

## ALTRINCHAM HISTORY SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER No. 15 August 2021

Hazel Pryor  
11 Thorley Lane,  
Timperley  
Altrincham  
WA15 7BJ

Hello everyone,

We will soon be posting out to current members your copy of the AHS Journal for 2020-2021, along with the subscription renewal form and details of the programme for 2021-22.

We will be returning to something approaching 'normal' with meetings at the Town Hall from September, with the book stall, but probably no refreshments to start with.

Enclosed here is the latest New Publications Catalogue, including details of 'Portrait of a Georgian Marriage' soon to be available as a printed copy.

In the meantime here are some **dated on-line events** that may be of interest, and few bits of local history.

### **Online Talk from The National Archives Wed, 18 Aug 2021, 19:30 BST**

Heiress Mary Davies, born in London during the Great Plague of 1665, inherited an extensive plot of land west of London as a baby. It was this estate that determined the course of a tragic life.

In this talk, author Leo Hollis restores the history of child brides, mad heiresses, religious controversy and shady dealings. Hollis recounts how the drama culminated in a court case that determined not just the state of Mary's legacy but the future of London itself. Mary's inheritance is known today as the Grosvenor Estate in Mayfair; some of the most valuable real estate in the world. Book through eventbrite -

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/inheritance-tickets-161771279251?aff=em>

-----

Working Class Movement Library newsletter, with events in August and September

*85 years of workers' music - a joint online event with the Workers' Music Association*

Online event **Thursday 26 August from 5.30 to 7.30pm** we are very pleased to be hosting a free joint online event with the Workers' Music Association (WMA). Founded in 1936, the WMA strives to bring the greatest music to the broadest selection of the working class. The Library holds a range of interesting WMA material including early song books. *This online event is free and a link to join will be provided nearer the time.*

Details here:-

<https://mailchi.mp/71deea2c7432/news-from-the-working-class-movement-library?e=4494527afb>

-----

Local History Hour - Zoom talk from British Assoc for Local History:

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> August 7pm** National Mapping in the 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries.

This month **Emma Down** will look at three national mapping schemes: The 1941-43 Farm Survey, The 1910-1915 Valuation Office Survey and the mid-nineteenth century Tithe Survey.

**David Annal** will illustrate how the maps and the accompanying apportionments can be used to identify the precise locations of individual houses listed in the records, and to bring our early Victorian ancestors' lives into focus.

There will be a discussion / Q&A session after the talks.

**Ask Hazel for the discount code** - Cost is £3 for AHS members.

-----

### **Saving Footpaths**

The Peak and Northern Footpath Society has a series of talks on Zoom for members (I joined a few years ago). Starting at 7pm for 1 hour. These dates are coming up.

Claiming Unrecorded Rights of Way (Lost Ways) - **24 August 7pm**

Challenges of a Rights of Way Officer - **21 September**

A recording of Dan Raven Ellison's talk about the Slow Ways Project is on the PNFS YouTube channel

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXFdasCh1woSxwPB1rFrT4A>

PNFS also provide links to other sites: **Quakers, radicals and witches:** a walk back in time on Pendle Hill  
<https://www.theguardian.com/travel/2021/may/10/walk-pendle-hill-radicals-witches-quaker-walking-trail-lancashire>

---

**Heritage Open Day** this year has the theme **‘Edible England’** and Cheshire Archives & Local Studies are having a virtual Cook-in! Taste and smell our Cheshire culinary heritage. Theatre Chef Leo Burtin, who has been working on his pioneering ‘Eat the Archives’ project will introduce you to some of the cooks, cookbook compilers, ingredients and flavours to be found in our collections. Cook your meal in advance using our recipe card and kit, or cook along with Leo on the day, and enjoy a shared tasting experience while hearing about the stories behind the dishes. This free event will be hosted on Zoom on **Saturday 11 September at 12noon** in time for a 1 o'clock lunch Book your free tickets - via the website. Lots more in the Cheshire Archives & Local Studies Newsletter, <https://www.cheshirearchives.org.uk/latest-news-and-events/Cheshire-Archives-and-Local-Studies-Newsletter.aspx>

---

See the latest **Newsletter from National Archives** here -  
[https://clicks.econnectmail.com/view\\_online/view\\_online.php?token2=\\_hGJHeY3rr8VpimMn1NDtPcL\\_SqMG0ZjmX0HUSNWgvsR1ST7sBJBonWYyTIWv9i8WQhrwyWVDnaVuCVYKQSyBg..](https://clicks.econnectmail.com/view_online/view_online.php?token2=_hGJHeY3rr8VpimMn1NDtPcL_SqMG0ZjmX0HUSNWgvsR1ST7sBJBonWYyTIWv9i8WQhrwyWVDnaVuCVYKQSyBg..)

