

HAIGH HALL  
PUBLIC CONSULTATION REPORT

THE CONVERSATION  
17TH SEPTEMBER - 10TH OCTOBER 2021

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# FOREWORD: THE CONVERSATION

We want to say a huge thank you to the 764 people who came to visit us in the Hall during the public consultation. It was an absolute pleasure to meet everyone and have tea and cake with you in the Vestibule. You shared your passion for Haigh Hall and we discovered many of your treasured memories and hopes for the future. We look forward to returning and reporting back to you what you told us you would like to experience in the Hall and share the future Masterplan each one of you has inspired.

Many of you want to access every floor, to enjoy repeated visits where you can have a day out with friends and family to discover more about the extraordinary arts, culture and heritage connected to the magnificent history of Haigh Hall. You want the Hall to showcase and celebrate local talent, create apprenticeships, develop opportunities to research and study at the hall, be a beacon for the thriving local arts and culture scene, host new events and commission opportunities for the community to experience together. You want to celebrate special occasions with your family at the Hall in the best restaurant in Wigan and some of you want your prom night and to get married at the Hall. Many people want to jump on the land train at Plantation Gates to get to the Hall. Some of you would like to join societies which will research the history and heritage of Haigh in a new reading room at the Hall. Some of you want to volunteer, to help out in the walled gardens, grow local produce for the Hall's dining tables, learn about horticulture and take care of the environment and Plantations for future generations to enjoy. Some of you want to go on tours and give talks about the people who once lived and worked at the Hall. Some of you want to go hunting for a glimpse of the ghost of Lady Mabel. Some of you want to explore the secret subterranean world of tunnels, mines and wine cellars deep underground. Some of you want to rediscover the innovative, dynamic industrial heritage which powered and transformed our nation and built the Hall at the heart of our Town.

The following report is a summary of our Conversations, a blueprint of what has inspired a new future for Haigh Hall.



# THE CONVERSATION

CELEBRATE 900 YEARS OF HERITAGE TOGETHER AS WE BEGIN A NEW CHAPTER AT HAIGH



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TO JOIN US IN THE VESTIBULE  
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**HAIGH HALL**  
FOR TEA, CAKE & CONVERSATION



FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY  
11AM – 3PM  
17TH SEPTEMBER –  
10TH OCTOBER 2021

BRING YOUR PHOTOS. SHARE YOUR CHERISHED MEMORIES. HELP US SHAPE THE FUTURE OF HAIGH HALL

# THE CONVERSATION: 3 QUESTIONS

The first public consultation about the future of Haigh Hall with local People, the residents of Wigan Borough, key stakeholders and visitors from the wider region was carried out on behalf of Wigan Council over 4 weeks between 17th September until 10th October 2021 on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 11am to 3pm.

Everyone was invited for an in-person conversation with the Creative Directors of the Haigh estate in the Vestibule of the Hall to share their wishes and hopes for the future of Haigh Hall.

The consultation was primarily a listening event. Visitors were encouraged to share their memories about Haigh Hall, their hopes about what happens next and share any ideas they wanted the team to consider before the MasterPlan for the Hall was formulated.

The people were asked 3 questions...

- 1.... What are your cherished memories of Haigh Hall?
- 2.... If there is one thing you would like to see return, what would that be?
- 3.... What would you like to see happen to Haigh Hall in the future?

The public consultation was titled 'The Conversation'.

A comfortable and relaxing atmosphere was created, with tea, coffee, cake and biscuits provided for everyone who attended. Cosy chairs were provided for a 'round the table' conversation.

The 4 week in person consultation was open to all, promoted widely and accessible by everyone. A ramp was specially installed to accommodate wheelchairs, pushchairs and those unable to walk up steps.



# THE CONVERSATION: 764 PASSIONS

The Conversation was held to listen and engage with Wigan Borough residents, Haigh Hall visitors, Stakeholders and the local community about the future restoration of Haigh Hall.

764 people shared their views in one-on-one conversations with the Creative Directors, or in groups of 2,3,4,5 and 6.

Everyone who visited passionately shared their memories, views, ideas and opinions. Comprehensive notes were taken for every visitor [Appendix 1]. Voice recordings and video were captured when permitted [Appendix 1a]. Photographs of the event were also captured [Appendix 6].

Each engagement was an open conversation. The Creative Directors were there to listen and find out what the people wanted. Each conversation lasted for a minimum of 15 minutes.

The Conversation began the process of creating a people's archive of their cherished memories of Haigh Hall.

The Conversation was an opportunity to discover local people's knowledge of Haigh Hall.

The Haigh Hall team and Wigan Council recognise the importance of engaging with the People at this early stage in the regeneration of Haigh Hall as part of The Fire Within Cultural Manifesto to protect and transform Heritage buildings and assets, giving everyone the opportunity to explore, share and define their future.



# THE CONVERSATION: PROMOTION

The public conversation was promoted through local and regional press [appendix 3] & Wigan Council social media channels 6 weeks prior to the dates of engagement and throughout the 4 week timeline. Many people spoke of the promotion during their visit.

