

ALTRINCHAM HISTORY SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER No. 14. July 2021

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Hello everyone,

I hope you are enjoying (or surviving) the hot weather. Sorry I didn't get this out earlier so you could take in some of the July events, listed below, they may be available online or be repeated.

We had a garden-based committee meeting in early July, and discussed the possibility of starting meetings again from September. We have a programme of talks planned, and how we proceed will depend mostly on numbers allowed at Altrincham Town Hall, and how people individually feel about attending. We may introduce our own restrictions by way of asking for masks to be worn, and we will probably not serve refreshments. The programme will be posted out in late August with subscription renewal forms and this year's Journal.

Many thanks to the contributors of articles for the Journal, a good selection of different topics; and to Jill Groves for her work on society publications. There are more Occasional Papers on the way, again thanks to the writers.



I think I'll arrange another informal **get together/ visit to Timperley Hall moated site**, as the two dates planned for July turned out - one to coincide with some sort of big football match (!) and the other a very rainy day, although we had a dry hour, and just finished as the heavy rain started again. If you haven't been to the walled garden and site of the mediaeval hall it is worth a visit to enjoy the quiet. How about **Thursday 12th August 1.30pm for 2.00pm** for about an hour. The Olympic Games will have finished, and Wimbledon and the Tour de France and the Open Golf TV coverage (anything else?)

Ordsall Hall (actual) guided tours

Several dates are available in July, although some dates are sold out you may still be able to book.

Tudor Witchcraft and Superstitions Tour

Tudor Europe was a society built on extreme religious beliefs, superstition and a fear of the unknown. Explore Ordsall Hall's history of witchcraft and superstition with one of our tour guides, as we highlight the Hall's many protective marks carved into the building walls and windows and learn more about how Tudor people protected themselves from dark spirits with symbols, spells and set religious practices.

To reserve a private tour for your bubble, please book 1 group ticket for your preferred time. This reservation will pre-pay for 2 adult members of your bubble. Any additional adults can be paid for on arrival at the Hall, at our front desk.

£3.50 per adult, children under 10 years free entry.

Maximum group size 6 persons or 2 households (including children).

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/tudor-witchcraft-and-superstitions-tour-tickets-160190832091?aff=erelexpmlt>

Historic Guided Tour of Ordsall Hall

Enjoy a one hour private tour of Greater Manchester's third oldest building dating back to 1177. Explore its 14th century bedchambers, its fascinating Tudor kitchen and be blown away by the architectural engineering of its Grade I listed Timber Framed Great Hall, dating back to 1512. Our café and gardens will be open after your visit, for your bubble to enjoy this historic backdrop for a little longer.

To reserve a private tour for your bubble, . . . details as above.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/historic-guided-tour-of-ordsall-hall-tickets-160187744857?aff=erelexpmlt>

'Marginalised lives in localities' Local History Hour lecture series on Zoom - British Association for Local History.

On **29th July at 7pm** we'll be welcoming Dr Anna Cusack and Professor David Killingray. David's talk focuses on people of African origin and descent in British localities, 1500-1950. Anna's talk uses crime and execution to discover marginalised individuals and their stories in eighteenth century London.

You can book your spot by visiting this link https://www.balh.org.uk/event-balh-balh-local-history-hour-marginalised-lives-in-localities-2021-07-29?utm_medium=email&utm_source=BALH&utm_campaign=newsletter-1030

Cost is £5. Free for BALH members.

Lots more information on the British Association for Local History website <https://www.balh.org.uk/>

Legacies of British Slave-Ownership - very interesting information on this website

<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/> I knew about one slave owner from a visit and searched for 'Hare Hill', the National Trust garden near Alderley Edge - look to see how many slaves the owner had.

Festival of Archaeology July 17-August 1 - free online events about archaeology along the line of **HS2**.

