

## Marple Local History Society

### Visit Organiser's Report

#### Society Year 2022-2023

Although Covid restrictions were no longer in place last summer, some people were still reluctant to consider a full day outing which meant taking a journey in each direction in the confines of a coach. So, we contented ourselves with the popular evening walks on the third Mondays of May, June and July. In May Frank Pleszak took us into the nooks and crannies of Marple Bridge. In June we were in Hawk Green with Judith Wilshaw, and in July we investigated the features that had enabled Marple to develop, again with Judith. All were well attended and everyone appeared to enjoy themselves, even though the July one took place on the hottest day of the year. Fortunately, by evening time it was cooling down, and we were grateful for the gentle breeze along the canal.

By October covid was no longer the worry it had been, and 24 of us drove over to Buxton for a historical walk around the streets with guides from 'Discover Buxton'. You can't fail to notice the beautiful buildings of Buxton, but having a guide to point out all the idiosyncrasies brings things alive. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves, and I for one learnt a lot.

March 1<sup>st</sup> found 20 of us at Manchester's Mosley Street Art Gallery where our favourite Blue Badge Guide, Jonathan Schofield, started outside in the street by talking about the architecture of the building. He then took us inside to introduce and interpret some of their extensive collection of works by pre-Raphaelite artists. A wonderful afternoon when we saw some well-known paintings from a new point of view.

On May 20<sup>th</sup> we plan to run our first full day coach outing since October 2019(!) to the fascinating little Derbyshire town of Wirksworth. The Romans had a settlement here, the church is Saxon, and the town is full of lovely Medieval houses. There are literary connections with George Elliot and D.H. Lawrence, it's where they used to make most of the red tape used by lawyers, and it's been ensuring that the laws governing Derbyshire lead mining have been kept since 'before 1238', and those laws still apply today!

Please book your place this evening. How can you bear to miss it?

Our summer evening strolls will continue on the third Mondays of May, June and July, with a visit to Moor End on May 5<sup>th</sup> with Neil Mullineux, a look at Mill Brow with Frank Pleszak on June 19<sup>th</sup>, and further exploration of the canals on July 17<sup>th</sup> with Steve Gent. Full details of these will appear in the newsletter for each month.

As always, suggestions for future trips gratefully received.

*Judith Wilshaw*