

Heritage Champion Report to Tourism Committee

September 19th 2024

I wish to report the outstanding success of the Upton Viking Festival. This “historical model”, will hopefully be continued in the future, in maybe in other historic periods and other events on Wirral. Thank you to the Upton Community Groups, and others, who make the Viking festival a great success, every year..

Heritage Open Days, what can I say? From 6th to 14th September, run by the outstanding Wirral History and Heritage Association, who produce so much, with so few resources. Thank you to the site owners, who open their buildings and places. This has been going on, hugely successfully, for many years now, on Wirral. The diverse nature of these events, add’s greatly, to these history and Culture experiences.

The introduction of a “Wirral Guides Training Scheme”, has been a priority, for a number of reasons. We wish to tap into the rich knowledge, experience and enthusiasm of established Historian’s and Guides involved with Wirral Heritage. This scheme will add in appropriate training in an number of areas, with establishes training organisations, and added back up when needed, on the diverse history of Wirral. I have a meeting to discuss this with Officers soon. Many visitors to Merseyside, do not visit Wirral, we hope this initiative will be an important move forward, with increasing visitor numbers all the time.

I will have other future meetings with Officers, on progress with our Blue Plaque Scheme, as we wish to add more names of importance.

I have asked for a meeting with Planning over buildings at risk, and also important heritage buildings that are not listed by Historic England. Also the need to have more structures added. The ongoing projects, Battle of Brunanburh and Egremont Bloomery (Ancient ironworking site) with Wirral Archaeology.

Monitoring, progress on community/Heritage Group Street naming,

Continuing to Champion the work and dedication of Heritage/Culture Volunteers. Without this, we could never have achieved the numerous successes, that Wirral has been credited for.

I am hoping to see a much more modern website dedicated to encouraging Tourism on Wirral. I will be having future talks with Officers.

Working closely with the Birkenhead Park Committee and Volunteers, as we move forward on World Heritage Site status, and other projects.