

## ALTRINCHAM HISTORY SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER NO. 11      April 2021

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Hello again, I hope you are all well and enjoying spring sunshine. Here's the usual mix, including some dates for online talks, and some bits of local info.

Any suggestions for what to include here? Also we need articles for the annual journal, any contributions, large or small are welcome, deadline 15<sup>th</sup> June.

Just to up-date you, we've had an 'al fresco' committee meeting, with a welcome fire, and discussed mainly how to proceed. We will try booking meetings from September this year - provisional of course.



Pics from Eleanor

### Upcoming Events

British Association for Local History (BALH) is running a series of online lectures that they call '**Local History Hour**'. The latest is 'Women's Lives in Early Modern Documents' on **Thurs April 29<sup>th</sup>**.

Log in at 6.50pm for 7pm prompt start.

As AHS has a subscription to BALH, our members get a discount, and the cost is then £3 per session. If you are interested in any of these lectures, let me know and I will pass on our Discount Code.

[https://www.balh.org.uk/event-balh-balh-local-history-hour-women-s-lives-in-early-modern-documents-2021-04-29?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=BALH&utm\\_campaign=newsletter-925](https://www.balh.org.uk/event-balh-balh-local-history-hour-women-s-lives-in-early-modern-documents-2021-04-29?utm_medium=email&utm_source=BALH&utm_campaign=newsletter-925)

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**Liverpool's Fashionable Suburb: the Victorian villas of Sefton Park, a talk via Zoom. Thursday 6**

**May 7pm - 10pm** Talk by Joseph Sharples, now Curator of Mackintosh Collections at the Hunterian, University of Glasgow.

Tickets £7.50 plus booking fee <https://www.ticketquarter.co.uk/online/liverpools-fashionable-suburb>

When Sefton Park opened in 1872, it was the largest Victorian park in Britain. Straight away, its magnificent landscape became the focus for an exclusive new suburb of grand villas, populated by rich merchants and ship owners. This talk will explore the architecture and interior decoration of these extravagant houses, and the social lives of their occupants.

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**War memorialisation exhibition opens** - The exhibition is free and runs until **Saturday 8 May**

An exhibition of prints, sculpture, installations, and video by David Dunnico, has now opened at the Air Gallery, 30 Grosvenor Road, Altrincham. *War Works* takes the familiar memorials and rituals invented after the disaster of the First World War, such as the Cenotaph and Two Minute Silence, and sees how they affect the way we see modern day disasters like 'the war on terror'.

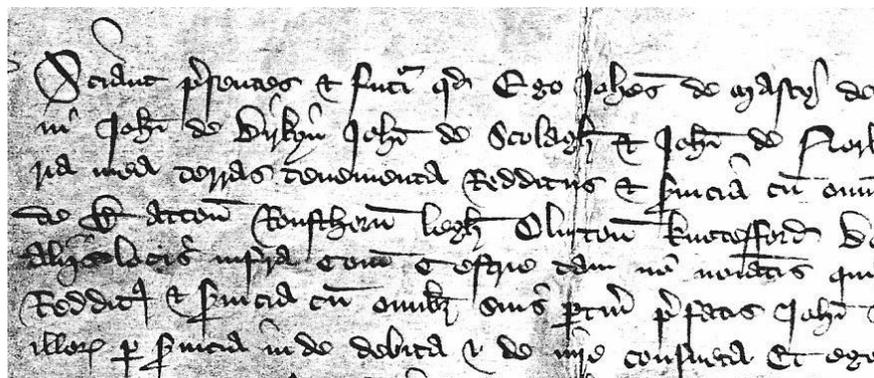
**Note the opening times** Weds, Thurs, Fri, 11am- 6pm; Sat 12pm-5pm. The artist will be at the gallery every Saturday from 2 to 4pm during its run and is happy to give personal guided tours.

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**Trafford Local Studies and Archives opening again.** Booking required, see guidance here:

<https://exploringtraffordsheritage.omeka.net/reopeningguidance?fbclid=IwAR04ImXSHcVe2HOCAPxI3NHIfE6KHMZe5VIXmTz3f3nD2-0X5oh0t-eq2Uo>

**Sanjam Fair** - in the last newsletter I mentioned the possibility of a one off revival of the 'Sanjam Fair' in 2023 for a 700 year anniversary. Well, this is on hold at present, until we can confirm the exact date of the original and track down a copy, and a transcription, and a translation from the Latin.

Here's a sample of what it may look like, this is cropped from an unidentified charter:



There are four problems:

1. the handwriting,
2. the Latin,
3. abbreviations
4. the spelling.

A line over the word means letter/s left out, often at the end.

There are standard abbreviations for *pre* and *pro*, etc, like the curl above the *p* in the second word.