Various community, resident groups and societies linked to Haigh Hall also 'shared the word' of the dates and times through their social media channels [appendix 3].

Following the launch of the public conversation, local press reported on the Conversation with a number of the findings which encouraged more people to attend. [appendix 3]

Haigh Hall groups and societies, including Friends of Haigh Hall, Haigh Hall Matters Open Access and Wigan Heritage Society also posted positive support of the event on social media [appendix 3].

Borough Life, a magazine about Wigan Borough, which is delivered free of charge to all residents, created an 8 page article highlighting some of the findings of the conversation and wider research. One of the focuses in Borough Life was a local poet, 90 year old Lilian who made a special trip to the conversation at Haigh Hall to read her poem titled 'Lady Mabel' [appendix 4].

A new 20 minute film called the A to Z of Haigh was created to promote and advertise the Conversation, kindle local People's memories and inspire conversations about the future [appendix 6].

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**Pam lands  
role in new  
Holden and  
Lemon doc  
spoof**

FULL  
STORY -  
SEE  
PAGE 17

**WIGAN  
10k 2021**

8-PAGE  
SOUVENIR  
SUPPLEMENT  
FEATURING 10K,  
5K AND  
FAMILY MILE  
PICTURES

# Have your say on Haigh Hall's future

DR CLARKE  
@jimmedia.co.uk

chapter in the 800-year  
Haigh Hall is beginning  
owners can have a say on  
its out.

gal battle which saw  
operating a hotel there  
to leave, the jewel-in-  
building is back in the  
council chiefs.  
They decide what  
they want

the hall to find out what they want  
to see.

Artists Al and Al, who are  
working with Wigan Council,  
are holding a "conversation" for  
people to share their memories  
and talk about their hopes for  
Haigh Hall.

They are inviting as many  
people as possible to meet them  
inside the vestibule to discuss  
their thoughts.

Everything they hear will be  
used to shape proposals for the  
future of this historic building.

FULL STORY - SEE PAGE 6



Haigh Hall at Haigh Woodland Park, Wigan



# THE FINDINGS





# THE FINDINGS: THE 3 H'S OF HAIGH

From the Conversation, and the subsequent analysis of the recorded data, it is clear what is important to the People about the future of Haigh Hall.

The Conversation revealed Haigh Hall kindles 3 distinct areas of focus and experiences which shape visitors expectations for the future...

## HUMANITIES

the experience of Culture, Heritage, Art, Music, Literature, Theatre, Science and History

## HOSPITALITY

the experience of socialising and celebrating, people and communities coming together on special occasions with food, drink and recreational events

## HORTICULTURE

the experience of the natural World in the Gardens and the Plantations

Over the subsequent pages, the 3 H's of Haigh Hall will be explored in detail in summary of the conversation, with quotations and a variety of case studies brought into focus by visitors.



# THE FINDINGS: PERCENTAGES

These percentages have been calculated from processing the extensive notes recorded when speaking with the 764 people who engaged in the Public Conversation [Appendix 1]. A spreadsheet was created [Appendix 2] with a tally against the 3 overwhelmingly similar hopes for Haigh Hall, a 4th tally for weddings and events a 5th for those commenting on the wider estate and a 6th tally for other suggestions.

88.5% want to experience heritage, arts & culture,  
exploring the Hall as a visitor destination

63% want to enjoy eating and drinking in a restaurant,  
bar & café in the Hall and terrace

51% want to be able to attend and host special occasion  
events, parties and weddings in the Hall

41.75% spoke about the gardens, the plantations and  
grounds surrounding the Hall

Other suggestions for the interior usage of Haigh Hall...

0.5% - the Hall could be a spa and gym

0.39% - a private members golf club in the Hall

0.25% - the Hall could be a care home for the Elderly

0.25% - the Hall could be an indoor market

0.25% - the Hall could be a nightclub

0.25% - the Hall could be an antique auction house

0.25% - the Hall could be a mental health retreat

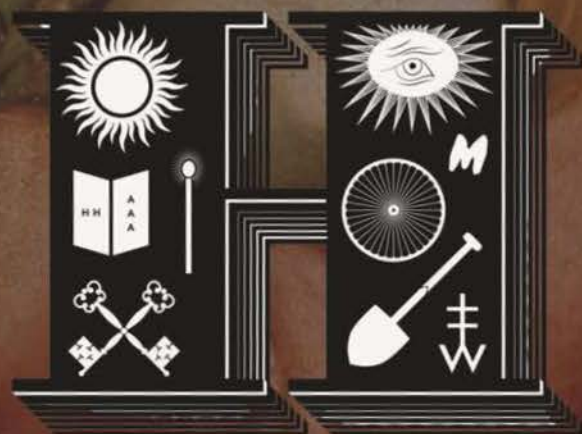
0.25% - the Hall could be an arcade or wacky warehouse

0.25% - the Hall could be a micro-brewery

0.13% - the Hall could be a hotel

0.13% - the Hall could be a Wetherspoons pub





HUMANITIES

Madonna Della Seggiola  
Raphael 1513  
Once housed in Haigh Hall

# HUMANITIES

85.5% of people want to experience Culture, Heritage, Art, Music, Poetry, Literature, Theatre, Science and History in Haigh Hall, and explore as many of the rooms as possible during their visit.

