

Westhoughton Local History Group

Programme of Presentations & Events

January to June 2024

January 18th - DAVID LLOYD: The History of Bolton Co-op

It's often said you never forget your Co-op 'divi' number, and we'll all be reminded of this when David makes a welcome return to WLHG to talk about the local origins of this renowned institution.

February 15th - JUDY BEESTON: Edith Rigby

This promises to be a fascinating presentation by a first-time visitor, who is a leading "member of Preston's 'Friends of Winkley Square'. Most of us are familiar with the story of infamous suffragette Edith Rigby torching Lord Leverhulme's bungalow in Rivington in 1913, but this talk will tell us much more about a remarkable woman.

March 21st - RUTH DUCKWORTH: My Life in Cricket (Part2)

WLHG committee member Ruth was born into a sporting family, with a very famous uncle who became a Lancashire cricketing legend, and represented England in 24 Test Matches. 'Uncle George' was a great influence on many family members, and indeed helped Ruth herself change history!

March 28th - EXCURSION: Harewood House & Gardens, Yorkshire

Organised day excursion to see one of the Treasure Houses of England. Built in the 18th century and has art collections to rival the finest in Britain. Visitors can enjoy exhibitions of contemporary art, a Farm Experience and over 100 acres of exquisite gardens to explore. Whilst sold out, additional demand can be accommodated with a larger coach.

April 18th - JUDITH ATKINSON: Worsley Delph & Green Industrial Complex

Worsley Delph is internationally-renowned as a place of huge historic significance, dating back to a mediaeval manor, and later as the basin of the iconic Bridgewater Canal. A regular visitor to WLHG, Judith has an encyclopaedic knowledge of local industrial history, and her presentation will inform us of the major improvements to the site completed in 2019.

April 25th – DRAMA EVENT: ON THE GO present 'Changing Times'

With stories recreating times gone by this Bolton-based Amateur Theatre Company will take us back to life in the 1960s with another not-to-be-missed performance. A nostalgic journey with much humour. Ticketed event. Venue: Carnegie Hall.

May 16th - STEPHEN IRWIN: Lancashire & The English Civil War

"A GENERAL PLAGUE OF MADNESS" is how Stephen describes the manifold battles between Royalists and Parliamentarians during a frenetic period in the mid-17th century. In addition to the dates (1642 to 1651) we'll know much about this colourful episode in English history in the wake of Stephen's presentation.

June 20th - BRIAN GROOM: Manchester – The Story Of The City That Shaped The Modern World

The successful author of 'Northerners' returns to WLHG to tell of Manchester's rise to global prominence, near-terminal decline, and more recent miraculous re-birth.

A Bit About Us...

WESTHOUGHTON LOCAL HISTORY GROUP was established in its present form in 2005, as successor to less-structured groups which met at Westhoughton Library during the 1980s and 1990s, keen to learn more about Howfen's long and rich history.



In the meantime, we have grown to become one of the largest and most active heritage organisations in the north-west, and complementing the monthly presentations detailed overleaf, the Group has an elective range of additional activities, which include the staging of exhibitions and dramatic productions, regular excursions, local history walks, quizzes, and the publication of cards, prints, booklets and books.

WLHG also plays a prominent role in Westhoughton's community life, as an active member of 'Westhoughton Community Network, and at key civic events such as Remembrance Sunday and the ceremonials marking the annual anniversaries of 'Westhoughton's Darkest Day' - *The 1910 Pretoria Pit Disaster*.

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## ***Keep In Touch***

### ***JOIN THE 'CARNEGIE CROWD'***

All are welcome at our monthly gatherings, which are held in the Carnegie Hall on the 3rd Thursday of every month, from 10:30am to 12:30pm. We have no formal membership, with all attendees paying £2 per session, which includes a cuppa and a custard cream - *great value, don't you think?*

### ***VISIT OUR WEBSITES***

- [www.westhoughtonhistorygroup.org.uk](http://www.westhoughtonhistorygroup.org.uk)
- [www.westhoughtonlocalhistorypresentationsandphotos.com](http://www.westhoughtonlocalhistorypresentationsandphotos.com)

JOIN OUR FACEBOOK GROUP - Now with well over 2000 members and increasing daily!

### ***RECEIVE OUR NEWSLETTERS***

To be added to our mailing list for our regular e-newsletters (under the masthead of 'The Howfen Herald') send a brief request to: [howfenhistory@gmail.com](mailto:howfenhistory@gmail.com)

***READ ABOUT US*** - Please support our local daily newspaper, 'The Bolton News' which regularly carries WLHG news items, especially in its '*LOOKING BACK*' pull-out supplement every Wednesday.

***WRITE TO US*** - [howfenhistory@gmail.com](mailto:howfenhistory@gmail.com)

***CALL US*** - 07970 131460