



## ALTRINCHAM HISTORY SOCIETY

Newsletter May 2020.



Hello Everyone

I hope you are well and not getting too fed up with the restrictions.

I'm not sure when we will be able to meet again in person. We have provisionally booked talks for October and November and through to May 2021, reserving September as the (delayed) AGM for 2019-2020. I know that our first three speakers at least are likely to be self-isolating, as are some of our members, so I regret we may not be able to start again for some more months.

Jill Groves has worked out her version of 'Click and Collect' for **Publications from AHS**, and others that she deals with. **SEE the attached List** and details of how to order for printed versions or E-Downloads. She has freebies available only to AHS members - Jill's details of wills, with added information - in four volumes:

Altrincham Wills 1600-1640; Altrincham Wills 1641-1680; Altrincham Wills 1681-1720;  
Altrincham Wills 1721-1760.

Many events have been cancelled, including Stretford Family History Fair, which was going to take place on 8 September. However **Watch out for the virtual Family/Local History Fair on 20 June 2020.**  
It is at <https://thefamilyhistoryshow.com/online/>

I've been collecting sources for history information and activities. I get several email updates from different societies and institutions, and many of the ones here come from these or have been passed on by other people. So this newsletter has some more interesting websites and articles, and a bit of a quiz.

### **Coming soon. A House Through Time TV series.**

The series on 10 Guinea Street in the Redcliffe area of Bristol. There are stories of piracy, bigamy, a foundling and a runaway servant. A house through time starts Tuesday 26 May on BBC 2 at 9 pm.

(If this newsletter gets to you too late, try doing catch-up.)

Also coming soon an **Online Talk** from the Working Class Movement Library - you can join and view it live.

**Wed 27 May at 2pm** when Alison Fell will consider the impact of industrial action during the First World War on French and British women workers; <https://wcml.org.uk/whats-on/events/talk-the-legacies-of-wartime-strikes-interwar-women-trade-union-leaders-in-france-and-britain/>

Previous online talks have been recorded and you can view them on YouTube

[www.youtube.com/wcmlibrary](http://www.youtube.com/wcmlibrary). Here are some of the links:

Talk on Thomas Paine. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TnKR9KizuVc&t=4s>

Ralph Darlington's talk on pre-First World War labour unrest and women's suffrage revolt

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VP0OKsfJqtk&t=119s>

'The right to our own time and energy': 130 years of May Day - online talk by Kevin Morgan, 29.4.20

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RJvsT6zP-O8&t=15s>

The next live Online talk is:

**Wed 3 June at 2pm** with writer and campaigner Tim Gee talking on peace and equality: two sides of the same coin. <https://wcml.org.uk/whats-on/events/online-talk-peace-and-equality-two-sides-of-the-same-coin/>

WCML has created a new Web page linking to all the resources from the Library that you can use from a distance - [www.wcml.org.uk/explorefromhome](http://www.wcml.org.uk/explorefromhome). Please share widely.

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There's an interesting story here about Withy Grove Stores history

<http://www.manchestersfinest.com/articles/building-secrets-withy-grove-stores/?fbclid=IwAR2oZoibV0w8Q3y8HwKSAScebUbOhzLnLIPzLL1HbGyWHZJHckB-W0BJh-o>

Explore **Greater Manchester Archives** at Archives+ (Based at Manchester Central Library)

- Archives Catalogue [www.gmlives.org.uk](http://www.gmlives.org.uk)

- Photos of Manchester [www.images.manchester.gov.uk](http://www.images.manchester.gov.uk)

Greater Manchester Sound Archive (the Greater M'cr part of the North West Sound Archive)

<https://manchesterarchiveplus.wordpress.com/2015/12/15/we-make-history-the-greater-manchester-sound-archive/>

You can listen to clips <http://www.archivesplus.org/news/greater-manchester-sound-archive/>

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Old Market Place Altrincham - Lots of historic info in this:

Conservation Area Appraisal Document

<https://www.trafford.gov.uk/planning/strategic-planning/docs/CAA2014Documents/caa-2014-conservation-area-appraisal-old-market-place.pdf>

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Bits for kids of any age - Have a go at the Gravestone from Bowdon

**Time Travel TV**  new episodes! From The National Archives 23.4.2020.

Tune in to Time Travel TV every Tuesday and Thursday for free online video sessions with our Education Officers, bringing the archives to your armchair!

Time travellers will find out all about The National Archives and the wonderful treasures that we hold; from the extraordinary to the downright bizarre!

Each session will have exciting follow-up activities for viewers to complete, including a detective based enquiry exploring other documents in our collection, and a creative themed craft. Particularly suitable for ages 8-11, although older and younger viewers may also enjoy taking part.

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/students/time-travel-tv/>

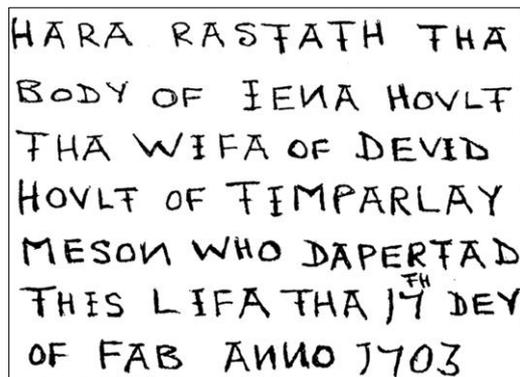
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**The National Archives** has arranged Free access to digital records from TNA while Kew is closed.