Once home to the largest private library in Europe, the Bibliotheca Lindesiana at Haigh Hall was a vision of the Human intellect, the walls dripping with a collection of Renaissance and Medieval masterpiece paintings and sculptures. 85.5% of people want to see Haigh Hall once again become a beacon of culture, fitting of its magnificent Heritage. Many people hope that some of those treasures once housed in Haigh Hall could return in special exhibitions so they may have the chance to see those works of art and literature in their Home town instead of traveling to London and other Cities.

Many visitors wanted to discover stories about the Aristocrats who lived in the Hall and shaped the destiny of our nation with their scientific achievements, pioneering industrial developments and 9 centuries of collier heritage which powered the industrial revolution. Furthermore, People wanted the opportunity to join a Heritage society at the Hall, research in a reading room and create archives of local People's stories and document social history about Wigan life.

Many people want the Hall to showcase Wigan culture and artists. A number of people spoke about Theodore Major, one of the greatest, visionary artists of the 20th Century who was born and painted Wigan his entire life. Haigh Hall provides the community with an extraordinary opportunity to create a visitor destination of National significance equal to how Salford celebrates Lowry, Barcelona celebrates Picasso and Pittsburgh celebrates Warhol.

Wigan is currently at the centre of a thriving contemporary arts and music scene ignited by the critically acclaimed Wigan Council cultural Manifesto The Fire Within. The Lathums, artists in residence at The Fire Within, are currently on an international tour and have a debut number one album. Many of the visual artists are now exhibiting nationally and internationally. Many People want to see the Hall become a dynamic social space for new culture that inspires a new generation to network, connect and mobilise, putting Wigan Borough on the cultural destination map.

The majority of visitors want to see the Hall restored, become a house of knowledge once more. The People expressed the value of history to shape our Children's identity and future, and hoped Children could visit the Hall with their family, or with school trips and be inspired by its magnificent heritage to kindle pride in the Borough they call Home.

Ecology and environmentalism was at the forefront of many people's minds. People believe Haigh Hall can tell a compelling story about the climate crisis, the carbon extracted from the ground at Haigh and the mines of Wigan that were owned by the generations of families who lived at Haigh Hall. People want to explore the cellars and tunnels beneath the Hall to learn about the people who worked underground. In contrast, People also spoke about the former Observatory, our fragile planet in the Universe, they wanted to star gaze from the roof and explore the heritage of Astronomy at Haigh.

Many people spoke about cultural events in the Hall and the surrounding grounds, from classical recitals, to young local bands, legendary gigs like The Verve concert to poetry evenings, literature festivals and climate conferences.

## HAIGH HALL HUMANITIES

### ART, CULTURE, HERITAGE, LITERATURE, HISTORY & SCIENCE

#### A selection of what the People said about Humanities at the Hall...

- "I want to explore every floor, learn about heritage, go on tours, see exhibitions"
- "I'd like an Arts & Culture experience..."
- "Love to know more about the People & history..."
- "Guided Tours about the ghosts, mining & tunnels..."
- "School trips and children's sensory experiences..."
- "Music events, dances, poetry readings..."
- "We've forgotten our own heritage and need to remember it..."
- "What happened to the observatory, I'd like to see that return..."
- "I'd like to go on culture trails through the Hall and plantations..."
- "The Hall has such a rich history, there should be exhibitions about it..."
- "Have you heard about Lady Mabel? Can you tell her story..."
- "Is there a tunnel that goes to the town centre? I'd like to see the cellars..."
- "I'd like to see some of the treasures that used to be in the Hall returning..."
- "I'd get involved in a Haigh heritage society..."
- "Tours of the Hall that tell the story of our past and inspire kids for the future..."
- "I want to see interesting things, artifacts, art, a heritage centre..."
- "Education for the Children of our Borough so they know about this heritage..."
- "The Hall should be filled with art, heritage, history and culture..."
- "Focus on WWI and the Hall's military past, it was once a hospital in WWI..."
- "No one knows any of this [from AtoZ film], I've lived here for over 60 years and grew up coming to Haigh, it's a travesty we've forgotten all this..."
- "We'd like guided tours of the Hall with history and heritage..."
- "An art gallery please..."
- "Why can't it be a museum like every other place like this?..."
- "I'd come to see chamber music, classical concerts..."
- "Immersive theatre around the Hall..."
- "An archive of Haigh Hall that we can all see, the life and times of..."
- "School trips, educate future generations and create pride in the community..."
- "Ghost sleepovers after a tour and ghost film..."
- "Please explore the History and Heritage with good art exhibitions..."
- "The Hall is our gem, make it shine with our culture..."
- "Get some of these things back into the Hall..." [referring to AtoZ film]
- "Heritage stories, art and culture..."
- "A museum, an art gallery telling our story, don't understand why that's never been done at Haigh Hall..."
- "Have you been to Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Haigh Hall could be like that..."
- "It should be a visitor destination, people would come from all over if the Hall was filled with interesting stuff to see..."
- "Needs heritage, arts and culture, concerts and putting on the map..."
- "Arts and crafts, local artists..."
- "A museum in the Hall so we can learn about all this [the heritage]..."
- "Make it like other Stately homes, somewhere to go to see beautiful things..."
- "Art and culture is important..."
- "Have you ever heard of Theodore Major? Wigan should celebrate its finest artists like other town and cities do..."

