
Xmas Party Deficit	61	0	0	122
Alan Turing Portrait	0	250	80	0
TOTAL PAYMENTS	2112	1523	640	1403
Excess of payments over receipts	709	40	557	0
Excess of receipts over payments	0	0	0	176
ASSETS				
Violin	3000	3000	3000	3000
United Trust Bank	5130	6200	6162	6078
RBS Current and High Interest Account	1257	561	558	1115
TOTAL	9387	9761	9720	10193