Just to get you going, it starts with a standard phrase:

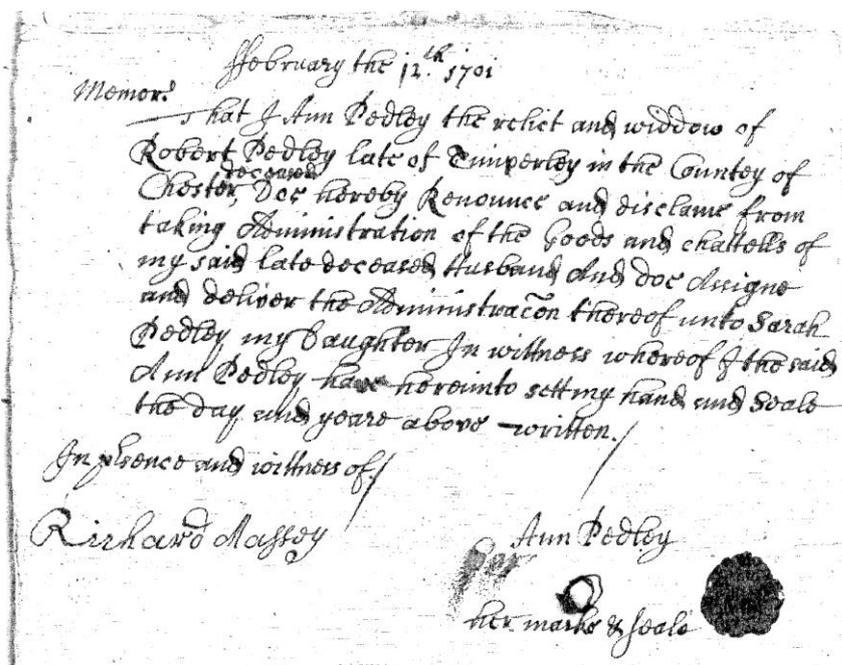
Sciant presentes et futuri quod ego - Know [all men] present and future that I - in this case - Johannes de Masey - then followed by whatever is to be confirmed by the charter. This one seems to name a lot of places in Cheshire, e.g. on line four I can just see Rousthern Legh . . . Knotsford. (I think.)

You get a real sense of achievement when you can work it out.

Here's an easier one, if you fancy having a go. It's from a probate administration.

Transcription at the end.

NB It's before the change of start of year from March to 1<sup>st</sup> January, so actually from 1702.



[Cheshire Archives & Local Studies - Will of Robert Pedley 1701/2]

**Prehistoric Archaeology** - series of online lectures organised by the Nene Valley Archaeological Trust (in lieu of a planned conference on the Bronze Age. A bit specialist but check to see if anything interests you. Free talks (donation invited) but you need to register.

<https://www.nenevalleyarchaeology.co.uk/2021-conference-bronze-age-britain>

**More prehistoric** - presentation by Fraser Brown on a remarkable and very significant Mesolithic/Neolithic excavation for the A585 Windy Harbour to Skippol road scheme in Lancashire. Given on 18th March to the Society of Antiquaries of London but is freely accessible via You Tube.

The lecture is called 'Margin Walking' and can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bKATz72JT3k&t=424s>

**Mapping Chester's Landscapes:** past, present and future. talk by Professor Keith Lilley. Joint presentation by Chester Society for Landscape History and , Univ of Bristol, Historic Towns Trust. This talk has taken place, but is available on YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z9BBfhUEt8s&feature=youtu.be>

The Place of the 'Plas' in Pennant's Wales. YouTube talk from Penmaenmawr Museum on gentlemen's houses in late 18<sup>th</sup> century described in Pennant's tour of Wales - 56 minutes.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VXRix7zcBOY>

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**Another Pandemic** - I've been catching up on reading '*The Local Historian*' quarterly journals, and the one for October 2018 (Vol 48, no4) has two very good articles about the **Spanish 'flu 1918-19**, on Liverpool and the Black Country. Interesting to compare with the current situation. Let me know if you would like to borrow my copy.

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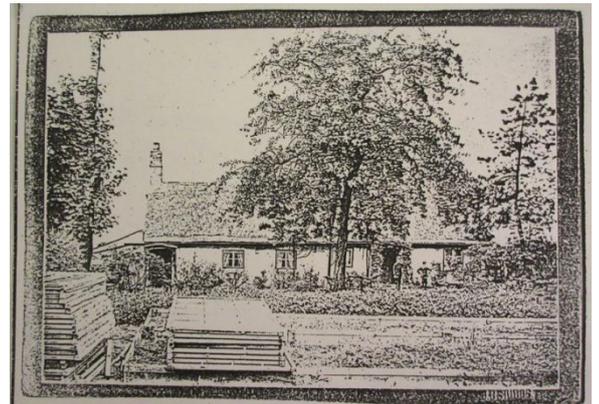
Check out the website of **Cheshire Local History Association**. [www.cheshirehistory.org.uk](http://www.cheshirehistory.org.uk)  
60+ years of Cheshire local history publications available **online without charge**; online viewing of maps from 1577 to 1831; the opportunity to purchase those same maps at high quality on CD; and more. The 'Past Publications' page lists contents from 1951 to 2014 and has good 'Search tips'. AHS has a subscription and we receive copies of the journal - I've got *Cheshire History* No 55 and No 57, if anyone wishes a good read.