## Humanities

### Case Study: Earl of Crawford Collection & Bibliotheca Lindesiana

Photo: Val and Jean Hensley-Reynard with AI and AI



Jean and Val walk in the grounds of Haigh Hall together at least once a week. Jean remembers Haigh through the decades, working on the estate at the former zoo in her teenage years. Jean remembers George Carter, the former groundsman from the late 1970's. Jean is passionate about art, culture and heritage and hoped one day, the Hall could be restored to become a 'much loved destination', filled with the former spiritual treasures to nourish visitors, the local community and educate the next generation, something very close to Jean's heart as a former teacher.

## Humanities

### Case Study: Earl of Crawford Collection

Image: Haigh Hall Ballroom

Haigh Hall once housed one of the greatest private collections of Renaissance and Medieval art, including paintings by Raphael, Botticelli, Rembrandt & Caravaggio, many of which are now part of collections in Major institutions around the World. Lord Lindsay writing at Haigh Hall published a 3 volume book in 1847 on the character and dignity, symbolism and mythological importance of this iconography on the evolution of Human nature and the European ideal in a perpetual struggle between imagination and reason.



Madonna Del Latte  
Pinturicchio 1452 - 1513



Virgin and Child enthroned  
Botticini 1446-1497



Saint Lawrence with a female  
Sandro Botticelli 1444-1510

# Humanities

## Case Study: Bibliotheca Lindesiana

Image left: Page from Edo daisetsuyo kaidoigura, 1864, Purchased by Lord Lindsay 1871

Image top right: Haigh Hall The Small Library

Image bottom right: Haigh Hall The Long library

The Bibliotheca Lindesiana was a vision of the Human intellect. Haigh Hall once housed the largest private library in Europe, equal to the Medici's. Spanning countless rooms in the Hall, the library is now housed in many of the World's great libraries included the British Library London, The John Rylands library Manchester, The Royal Observatory Edinburgh,



# Humanities

## Case Study: Theodore Major

Photo: Norah Fenton & Kath Taylor



Kath Taylor wanted to see local arts & culture celebrated & showcased at the hall. Kath visited Theodore Major at his house after he moved from Swinley Road in Wigan to Appley Bridge and bought a landscape painting from Theo, she is passionate about seeing his work in the hall and wondered if there were any plans for this.

## Humanities

### Case Study: Theodore Major

Image: Portrait of Theodore Major

One of the greatest, visionary artists of the 20th century, Theodore Major captured life in Wigan across the century, portraying working people in the industrial landscape of mining and the foundry which was owned and operated by the Lindsay family of Haigh Hall. At the end of the coal mining era when the chimney pollution started to clear, Major captured this new green world appear before his eyes.

In 1958, John Berger wrote in the *New Statesman*, claiming that Major's 'best canvases deserve to hang among the best English paintings of our time, alongside the early Spencers and the best Hermans...'

Major lived a life completely dedicated to Art. He modeled both his life and his art on the example of a few chosen mentors, Michelangelo, Rembrandt, William Blake and Van Gogh.

Born in 1908, Major's mature art was fired by memories of his early childhood in Wigan. He remembered 'the dark streets, the red flames of open blast furnaces on wet pavements. I saw my playmates walking on fire. I saw the morning mists, the light of yellow sun, the dark clouds, the pattern of smoke against grey sky. I saw the white sailing moon. I saw the dignity of workmen and the beauty and warmth of women. I saw God in every child.'

Major grew up in a two-up, two-down terraced house in the time of George Orwell's *Road to Wigan Pier*. He was inspired spiritually and physically throughout his life by the environs of a town that he loved and had deep affection for.

Lowry, one of Major's peers and friends, greatly respected Theo's endeavour to capture the landscape and people of the industrial revolution. Lowry thought Major the better painter, he described Major's paintings as "magnificent and unique."

Major followed no political agenda, but like an Old Testament prophet he railed against the madness of his times, hence his atom bomb paintings, and, at the end of his life, apocalyptic paintings of skeletons and, most extraordinary of all, in a final flourish creating over 300 Monster paintings.

Major died in 1999, deeply loved and respected by all who knew him.