---

### Trafford Local Studies

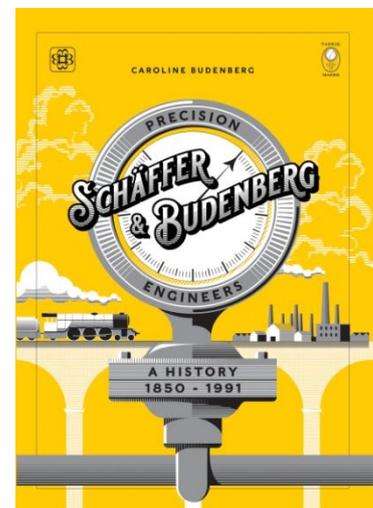
We are very excited to announce that our **First World War in Trafford research database** is now available to download from our website at  
<https://exploringtraffordsheritage.omeka.net/first-world-war-research-database?fbclid=IwAR2QyaG6wU3yQFO5bn88OewFxcg3HnaUdmMjLwnEjS6GQmqnUAKroAY1Ado>  
Wow, you can download the database as an Excel spreadsheet. Superb resource.

---

### Broadheath history - New book about Schaffer & Budenberg - precision engineers, by Caroline Budenberg

This industrial history which includes some of the family’s history too, is written by a descendant of the Budenberg family. It is A4 in size, comprising 374 pages with colour and black and white images throughout. Price £36. Order from this website :-  
<https://schaffer-and-budenberg.com/product/schaffer-budenberg-precision-engineers/>

---



**Altrincham’s Forgotten Wireless Society** - Tales from the Airwaves Ep.2. Interesting 8 minute video on YouTube, about this Experimental Transmitting Station and some of the local operators.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bq6JytBNmGo>

---

**Manchester Muck !** Forgotten Fields video, filmed in Dunham Massey At least one familiar face here....  
<http://vimeo.com/90641510>

---

A real eye-opener here - when most of our British Roman remains are much less than 12 feet tall. **“8 Well Preserved Roman Cities”** a short video (11 mins) by The SPQR Historian, on YouTube.

---

The photo of the **Russell Newbery & Co plaque**, has brought out some more information via a member of STAG. The firm still exists as the RN Diesel Engine Co., and Russell Newbery Register Ltd is a club for owners of boats with their diesel engines. The Register's website gives details of the history of the firm and about the plaque.



'On Saturday 5th April 2003, The Russell Newbery Register and the RN Diesel Engine Co. Ltd. actioned a long held desire to have a suitable commemoration of the historical importance of the works. The prime mover behind the idea was David Thirlby, stepson of Frederick Russell, and Lady Carol Stamp, eldest granddaughter of Frederick Russell, unveiled the plaque'. Frederick Russell and William Aubrey Newbery were both apprentices of Henry Royce, and set up their own business together.

Here's a link to the history of the firm including the works at Altrincham for over 40 years.

[http://www.rnregister.org.uk/history\\_1.html](http://www.rnregister.org.uk/history_1.html)

WW1 connection - A post on the Great War Forum <https://www.greatwarforum.org/topic/256908-travis-perkins-grosvenor-road-altrincham/> has the information that Russell, Newbery & Co. made parts for tank engines in WW1.

### Heritage Gateway website

includes Buildings Not Listed by Historic England - for example Stretford Memorial Hospital, including birthplace of aviation pioneer Sir John William Alcock.

The building was put forward for listing by a member of the public at the end of last year but was not designated by Historic England. The reasons for not listing are below. This information is publically accessible on Heritage Gateway which is a very useful site if you haven't come across it before, it includes all buildings rejected for listing since 2012.

<https://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/>

*Search for information on England's historic sites and buildings, including images of listed buildings.*

This website allows you to cross-search over 60 resources, offering local and national information relating to England's heritage. The website provides access to local and national records on the historic environment including the following resources:

- Local authority records from over 70% of England's Historic Environment Records (HERs)
- National records from the National Heritage List for England
- including listed buildings and scheduled monuments
- Historic England Research Records (replaces PastScape)
- Records from the National Trust Historic Buildings Sites and Monuments Record
- The Excavation Index
- Information of historic parks, gardens and historic landscapes
- Designation Decision Record

### Platt's Dairies Enquiry

Remember 'The Stables' restaurant on the corner of Barrington Road and Manchester Road? It was previously an antique shop and before that a dairy. Henry Platt was there in 1927 and probably gone by WW2. To start with it was a private house, there on the 1875/6 OS map.