[https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/about/news/digital-](https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/about/news/digital-downloads/?utm_source=emailmarketing&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=weekly_mailer_30)

[downloads/?utm\\_source=emailmarketing&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=weekly\\_mailer\\_30](https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/about/news/digital-downloads/?utm_source=emailmarketing&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=weekly_mailer_30)  
[april 2020&utm\\_content=2020-04-30](https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/about/news/digital-downloads/?utm_source=emailmarketing&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=weekly_mailer_30)

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HARA RASFATH THA  
BODY OF IENA HOVL  
THA WIFA OF DEVID  
HOVL OF TAMPARLAY  
MESON WHO DAPERTAD  
THIS LIFA THA 17<sup>TH</sup> DEY  
OF FAB ANNO 1703

Do you fancy learning *how to read old documents?*

The National Archives has tutorials, along with Research Guides about different classes of records.  
<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/reading-old-documents/>

Or try this one recommended by Cheshire Record Office:

'When you next visit the archives to read some of our older documents you may come across some unfamiliar handwriting. There is plenty of online help available and a number of our staff have completed the University of Glasgow course on 'Early Modern Scottish Palaeography' to hone their skills during lockdown. If you would like to have go we would all thoroughly recommend it at:

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/ems-palaeography>

Alongside some Scottish history it covers all the basics of getting to grips with difficult handwriting and presents it in a clear and easy to follow style with articles and videos and lots of examples to practice what you have learned.'

Or this one - **ReadMe – a tool for reading pre-modern handwriting**

<http://straylight.cs.st-andrews.ac.uk/readme/>

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### **British Association for Local History (BALH)**

AHS has membership of this national society and we receive quarterly the journal *The Local Historian* and *Local History News*. There is much available on the BALH website. Have a look under 'News' and 'Resources'. <https://www.balh.org.uk/>

Some resources are restricted to access by members. I have yet to check about signing-in for people from member societies. I can log-in as an individual member.

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Anyone heard of Brantingham & Raingill? [See picture at top ]

I first came across this when a beer bottle came up for sale on Ebay. An unusual enough name, but hard to find anything about them. Then there was another bottle with Brantingham & Lowe. A ginger beer bottle had the address as Old Market Place, Altrincham. A Thomas Raingill leased land from the Earl of Stamford in Dunham Massey. Another Raingill had a farm in Ringway. It's possible there are still Raingill family in the area, not sure about Brantingham though. Do you fancy trying to trace them? Check out the Cheshire Tithe Maps website <https://maps.cheshireeast.gov.uk/tithemaps/> to see if either name comes up; and on freeBMD for any local registration of Births etc. <https://www.freebmd.org.uk/cgi/search.pl>

Brewerypedia - If you are interested in pubs and brewing, then here's an interesting site.  
[http://breweryhistory.com/wiki/index.php?title=Main\\_Page](http://breweryhistory.com/wiki/index.php?title=Main_Page)

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### Exploring Trafford's Heritage.

If you use Facebook to keep in touch with family, Trafford Local Studies has a group, [just search for Trafford local Studies] and staff are posting a selection of old photographs each week. They are also posting up links to stories on the new website Exploring Trafford's Heritage, with much currently about the Second World War..

Here are a couple of examples.

<https://exploringtraffordsheritage.omeka.net/exhibits/show/75years/safetyofanation>

<https://exploringtraffordsheritage.omeka.net/exhibits/show/75years/hospitalsandfirstaidposts?fbclid=IwAR2Y2VQHBEDo6hWv5ipyYUvjvLYA7mVkJQvn6dEkazt4DSxu9CFH3edsTJx8>

Suggestion from David Eastwood 8.5.2020.

A thought has just, belatedly! occurred to me. Many of us and our members have memories of WWII or parents or grandparents, most of which will pass out of memory in a few years..

My suggestion, therefore, is that our members be asked to send in short articles of what their forebears did in the war, we have them printed as a booklet, and copies distributed to members, Local Studies, etc. Our Society has done much valuable work on the distant past, let's do work on living memories while we can. I for one have strong memories of Dad as Head of the Toolroom at Dowty Equipment, building the hydraulic undercarriages for Lancasters.

What thinkest thou?

David .

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### **Recording the Pandemic**

We are living through history - should we be recording **evidence of the current situation**, restrictions, queues, birdsongs, thoughts and feelings, activities, tidying cupboards, living alone, missing grandchildren hugs, voice going rusty from not having choir practice.

North West Film Archive are asking for just that - for videos of life in the northwest during the virus. See their website <https://www.nwfa.mmu.ac.uk/> and a short video about their 'Lockdown Life Appeal'.

From Trafford Local Studies:

"The Mass Observation Archive asked people to submit a diary entry of one day, 12<sup>th</sup> May, to record history through the eyes of those who are living it." [That refers to a project on the same day each year for the last 10 years.]

"We would like to hear from Trafford residents about their experiences during the coronavirus pandemic. Find out more and upload your stories and photographs here:

<https://exploringtraffordsheritage.omeka.net/livinghistory> "

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Cheshire Archives latest Newsletter has activities and resources on their 'Keep Curious' webpage [https://www.cheshirearchives.org.uk/Keep-Curious.aspx#Colouring\\_Pages](https://www.cheshirearchives.org.uk/Keep-Curious.aspx#Colouring_Pages)

Regional Heritage Centre Newsletter covers the northwest, biased towards Lancashire, but still interesting.

<https://www.alumni.lancs.ac.uk/emailviewonwebpage.aspx?erid=6825402&trid=4b658feb-e474-4c3a-963f-02b111f80b40>

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**Is it AHS's anniversary this year?** When were we formed - 1990? That makes it 30 years. Anyway its an anniversary of the market Charter for Altrincham in c1290 - 730 years. Do we need to record memories of the Society - people, visits, events, projects, socials?

A bit of a puzzle. Here's a photo of some members of AHS on a visit. Can you work out where this was taken?

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Some day we'll get back to having visits, and meetings.

Until then, keep well, and keep reading and watching history.

Best wishes.