Humanities

## Case Study: Theodore Major

Image: Dawn at Wigan, Theodore Major



## Humanities

### Case Study: Heritage Tours and Mining Tunnels

Photo: Emily and Chris Holden



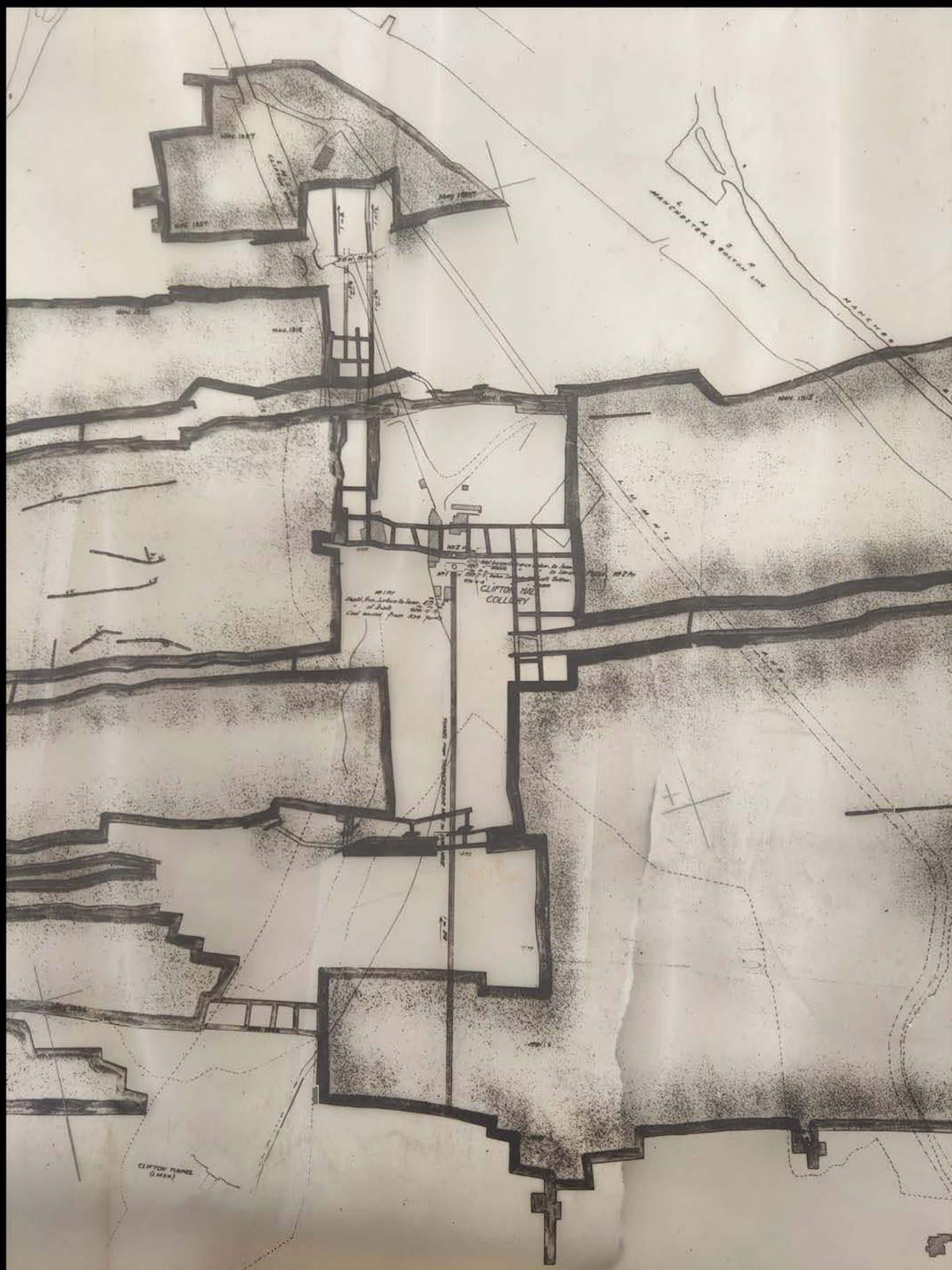
Chris Holden & his daughter Emily go for walks together in the woodland. Emily has just recovered from Covid and loves to play on the monkey bars. Emily once saw a ghost in a white gown looking out of a window at Haigh Hall. They would love to go on tours around the Hall and hear about the people who once lived there and haunt the place. Chris likes to explore disused slate mines in Wales and would love to go in the tunnels under Haigh, he thinks an underground experience in the cellars of the Hall, focused on the mining and industrial heritage of Haigh would be brilliant.