The current occupier is looking for any photos of it when it was a dairy, or before. There is a metal cross over an arched doorway - I wonder what that signifies? And why was it called 'The Stables' restaurant?



### Local Pubs

The Railway Pub in Broadheath is open again, after being refurbished.

No news on the conversion of 'The Wheatsheaf'. It is structurally not good, there's a big crack down the left side at the front.

Trafford Local Studies - 'Pub Crawl' - explore the history of some of Trafford's pubs - [https://exploringtraffordsheritage.omeka.net/exhibits/show/trafford-pub-crawl/introduction?fbclid=IwAR0CiyQ7Qi9TogsPyyq\\_ltgFSiKxG1luIXV50rQKUK7en95iTFyKOc2MEKU](https://exploringtraffordsheritage.omeka.net/exhibits/show/trafford-pub-crawl/introduction?fbclid=IwAR0CiyQ7Qi9TogsPyyq_ltgFSiKxG1luIXV50rQKUK7en95iTFyKOc2MEKU)

---

### Local Heritage Listing Project

I've been filling in the Nomination Forms for some 'assets' in Timperley, and finding out bits as I go along. In checking maps and street directories, I've come across - Richard J. Shoemith - the golf professional, who was based at Timperley golf course, and lived on Bloomsbury Lane. A couple of his clubs have come up for sale on Ebay. Incidentally the numbering of houses on Bloomsbury was changed around to start from the Moss Lane end, not the village end - confusing.

---



### Serendipity

I came across a mention of **Ronald Gow** in a book about the Boer War by Rayne Kruger - *Good-bye Dolly Gray: the story of the Boer War*, published by Cassell in 1959. The author acknowledges "... Mr Ronald Gow, who gave me freely of his wit, knowledge and quantities of helpful literature ..."

Is this the same Ronald Gow, playwright, who taught at Altrincham Boys Grammar School, who married actress Wendy Hiller, and is commemorated on a Blue Plaque in Goose Green? I wondered what was his connection to Rayne Kruger?

Info from Wikipedia gave the connection - the word 'actress'.

Charles Rayne Kruger was born on 29 January 1922 in the Eastern Cape, South Africa, the son of an unmarried 17-year-old daughter of a British Army officer, who then married a local estate agent named Kruger. Rayne's first wife was the actress Nan Munro, a widow, 16 years older than him, with three children. They later divorced, and he married the restaurateur, chef, and television presenter/broadcaster Prue Leith. Kruger wrote several novels before *Good-bye Dolly Gray*. He died in December 2002.

A bit more internet searching came up with an article in [The Daily Mail Online](#) - Prue Leith writing about her relationship with a married man, whom she later married - Rayne Kruger, and about meeting people from the world of acting, that Gow was part of.

"It was 1961 and I had left home in South Africa to study at the Sorbonne in Paris. But, for the summer, my mother sent me to England to stay with her best friend Nan and her husband, the writer Rayne Kruger. Nan and Rayne had met in South Africa in 1946 when my mother, Margaret, then a well-known actress, had put on a production of *Pygmalion*. Nan, who was 40 and a widow with three young children, played Eliza and Rayne, despite being 17 years her junior, was Henry Higgins."

Read more at <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-4934778/Prue-Leith-s-13-year-affair-husband-mum-s-friend.html>

Nan Munro had lots of acting credits from 1938 to 1989, appearing in Armchair Theatre, ITV Play of the Week, 'All Gas and Gaiters' and lots more. <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0613153/>

(An example of how one bit of curiosity can lead down unexpected byways.)

---

From the National Archives shop - a couple of family history books:

**Granny Was a Brothel Keeper: 50 Family History Traps** So you thought your grandmother was an upright lady of strict Victorian morals? An entertaining collection of true stories which illustrate the fascinating and sometimes bizarre world of family history research. **Grandad Did a Dastardly Deed: 50 More Family History Traps**

Was your grandfather a kindly old man, who lovingly tended his prize rhubarb, or did his spade have another use? !!

---

**Heritage Open Days** are back. To check what is open nearby, you can do a 'Map Search' on the website: <https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting/advanced-search>

Congleton looks interesting, or Macclesfield church - might see you there, and if not I hope to be seeing you in September.

Best wishes, Hazel.