

Wilmslow Historical Society

October 2026 Newsletter



Dear Wilmslow Historical Society Members Our first meeting of the year was a great success – and reflected how healthy the Society membership is. Thank you!

Membership:

Our Society now boasts a membership of over 110. This is great from a community perspective but does bring us some dis-economies of scale. As we experienced in September, we may sometimes push the seating capacity of the URC Large Hall. We will do all we can to manage our popularity – but please bear with us if it sometimes causes a problem.



Christmas Social:



Although it is not yet November, moves are now well in hand for our Christmas Social on Wednesday December 9th. A separate message will be coming to you shortly via email with details. Please watch this space. The event is always very popular and with our enlarged Society membership we will have to limit numbers to 70 on a first come first served basis. So, we strongly suggest booking your places early when you receive the details to be sure not to be disappointed.

AGM 2027:

We have had to move the date of the AGM and accompanying talk on stage-coaches next year from 12th May to 19th May. That's the 3rd week in the month rather than our normal 2nd week in the month. We will provide many reminders between now and then but wanted to give you as much notice as possible.

Website:

With thanks to Mike Partridge we are updating our website so that it is more flexible and will enable us to put more information into it including articles, past publications, pictures and links to other sites of interest. The site doesn't yet have much more content – but we look forward to making it grow over time. The new website address is wilmslowhistsoc.org The old website address is now “parked”. (NB: We do not keep any of your personal data on the website.)



Biddulph Old Hall Visit:



Over 25 of us enjoyed excellent weather and a fascinating trip to Biddulph Old Hall in September. Despite having to be postponed from the Spring we were treated to a fascinating tour and story of the Hall from its Norman and medieval origins through Elizabethan, Civil War and Victorian times to the recent life's work of its most recent owners Brian and his late partner Nigel. Our thanks to Angela Hollin and Hilary Howard who masterminded the visit and handled the unavoidable postponement.



Hack Green: We are now pleased to give early notice of a contrasting trip on April 17th 2027 to the Hack Green "Secret" Nuclear Bunker near Nantwich. Again, we will hope to be able to offer the availability of the mini bus courtesy of Andy Clements. More details nearer the time.



One for the Gentlemen!

Many male society members will know our friend Tony at Barb and Bristle barbers on Church Street. Tony who has supported and promoted many of our activities has recently shared a bit of his history – a certificate issued in 1970 by Wilmslow Urban District to Tony's father – licensing him to operate as a barber on Green Lane. 56 years service to the Town. That's history too!



Walks:

September saw the Society delivering the 7th year of our updated local history walks as part of English Heritage Week. Over 70 people joined our volunteer guides over 8 days in all sorts of weather to hear about the Rex, Grove Street, Bank Square, Manchester Road and the new "jewel" in our tour – the 13th century crypt in St Bartholomew's Church – the oldest bit of Wilmslow we can find! Our thanks to the folks at St Bart's who made that part of the tour possible.





NB: Another local stroll/visit can now be made to the new boardwalk and viewing platform on Lindow Moss at the site where Wilmslow's Pete Marsh bog body was found which includes a history board.

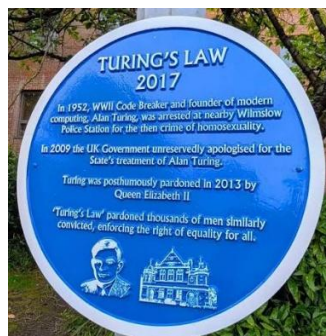
We run our history tours as part of the National English Heritage Open Days Festival when interesting places, not normally available, open their doors for visits. Next year's dates are 10th to 19th September.

For seven years we have been Wilmslow's only participant (Norcliffe Chapel and the National Trust in Styal also join in) so we are speaking to other organisations to see if they can join, our friends at St Barts are already thinking about two events.

Events could be displays, meetings or open days. If you are member of an organisation or group which might like to take part we can provide more details of how to join in. Providing events are free you can use the event to promote your group too. Knutsford had seventeen events this year! Jon Kelly is co-ordinating for us. Jonkelly1664@gmail.com

History Boards:

We hope you will have noticed the arrival of the 6 new history boards and a new blue plaque around Wilmslow. These have been funded and installed by Wilmslow Town Council – with the Historical Society providing the text and pictures for most of them. They include information on Alan Turing, Romany, Bank Square and prominent women of Wilmslow. Further boards are now under consideration to include the stories of Grove Street, RAF Wilmslow and WW1. Our thanks to our committee members Sally Harrison and Jon Kelly for the work behind the boards (who also happen to be Town Mayor and Town Councillor respectively as well!)



Next Meeting:

We look forward to seeing you again at November's meeting with Judy Popley talking about "Maurice Egerton: Tatton's Last Great Baron."

Wilmslow Historical Society.