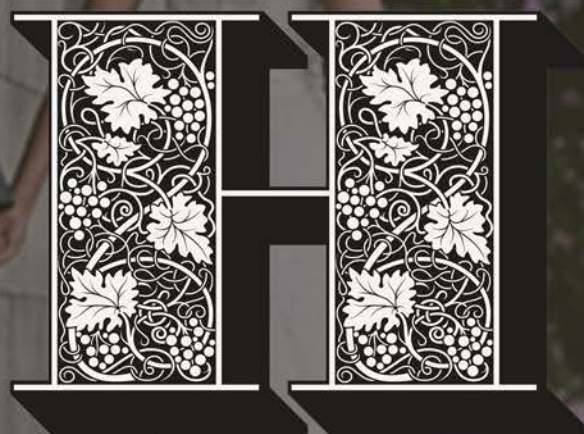
Chris Holden  
Summary of Haigh Hall  
Demolition  
Chris & Emily's Address  
April  
Monkey Bars  
Adventure -  
Slate Mines  
White Gown  
Lakes & Ponds

# Humanities

## Case Study: Heritage Tours and Mining Tunnels

Image: Underground Map of mining tunnels, Wigan and Leigh archives





HOSPITALITY

Louise and Paul's wedding party at Haigh Hall  
Paul Marbrook

# HOSPITALITY

63% of people want to be able to dine in a restaurant in the Hall, drink coffee or have a beer on the terrace, have a cocktail on the roof terrace, both in the daytime and the evening.

There was a vast difference in suggested price points for the restaurant. Some people suggested Haigh Hall is in a perfect location to play a part in the award winning culinary circuit of the region. A Michelin star offer, like Moor Hall in Ormskirk which has taster menus up to £195 per person. Others suggested a Sunday carvery priced at £9.99. The general consensus was that Haigh Hall should have the best restaurant in the Borough. Somewhere to get dressed up for and celebrate with friends and family.

A huge number of people want to be able to have Afternoon High tea. A special treat.

51% of people want to be able to attend and host special occasion events such as prom nights, society dinners, birthday celebrations, Christmas and New Year's Eve celebrations.

Weddings were also important to people. Many people brought in their wedding albums from the last 40 years, and hoped their children would be able to get married in the Hall.

Many people hoped some accommodation would be available for weddings and events, with a focus on the bride and groom, and close family being able to stay in the Hall. It is interesting to note only 0.13% of People thought the Hall should exclusively be a hotel.

Whilst only 63% of people directly mentioned a café or bar or restaurant, it is presumed those who spoke about a cultural visitor destination [88.5%] would expect hospitality as part of the visitor experience.

## HAIGH HALL HOSPITALITY CELEBRATION, FOOD, DRINK AND RECREATIONAL EVENTS

### A selection of what the People said about Hospitality at the Hall...

- "It should have the best restaurant in Wigan..."
- "I'd visit in the evening, somewhere to get dressed up for..."
- "I'd love to come for Afternoon Tea with my friends..."
- "Have drinks or a coffee on the Terrace overlooking that view..."
- "Are you going to have a cocktail bar on the roof?"
- "I want to get Married at the Hall, somewhere really special..."
- "A cafe on the terrace..."
- "A restaurant that uses local produce..."
- "Afternoon tea, a terrace cafe and a brilliant restaurant..."
- "A Mother's day function, Christmas dinners, special events..."
- "High quality wedding offer, and it should have some accommodation..."
- "Wigan prom nights..."
- "Black tie do's..."
- "Dinner dances on special dates..."
- "A bar for a beer on the terrace..."
- "Halloween ghost events with Lady Mabel..."
- "Boxing Day masquerade night..."
- "Fireworks in front of Hall on Bonfire night..."
- "Winter weddings with the fires blazing..."
- "A restaurant in the day and evening..."
- "Feel it's been neglected for decades, so much potential for food and drink..."
- "Accommodation for the bride and groom and family..."
- "Afternoon tea, rooftop bar and cafe, cocktail bar, different cafe offers..."
- "Not for profit, for the people..."
- "Ballroom dancing..."
- "Weddings, up market..."
- "A prestigious restaurant..."
- "Rotary dinners..."
- "Don't do 2 weddings at once, I worked here when they did that and it was a nightmare..."
- "Weddings and events..."
- "Restaurant should be like San Carlo or The Ivy..."
- "It's situated in a golden triangle of gastronomical experiences and could easily become a Michelin star hospitality destination..."
- "Should be like coming to a red carpet experience when you have an event at the Hall..."
- "Christmas events, a choir and dinner..."
- "Restaurant that is better than anywhere else..."
- "Ice cream on the roof terrace..."
- "Cocktails and a special night in the evening..."
- "Wedding and functions in the Hall..."
- "Get a star chef..."
- "Should be better than any other restaurant in Wigan..."
- "Why shouldn't it compete with any other town near here, a restaurant in Ormskirk has been voted to be the UK's best restaurant, why can't Wigan..."

## Hospitality

### Case Study: Restaurant, Cocktails, Cafe & Special Celebrations

Photo: Gemma Barton, Lynsey Aspinall & Alfie



Gemma and Lynsey live in heritage properties on the wider Haigh Estate with their young families. They would love Haigh Hall to become a world class cultural visitor destination, inspiring and educating their children. Gemma and Lynsey also spoke about hospitality at Haigh Hall, they would love to be regulars eating in a fantastic restaurant in an inspirational space with the family. Both families want to celebrate special occasions and host birthday parties for their children, like Alfie pictured here.



