



Whittlesey Mud Walls Group
c/o The Old Town Hall
Market Street
Whittlesey
Peterborough
PE7 1BD

Minutes for 7th September + update

1 The final arrangements were successfully made for our Festival event, all items had been procured, and all concerned knew where they had to be and what to do.

2 The next item was the constitution, which after discussion requires an amendment, which should be done by the next meeting. If it's then approved, we can appoint the treasurer and get the bank account opened.

3 Having completed arrangements for the Festival, thoughts turned to our next objective, namely to start the surveying of the walls. As mentioned on the previous minutes, David Hancock needs to conduct a briefing with all people who wish to do surveying for us, so that all surveyors look at things in the same way, and entries on the forms are all consistent. Included will be a visit to some walls for a practical demonstration. This meeting has been arranged for Saturday 24th September at 10.30am.

We were worried on Saturday 10th as we started to bring our equipment to the pub carpark at 8am, as the heavens opened – and it carried on raining all day! Robert and I got all the heavy items onto the site and all small items into the museum in readiness, but we got very wet and the site flooded. Anthony and his wife Jean arrived at 10.30am and he also did some preparation. Clive arrived at 6pm, his items were stored in the museum.

The rain was easing off as we assembled at the pub for our meal. We were joined by Katie, but Nicola didn't attend due to illness. The evening was a great success, with wonderful food and pleasant company.

Sunday was bright and clear, and the flood on the site had almost gone by the time we arrived at 7am. Having set everything up, it wasn't long before visitors began arriving, and it carried on all day. We were pleasantly surprised at the interest being shown. Annette had a wonderful display of pictures and literature to answer most questions about mud walls, supplemented by Clive's SPAB brochures. Anthony had brought an assortment of mud-related tasks for the kids to try, pizza oven, lath & plaster, and mud brick making, as well as the 'puddling'. We had over 45 kids, which we kitted out with gloves and wellies, who had a go, and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. It was also brilliant to see Katie teaching them – I think she had as much fun as they did! Nicola again couldn't make it, so we wish her a speedy recovery.

It was a long day, but an undoubtedly successful one. We were fortunate in having the SPAB guys with us, and their support certainly made us more credible, so it's up to us to continue our work to the best of our abilities. However, we do need more volunteers to help with the workload, as there is only a small core group at present. So if you're really interested in our mud walls, please give us your time. We look forward to hearing from you.

Next meetings -

Survey briefing – Saturday 24th September at 10.30am

Regular meeting – Wednesday 5th October at 10.30am