Find out more here: <https://www.hs2.org.uk/building-hs2/archaeology/foa/>

Local Chapels visit

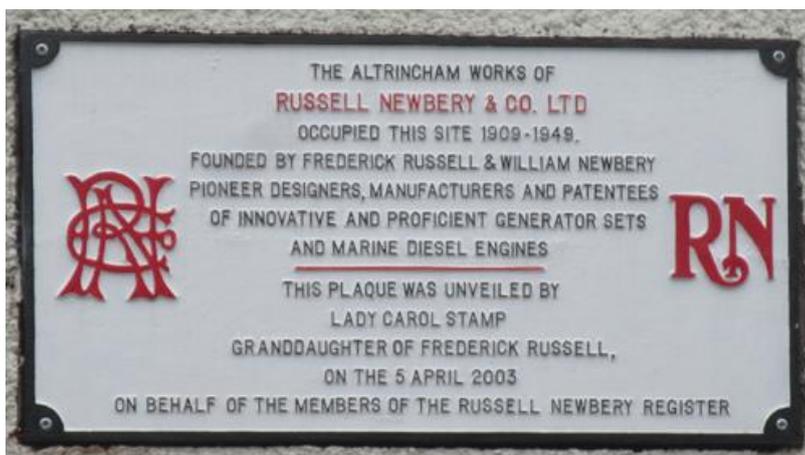
The Chapels Society has arranged a visit to Sale, Altrincham, Bowdon on **Saturday 25th September** - a full day visit, using the Metrolink from Piccadilly Station, calling at Sale & Altrincham. For non-members of the Chapels Society the cost is £20, to include hot drinks at lunchtime and tea in the afternoon. Book by 4th Sept, if you are interested. Looks like a good day's visit. Click on this link to download a flyer with booking form. <https://www.chapelssociety.org.uk/events/sale-altrincham-and-cheshire/>

Trafford Local Studies Library display for Armed Forces Day - available online along with other exhibits

https://exploringtraffordsheritage.omeka.net/exhibits/show/armed-forces-day-2021/armed-forces-day-2021?fbclid=IwAR0efH5o3vqFQH6rPpMVjpX1cMvUglffl_B6kwTH6ofZM7xMQ6zf2wesmRQ

Quiz - Have you seen this plaque? Do you know where it is?

An example of Altrincham's engineering industry. Answer at the end.



Engine example at the Boat Museum at Ellesmere Port.

Did Sherlock Holmes really exist? Check in the latest Newsletter from The National Archives

https://clicks.econnectmail.com/view_online/view_online.php?token2=hGJHeY3rr8VpimMn1NDtPcL_SqMG0ZjmxX0HUSNWgvsBIf53JI7qC7ddaLyB8yQh_51ilcGjWRkjcUp_nANjyQ..

Manchester's connection with Radium and the Radium Works in Broadheath

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OoJ7_OJuQEA

a 10 minute video by Wicked Acorn

Buildings & Architecture - There's an online index to editions of *The Builder* weekly journal - available <http://builderindex.org/> Not many entries for our area, as yet, but it is a work in progress.

“Waverley”, Arthog Road, Hale

Does anyone know if a house called ‘Waverley’ is still there on Arthog Road on the side between Wyngate Road and The Avenue? It was probably built around 1910 and was listed in Kelly's directories of 1927 and 1942, and had been the address of Captain Thomas Whittle Martin in WW1. The son of a doctor in Irlam he trained at Manchester and worked as a surgeon at MRI, and at Barnes Hospital, Cheadle, before joining the RAMC. He was awarded the Military Cross for evacuating wounded during a trench raid, and was killed at the Battle of Arras in April 1917. More details on the Trafford War Dead website

<http://www.traffordwardead.co.uk/>

Landscape archaeology - for a brief introduction to Landscape archaeology read the Obituary of Christopher Taylor.

https://www.theguardian.com/science/2021/jul/09/christopher-taylor-obituary?CMP=Share_AndroidApp_Other&fbclid=IwAR2I0bPns5TycakqnwGO73Hjsrlp0FtCdJWsWgqD-3_2VdC-9D5sgQNOC0

Caldwells of Knutsford -nurserymen

Starting in the autumn, the Gardens Trust is offering a series of talks on the theme of plant nurseries, plant hunters and pioneers. These are to be held weekly on Monday evenings over the period from September 2021, starting at 6.00 pm, and will continue in 2022. In September, they are planning to start with four talks on the general history of plant nurseries. Sally Jeffery who is coordinating the project suggests that this is a neglected area of garden history that is now attracting much interest.

Because of the research that Cheshire Gardens Trust had done and the information on the Caldwell's website, Cheshire Gardens Trust was invited to talk on Caldwell's of Knutsford as part of the series. Barbara Moth agreed to talk on our behalf and on 13 December 2021 @ 6pm will be giving her presentation via Zoom. So keep the date free. For further information see The Gardens Trust website later in the year, probably from August

<https://thegardenstrust.org/events-archive/?events=gardenstrust>

For further information on the Caldwell's project see the website <https://www.caldwellarchives.org.uk>

Due for Demolition - Navigation Road cottages



There's a Planning Application for demolition of the pair of cottages at 113 & 115 Navigation Road, near the car park of the LMRCA Club. I was contacted back in Dec 2020 by an officer from Trafford Planning Department about the history of the building. Here's what I sent:

I took a couple of photos back in the 1980s. The March 1982 photo – I have a note that the following week the left hand cottage was fully boarded up. By October 1989 - the pair had been recently renovated.

