

FRIENDS OF WEAVER HALL MUSEUM

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 20 October, 2026

Meeting commenced at 2.35pm, and was attended by 23 members and 2 guests.

1 APOLOGY

Wendy Milborrow

2 PREVIOUS MINUTES

These were made available on the website for review, and hard copies were available at the meeting.

Approval of the minutes of the last AGM meeting was proposed by Martin Dignum and seconded by Hazel Cook.

3 CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair was pleased to report that:

- The financial year 2025/6 was another relatively stable year.
- The trustee's committee was unchanged in 2025/6.
- Trustees now meet three times a year for 1.5 hours each meeting.
- Membership has remained at just over 100, and new members are joining.
- Membership fees for 2025/6 are unchanged.
- Projects - £100 was donated to the museum to develop displays for the 'Railway 200' which was shown in the museum's exhibition space and in the railway station. Trustees continue to liaise with the museum to let them know that we are very happy to support their projects.
- The move of talks and films in the Regalette from evening to afternoon had no impact on overall attendance at these events.
- Meetings: talks were on *Northwich Workhouse*, *Mary Fitton of Gawsorth*, *Anderton Boat Lift*, *History of Marbury Hall*, *Collaboration and Resistance in France in WW2* and *Norton Priory*. Films shown were *The Apprentice*, *The Founder*, *Suffragette*, *Their Finest*, *Conclave*, *Argo*, *The Darkest Hour* and *the Man who invented Christmas*.

4 MUSEUM REPORT

Library - The library is still in residence, possibly until May 2027.

User Groups – The Happy Mondays partnership with Snow Angels continues.

Exhibitions – (i) 'Northwich Now and then' plus local radio and papers.

(ii) FoWHM sponsored the Railway 200 exhibition.

External areas – (i) Tesco sponsored Vivo Green Team equipment,

(ii) FoWHM sponsored 'Workhouse' information boards,

(iii) Winsford Yard Bombers made the external knitted displays,

(iv) Safe car parking established for disadvantaged groups.

Education – (i) 3398 schoolchildren have visited the museum,

(ii) Leftwich Ward have meetings in annex,

(iii) 200 children attended holiday craft sessions,

(iv) Northwich Young Producers was relaunched.

Cost Control – slight amendment to the museum hours.

Staff – Kate Harland retired and Elizabeth Montgomery took her place. Four new visitor assistants were appointed. FoWHM trustees attended Kate's leaving event and gave her a garden voucher.

5 TREASURER'S REPORT

A copy of the accounts was attached to the agenda, and is shown below.

INCOME: Total income of £1850.30 was an increase on last year due to new members and other members paying the correct membership fee. The films' income increased over the previous year as more films were shown. Barclays Bank made a small donation to apologise for errors when the account was hacked and the treasurer had to report this many times before it was corrected.

EXPENSES: slightly reduced to £1063.87 although the MPLC film licence cost has increased.

PROFIT/LOSS: A profit of £786.43 was recorded.

BALANCE SHEET: There was £4117.60 in the bank at the end of the financial year to be carried forward into the current year. This will allow further donations to support the museum as required. There were no outstanding liabilities.

APPROVAL OF THE ACCOUNTS was proposed by Martin Dignum and seconded by Rita Lamb.

6 ELECTION OF TRUSTEES

The trustee committee has changed this autumn as three trustees have had to leave for personal reasons. The Chair thanked Heather Clifford, Peter Clifford and Ruth Brown for their contributions to the Friends. We are pleased to welcome three new Trustees to the committee which is now:

Chair	John Glaister
Treasurer	John Glaister
Secretary	Carol Allen
Memberships	Martin Dignum
Talks organiser	Deborah Dignum
Films	Carol Allen
Outings	Wendy Milborrow
Trustees	Hazel Cook
	Chrys Browne
	Glenn Rose
	Janet Rose

The approval of the new committee was proposed by Rosemary Hogg and seconded by Roland Crook.

7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Jeff Storey asked about publicity and whether we could use the cases outside the museum for publicising the meetings of the Friends. The Secretary said she would look into this for the coming year's events. We are not allowed to advertise the films for licensing reasons.

8 DATE OF THE NEXT AGM

The next AGM will be arranged for September or October 2027. The minutes of this 2026 AGM will be available on the Friends' website and members will be advised of the next AGM date.

The meeting closed at 2.45pm and was followed by an interesting talk on Knutsford Prison by Jenny Collis.

Carol Allen, Secretary, 22 October 2026

5. TREASURER'S REPORT (01/05/25 to 30/04/26)

INCOME	FY 25/26	FY 24/25
Membership Income	865.00	768.00
Donations + Gifts	192.89	88.00
Other Event	120.00	0.00
Talks	15.00	17.00
Films	505.00	340.00
Gift Aid Refund (24/25)	152.41	173.62
TOTAL INCOME	1850.30	1386.62
EXPENSES		
Mailing	0.00	0.00
Stationery	0.00	0.00
Donations	155.00	400.00
Talks	310.00	244.60
Films	470.07	378.95
Insurance	128.80	128.80
TOTAL EXPENSE	1063.87	1152.35
PROFIT (LOSS)	786.43	234.27
CASH AT BANK @ 30 April	4117.60	3331.17