HORTICULTURE

Sir Roger Bradshaigh and Lady Bradshaigh in the grounds of Haigh Hall  
Edward Haytley 1746

# HORTICULTURE

41.75% of the People spoke about the gardens, the plantations and grounds surrounding the Hall. It is clear everyone who visits enjoys their time walking through the estate. The ancient Woodlands, or 'The Plants' as they are locally known are cherished and loved by all.

Whilst everyone spoke about the wellbeing benefits of walking through the gardens and plantations, many People spoke about their experience of other gardens in places such as Tatton Park, RHS Bridgewater and wondered why Haigh Hall's grounds are not comparable in quality.

Safety is also a concern for many People in the Plantations, especially Women, who said they would not walk alone. Many people also complained about cyclists and felt unsafe sharing the same pathways at the speed they ride.

Many spoke about the pathways. Some thought they were in reasonable condition, whilst many others believed work was needed to make them safe and visitor friendly. Many People spoke of confusing signs, maps, and believed wayfinding needs work. Others spoke about a lack of interpretation for key heritage spots, for example the Great Sough. Many people want to see more bins, benches and toilets in the Plantations.

People were universally passionate about the environment and ecology, many wanted to volunteer and learn about horticulture. Many People believed the Walled gardens needed a lot of work with redesign and replanting. Many people would love a garden centre with a nursery and horticulture workshops with experts in the field.

Many people walk their much loved Dog at Haigh. Some people said dogs should not be off a lead. Others thought they should have their own cafe.

A high percentage lamented losing the Glasshouse, it seemed to define for some what losing heritage assets mean... that future generations are deprived of unique experiences in Wigan. Many hoped one day a tropical Glasshouse could return.

## HORTICULTURE

### THE GARDENS, PLANTATIONS & GROUNDS

#### A selection of what the People said about Horticulture at the Hall...

- "Landscaping looks like it's not cared for..."
- "I'd like to see the Walled gardens be beautiful again..."
- "Miss the rhododendrons on the bank..."
- "Bring back the greenhouse near the ornamental pond..."
- "I remember palm trees, rubber plants and seeing bananas grow..."
- "Why can't Haigh be as good as Tatton or Bridgewater..."
- "Haigh is loved by the people, but it feels like its unloved..."
- "I'd like to buy plants from a nursery at Haigh..."
- "All the paths, especially the plantations need looking at..."
- "I would like to see a return to botanic gardens..."
- "I'd like to go to horticulture workshops..."
- "I'm worried about the environment, what will our legacy be?..."
- "The gardens are important to mental health..."
- "Cyclists are a menace, maybe they should have their own paths, they are making their own paths near Mopin lodge gates..."
- "Railings around the pond and paths, please get rid of them..."
- "Walled gardens are not very colourful, please replant them..."
- "Make it all about environment Make new group for youngsters, caretakers of the planet..."
- "Haigh hall landscaping should be looked after better..."
- "More toilets at various places, more benches too..."
- "The Gardens at Haigh hall should be comparable to any good national trust site..."
- "Get prince William to fund environmental projects like on TV  
An environmental centre, educational..."
- "2 words – environment and ecology [The hall] and plantations should be all about those 2 words..."
- "Plantations are wonderful, they should be kept free and public right of way..."
- "Practical Horticultural workshops..."
- "The golf course is too big..."
- "Building Dens in the Woodland and getting the kids involved in gardening..."
- "Plantation paths are very good..."
- "Plantations paths need a lot of work..."
- "We all come walking every few weeks because the plantations are peaceful, we don't get past the hall many times..."
- "The ornamental pond needs a lot of care and attention..."
- "Pumpkin growing and carving..."
- "Would love to see the gardens in beautiful condition. So many special trees..."
- "Why don't you have a garden centre? Loads of land to grow plants have a nursery..."
- "Would love to join, be a member of gardening group..."
- "Love to see a maze at Haigh, when we go to country houses always fun to go around the gardens..."

# Horticulture

## Case Study: Glasshouse

Photo: Philip Santos & Karen Buckles



Karen Buckles was artist-in-residence at Haigh Hall for 20 years during the 1980's and 1990's. Karen brought a fantastic and detailed survey of the former Victorian Haigh Glasshouse into the conversation to be scanned for the archives. The glasshouse was demolished and lost forever soon after the survey was completed.

Like many people who came into the Conversation, Karen loved the Haigh Glasshouse and believes it is a lost gem.

# Horticulture

## Case Study: Glasshouse

Photographs brought into the Conversation by Dennis Holland

Upper: Mildred Ellison, Mildred Holland, Martha Ellison & Tom Ellison

Lower: Mildred Ellison with Bananas inside the Glasshouse



# Horticulture

## Case Study: Glasshouse

Page from The Glasshouse Survey brought into the Conversation by Karen Buckles showing the ground floor plan.