I'm not sure from the 1982 photo, but it looks as if the left of the roof ridge might have different ridge tiles to the rest, which may have been of stone not

tile? Possible evidence for the removal of a chimney on the left end? From the 1989 photo the ridge tiles had been fully replaced. There are a few other examples of **stone ridges** in the area – e.g. Potts Cottages, Grove Lane, Timperley. 17th C probate inventories of Timperley stonemasons mention 'ridging stone'.

1852 Altrincham Board of Health Plan gives the plot numbers: 222 right-hand (i.e. no 113) & 223 left-hand (no 115). In the Book of Reference, both are described as 'House, outbuildings, yard & garden'. Owner: Earl of Stamford, occupiers: 222 Elijah Warburton, 223 James Bowker.

I don't know what the plans are for this site, but there is talk of building housing on the car park by the station !

Recent Queries

A phone call to Eleanor from Ken in Hexham, led to a meeting with him, George Cogswell, HP and Eleanor at Dunham. Ken lived in Altrincham as a boy and remembers his father meeting a German POW from Dunham camp - Kurt Schroeder. He became a friend of Ken's family and they wrote to each other after Kurt returned home to his wife and son. Ken has passed on copies of Kurt's letters about the dire situation he returned home to, with the lack of simple items like soap and shoe polish, and how grateful his wife was for a parcel of clothes sent by Ken's mother.

Jorg Bauw asked about a soldier from WW2. Jorg has adopted a war grave at Venray near his home in the Netherlands and wanted to know about the man - Thomas James Jenkins, killed in 1944.

Trafford War Dead website has got some basic information about Thomas, including his parents, and his marriage to Aida Bostock in 1935. Also his address - 138 Ashley Road, Hale, Altrincham. I looked up in Kelly's Street Directory for 1942, which lists T. J. Jenkins at that address as a butcher. It is in the row of shops near The Railway Inn, recently the 'Canada Grill' takeaway. However I can't find any old photos that show the shop front. Does anyone remember it?

Altrincham Prize Band - email query from Jean (nee Williams) in Somerset, asking for any information about the Band. "Both my Grandfather and Uncle (Leslie Williams) played in it and apart from a photograph taken in Altrincham about 1940's/50's or maybe earlier I have nothing else. Any information you have will be most welcome."

I looked to see what info I could find, and there is not very much written about the local bands which were such a big part of every event up to about the 1960s. Jean has put a query out on Facebook for any more information.

(This snapshot is (I think) Timperley Silver Band.)



A phone call enquiry led to me checking on the location of Cook & Co (Manchester) Ltd for David who is writing a history of the firm. They made machinery for the textile industry - including ring travellers and automatic knotters. There's a bit about the firm in David Miller's *A New History of Hale*, although it was actually just in Altrincham. The 1910 OS map shows the works marked as 'Standard Works', between Windsor Road and Balmoral Road off Moss Lane, Altrincham. It closed around 1969. Windsor Road no longer exists and housing occupies most of the site - St James Court. I remember it as the site of the yard and garages for Godfrey Abbott's coach firm. In relation to Cook & Co. I came across this interesting Russian connection. https://www.gracesguide.co.uk/Clement_Joseph_Charnock

Association for **Industrial Archaeology** News Bulletin July 2020.

<https://mailchi.mp/b264ad082c37/aia-e-news-bulletin-july-2020?e=11dc076a73>

Even if Industrial Archaeology is not your thing, this is still worth a look to see what is going on.

Public Rights of Way - We have until 2026 to make sure that our local footpaths are recorded on the 'Definitive Rights of Way Map'. The process can take a long time, and depends on the council officers (short staffed) to complete the 'Definitive Map Modification Order' for each path.

David Miller has an article in this year's Journal about local pathways, and these often follow old routes that pre-date current roads. Suburban 'snickets' can represent old paths from farmhouse to fields, gone under housing estates. Keep searching out and using your local footpaths.

Enjoy your summer, whether exploring outdoors or just sitting. Hope to see you soon.

Best wishes, Hazel

Quiz answer: The Russell Newbery & Co. plaque is on the building against the railway on Grosvenor Road, Altrincham, that used to be a plumbers' merchants.

