

Wilmslow Historical Society

August 2026 Newsletter



Dear Wilmslow Historical Society Members

Welcome to our newsletter for the new 2026-27 season of talks and activities. We hope everyone has had a grand Summer.

The main reason for this note is to share with you how to renew your membership in time for our first meeting on **Wednesday Sept 8th 2026** at the United Reformed Church, Chapel Lane Wilmslow (7.30 pm doors open 8.00 pm start) and to share the programme for the year. With thanks to each of the Committee members who have helped identify a great mix of speakers and subjects.

The easiest way for most people to take up membership again is via our membership payment website at <https://forms.gle/5J4Hg47LbgGjcfL67> (membership form below)



An interesting pair of shots showing buildings that used to be opposite The Swan on Swan Street.



The single storey building (left) was the first Wilmslow UDC offices and our 2nd Police Station

Outline Programme for 2026-2027:

2026		
9 September	Brian Groom	“These Isles”
14 October	Rosalie David	“Akhenaten – Egypt’s Sun King”
11 November	Judy Popley	“Maurice Egerton – Tatton’s Last Great Baron”
9 December	Christmas Social	
2027		
13 January	Julia Marwood	“How the Railways Changed Life in Britain For Ever”
10 February	Andrew Fielding	“The Anderton Boat Lift”
10 March	Alan Silman	“Two Botched Operations – Antony Eden and Suez”
14 April	Barry Clark	“The Arts & Crafts Movement in Manchester & Wilmslow”
12 May	AGM: Jon Kelly	“Wilmslow’s Stage Coaches”

Renewing Your Membership

We will be repeating our internet based approach to setting up membership. This seems to suit the majority of members. By connecting to this internet address

<https://forms.gle/5J4Hg47LbgGjcfL67> you can easily share your contact details and pay your £15 fee with a credit or debit card or use PayPal.

The on-line approach is hugely helpful as it automatically helps build up the Society names database and updates our bank account with much less effort (collecting/taking cheques to the bank etc (What Banks we hear you cry!!)).

(NB From the on-line membership form there will be a slight pause as you are re-directed to the PayPal payment page. If you select the BACs option – you will be recorded as a Free membership – but please then remember to make your payment!! We will catch up with you if you don't!! 😊).

BACS payments are to the Wilmslow Historical Society Account: Sort Code: 16-34-24 Account No: 13387459 can also be made via the internet/web page but **PLEASE USE YOUR NAME AS THE PAYMENT REFERENCE.**

NBB: We do understand that not all members are comfortable with this internet approach so we will still welcome a copy of the form below accompanied by a cheque by post to the address on the form - or handed over at our first meeting on September 8th 2026.

We will produce some membership cards to be available at our September meeting as an aide memoir for the talks through the year.

Historical Trips:



Biddulph Old Hall: Please note that plans are now re-set for our delayed visit to the privately owned Biddulph Old Hall on **Saturday 26th September 2026**. We believe we have been in contact with everybody who has previously booked and the trip is now full.

We hope to be organising some more trips for 2026/27. Watch this space!

Wilmslow History Walks:

Again, we are pleased to be running the free Wilmslow History Walks as part of English Heritage week between **Saturday 12th and Sunday 20th September**. Our team organised by Jon Kelly and Steve Hunt is now ready and includes both old and new tour guides. The route and agenda have now been adjusted to include the inside of St Bartholomew's church for the first time thanks to Eddie the rector and our friends there. To book please contact Jon Kelly by email to jonkelly1664@gmail.com or by telephone **01625 250881**.

The tour is by foot around the centre of Wilmslow and takes about two hours departing from the library at 11 o'clock sharp, (12 o'clock for the Sunday tours). For safety it is essential that people book a place on a tour in advance. Whilst preference will be offered to WHS members, the available places do fill up very quickly.

Turing Update:



Following comments from our members and from people on the history tours, the Society has been working long term to see recognition of Alan Turing in the town centre. We are pleased to report some more progress as the Town Council very kindly agreed to put a blue plaque in Bank Square marking "Turing's Law".

Turing was arrested in the former police station on Green Lane before conviction. The Government subsequently apologised for the way he was treated and the late Queen issued a pardon and legislation was passed, known as "Turing's Law", pardoning many thousands of people similarly prosecuted.

The sign has now gone up on a lamp post in Bank Square next to where the police station once stood. Have a look for it as you are passing.

Enquiries and Talks:

Over the Summer we have delivered the "There's No History in Wilmslow!" talks to a number of community groups and we have also had several enquiries by email concerning the Platt family of Styal and the Newtons of Newton Hall Mobberley. (Did you know that Newton Hall was where Mallory the Everest climber lived?)

A sign of the times

The old road sign on Mill Street , (opposite St Barts), had been damaged in collision with a vehicle and was replaced by a shiny new one. WHS helped retrieve the sign from a skip and together with information on some of the history of Mill St. is now on display in the Turing Room at the Library.

The story of Mill Street reflects our changing history from a water mill for grains to powered steam textile mills and the Mill Brow Mission associated with temperance but adjacent to three pubs!



Pictured with the sign and information board is David our Chair, Sally our Treasurer and Jon Kelly - the skip diver!

History Boards:

We hope that members have been able to discover at least some of the new boards that have appeared around the Town. Paid for and erected by our friends at Wilmslow Town Council and masterminded by Cllr. Jon Kelly, the Society has provided the content, text and pictures for several of the boards. We are now in conversation about a further six boards to commemorate other aspects of Wilmslow's past.



Your Committee:

None of the Society's business and what is to come in the year ahead would be possible without the commitment and generous time given by this year's Committee: We hope we all have a great year ahead!

David Briggs (Chair)	07980 284 582	Hilary Howard
Jenny Gibb (Sec)	01625 523875	Angela Hollin
Sally Harrison (Treasurer)		Mike Partridge
Jon Armstrong (Archives)		Jon Kelly
Alan Cooper		Susan Cooper
Andy Clements		

Wilmslow Historical Society Membership Form 2025/26

The annual membership fee is £15.00 for adults. Students and under 18s may have free membership. (Please apply via wilmslowhistoricalsociety@gmail.com). Payments using this paper form should be made by cheque to the address below. Alternatively, payment can be made on-line by going to <https://forms.gle/5J4Hg47LbgGjcfL67>

Surname:

First Name/s

(If applying as a couple for double membership please put both first names – a fee is payable for each person)

Your Email Address:

Postal Address and Postcode

Contact Phone Number

Data Protection: Your details will be recorded on an electronic database only for the purpose of managing the Society business and communicating with you. Your details will not be shared or sold to any other party. Please tick the box to acknowledge. I agree:

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Please add any information here or overleaf that would be helpful for the Society to know about you.

**PLEASE MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO “WILMSLOW HISTORICAL SOCIETY” AND SEND BY POST TO:
WILMSLOW HISTORICAL SOCIETY, C/O 4 THORNGROVE DRIVE, WILMSLOW, CHESHIRE,
SK9 1DQ** Or Pay online by card or PayPal at <https://forms.gle/5J4Hg47LbgGjcfL67> or BACS
payments to Wilmslow Historical Society Account: Sort Code: **16-34-24** Account No: **13387459** can also be
made but **PLEASE USE YOUR NAME AS THE PAYMENT REFERENCE**