### HAIGH CONSERVATORY

#### NORTH ELEVATION GROUND PLAN

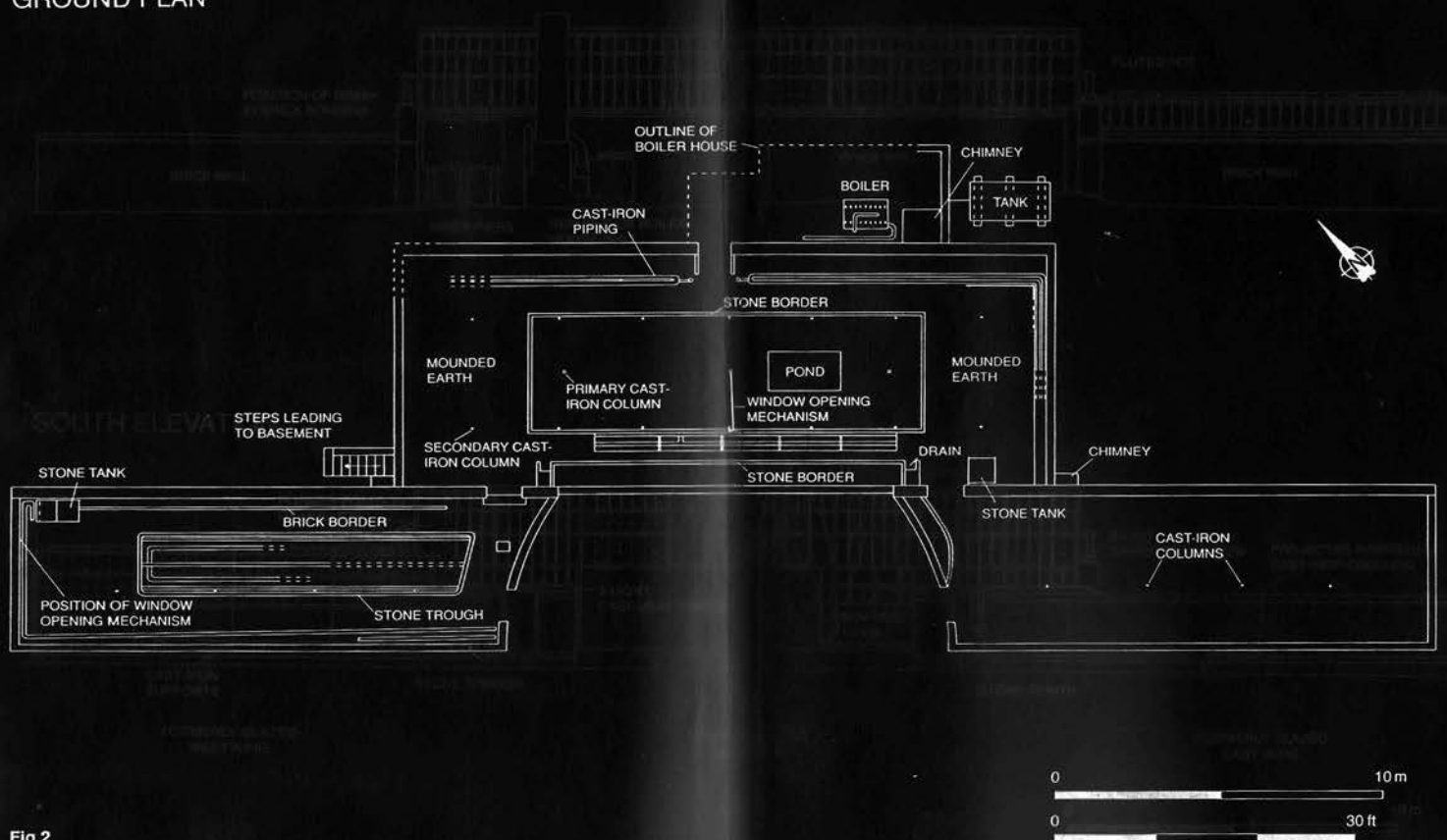


Fig 2



THE FUTURE



# THE FUTURE: THE CHAPTERS

Following The Conversation, the Haigh Hall team have been working on a 10 year MasterPlan for Haigh Hall, informed and inspired by what the People said.

The Masterplan is divided into 4 chapters...

Chapter 1: Immediate works and external repairs of the Hall including the roof, windows and stonework is currently progressing through a listed planning process and will commence as soon as possible, as well as horticultural investment in projects such as Amphitheatre for a Tree.

Chapter 2: Focuses on the National Heritage Lottery Bid which is progressing at pace, applying for much needed investment into many areas of Haigh Hall including restoration of the Plantation Gates, the Bothy Cottages, a new pavillion for the Kitchen Garden, a Woodland Hub, interpretation, heritage & play trails in the Plantations and pathway work.

Chapter 3: Focuses on the internal repurposing of the Hall, the grounds immediately surrounding and an extension to the car park with a proposed Level Up bid for investment which would restore and transform the Hall into a cultural visitor destination of regional and national significance.

Chapter 4: Focuses on ambitions beyond the Hall's restoration, including a new Glasshouse, a new Observatory, further investment in the Gardens, and beyond.

The next stage of public consultation will be further engagement regarding the proposed MasterPlan.