

Wrexham Heritage Forum

Minutes of the Meeting held at Brymbo Steelworks

7pm on Thursday 4 October 2007

The Business meeting was preceded by a short visit to some of the external features of the Steelworks site including the furnace which was constructed when John Wilkinson founded the original ironworks in 1794.

This was followed by presentations covering the history of the site which were given by Colin Davies of Brymbo Heritage Group, who vividly described the story of iron and steel making at Brymbo from the time of John Wilkinson's establishing the blast furnaces to the eventual closure of the site and Peter Appleton whose talk described the fossil forest that had been discovered – the tree trunks being contemporary with the Carboniferous period (300 million years or so ago) coal measures which had been exploited to fuel the iron and steel production. Finally Jason Parry talked about the reclamation and redevelopment of the site and how it would be integrated into the Brymbo community.

Chairman of the Forum, Nick Roe, thanked the speakers for such an interesting evening, and it was hoped that another visit might be arranged next year to visit other parts of the site.

The Business meeting followed the above

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Hazel Hawarden (Secretary to the Forum), Del Roberts-Jones (Wrexham CBC Economic Development Dept.), Sue Kelly (Open Church Network) and Paul Whitham.

2. Report of the Heritage Forum Executive Committee

Chairman gave a brief resume of the business of the Executive Committee, and in particular the submission of an application to Awards for All Wales for a grant to purchase equipment for use by members in promoting their own heritage organisation. It was also confirmed that a grant of £250 had been offered to the Forum from the Welsh Church Acts Fund, for a similar purpose.

He also reminded the meeting that in order to enhance the effectiveness of the Forum, it was important that as many individuals and groups took up membership. There was currently no subscription required, although this may have to be reviewed at some time in the future.

3. Date of next Meeting

The next meeting was to be arranged at Gresford Church on either Thursday 24 or 31 January 2008, when Sue Kelly would give a presentation about the work of the Open Church Network. The date would be confirmed.