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### **Another Timperley Tenement located.**

Last time I wrote about Timperley Tenement no. 13 leased by the Overseers of the Poor.

Recent work by Jill Groves on the Manorial Courts, (forthcoming Occasional Paper no. 53) prompted me to see what I could find out. The reference that Jill Groves found in the Manorial Court records had the Overseers of the Poor for Timperley, or their tenants, being instructed to do work at 'Deborah Holt's Croft'. Looking at 18<sup>th</sup> century leases from the Dunham Massey estate for premises in Timperley, I found Deborah Holt holding 'Timperley Tenement' no.9. Following the leases through time we can identify where the tenement was. Deborah Holt in 1722 had a lease of a cottage and building with a small croft, following on from Thomas Holt (her father?). By 1744 she had died, and the property was leased to John Goolden, then Richard Rowlinson, then Elizabeth his widow. By 1837 the lease was held by James Hulme and the property then was three cottages with garden land, one occupied by Isaac Worthington, and the Tithe Award of 1838 shows Isaac Worthington as occupier of one of three cottages and gardens - Plot numbers 319 and 320 - on Bloomsbury Lane nearly opposite the present Quarry Bank pub. The garden of the cottage stretched back to Stockport Road, and has only in the last ten years been built upon. A single storey dwelling there, recently extended and up-dated, could well be Deborah's cottage.



The old photo taken from Stockport Road, shows a stack of framelights from garden frames.

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**A new Timperley video** Good background history, accurate as far as I can tell. - I saw them filming it in early April, 8 minutes only. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=peNZTC9-WYU>

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### **WW2 Memories of Altrincham**

If you already have your copy of the latest AHS Occasional Paper, here's a photo I finally found of Mr Thorpe, in charge of his section for 'Fire Watching on Thorley Lane', Timperley.

Also, Chris Hill has pointed out a small error in his WW2 Memories - top of page 12, should read 'The Daring Dexters', not Sexters. [That sounds like something to do with chickens!]



The Buck Inn, Ashton-on-Mersey - interesting research from Trafford Local Studies, and mention of Altrincham constable 'Natty' Pass, presumably Nathaniel ?

[https://exploringtraffordsheritage.omeka.net/exhibits/show/trafford-pub-crawl/buck-inn--ashton-upon-mersey?fbclid=IwAR30z\\_e0WfCF\\_3HBZQmOb-As33F9oKwdIZRIBXOyIVGQYQxGvZS27AyvfcY](https://exploringtraffordsheritage.omeka.net/exhibits/show/trafford-pub-crawl/buck-inn--ashton-upon-mersey?fbclid=IwAR30z_e0WfCF_3HBZQmOb-As33F9oKwdIZRIBXOyIVGQYQxGvZS27AyvfcY)

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**Stockport Halls** <https://thehistoryofstockportin100halls.wordpress.com/> has sections on Bramall Hall, Bredbury Hall, Handforth Hall and many more.

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Here's another gravestone story. Looking round Hale Cemetery, I came across this one for William and Alberta Pearson of The Waggon & Horses Hotel, Altrincham.



William died in 1905 aged 44, and Alberta died in 1909 aged 45, a few months after the death of their son Gilbert William, at age 17.

On the grave there is a small plaque which reads:

R.A.O.B. - G.L.C. [?]

William Pearson Lodge No. 1110 [?]

in memory of Primo William Pearson and Alberta his wife.

Hostess of the above Lodge. True friends of the Order.

(The hotel was at numbers 2,4 & 6 Islington Street, Newtown (or Cally) where Sainsbury's is now.)

Also on the stone is a memorial to Trooper Gilbert Smallwood (E.R.Y) grandson of William & Alice and only son of Frank and Sarah Smallwood, killed 16 March 1945 in Belgium.

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Another '**stink pipe**' has been spotted, at the start of the path across the Golf course from Wood Lane, Timperley. And I found an article about 'Stench Poles' - an alternative name from down south. Has anyone spotted any others? Or anything else of a curious nature, that we can share.

Keep a look-out round the area for the 'Altrincham sycamore' coming into leaf now - shrimp/peach coloured leaves - and keep being curious.

Best wishes, Hazel.

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February the 12<sup>th</sup> 1701

Memor[andum]

That I Ann Pedley the relict and widdow of  
Robert Pedley late of Timperley in the Countey of  
Chester, ^deceased^ Doe hereby Renounce and disclame from  
taking Administration of the Goods and chattells of  
my said late deceased Husband And doe Assigne  
and deliver the Administrac[i]on thereof unto Sarah  
Pedley my Daughter In wittness whereof I the said  
Ann Pedley have hereunto sett my hand and seale [may be a capital S]  
the day and yeare above written.

In p[re]sence and wittness of  
Richard Massey.

Ann Pedley  
her [smudged]  
her marke & seale.