



ALTRINCHAM HISTORY SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER No. 20 February 2022

Hazel Pryor
11 Thorley Lane,
Timperley
Altrincham
WA15 7BJ

Hello everyone,

We are looking forward to having Keith Warrender talking about 'Manchester's Lost District' for the meeting on 8th March, (third time lucky, as we had to cancel two other dates). Covid restrictions have been relaxed, **but** Keith has asked that people wear a mask if they talk with him individually before or after the talk, as he is still being careful because of a vulnerable family member.

A short newsletter this time, but with the usual mixture of news, events, sources of information and titbits, and the AHS Spring Publications List comes with this newsletter, with the latest Occasional Papers.

Local History Photographer of the Year deadline 31st March. If you fancy entering, you don't need to be a member to submit a photo. <https://www.balh.org.uk/e-newsletters/20220202122201.html>

Regional Heritage Centre Newsletter - Events for spring 2022.

<https://www.alumni.lancs.ac.uk/emailviewonwebpage.aspx?erid=8134821&trid=98e5fa43-6ae3-4b9d-8bc4-6296f3350efa>

In the News - **George Cogswell & Hale's Air Raid Siren** You may have seen the photo of George in *The Messenger*, or have a look here <https://altrincham.todaynews.co.uk/2022/01/31/news/environment/hale-air-raid-siren-saved-by-evacuee-of-nazi-german-bombing/>

Recent query: I got a family history query looking for 'Oldfield Villas', Altrincham. The enquirer has searched round Oldfield Brow but not found a named house. Looking through 1910s street directories for Oldfield Brow area, it is a bit difficult to actually locate a particular house, unless it is prominent enough to be named on an Ordnance Survey map. The directories include these places: 'Oldfield', Oldfield Brow, Oldfield Lane, and Oldfield Road. Eventually, comparing different years with 1927 (mostly house names) and 1942 (mostly house numbers), I matched up the house with a street number, I think. Can't confirm it by looking on Google Earth Street-view, as there is no gatepost with a name, or a name on the house itself. Maybe a walk past would give names for any nearby houses to try and confirm the number.

Another local Cricketer

Chris Hill has mentioned Geoff Pullar, (nick-name 'Noddy') who was opening bat for Lancashire and for England. His parents Harry and Hilda ran a general store in Hale. Cyril Washbrook was his mentor at Lancashire C.C. After he retired from cricket Geoff ran a fish and chip shop, a sandwich shop in Knutsford, and then was a private hire driver. He died in 2014.

Videos on YouTube

I found this series by accident - 'History Hits' - some short, some longer, including some by Dan Snow.

"Castle: Caernarfon, Conwy, Harlech, Caerphilly" 47 minutes.

"Incredible WW2 Landing Craft Dug Up . . ."

Others including: "An archaeological chance find in Ypres" excavation of a trench system, 2 min 16 sec.

And on catch-up TV - 'Villages by the Sea' series from July 2021, and currently repeated on BBC4 - 'Fred Dibnah's Building of Britain: The age of the Carpenter'. filmed in 2002, 30 mins.

The Old Bank, Altrincham

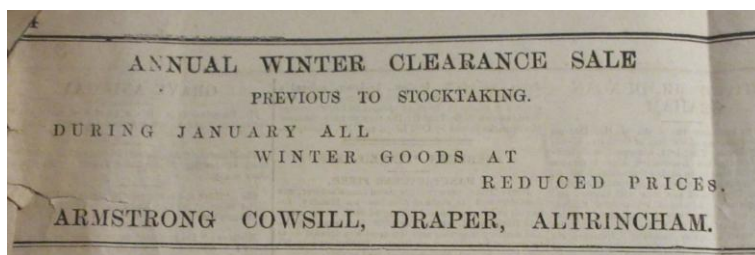
Here is more information on buildings including Runcorn sandstone, uploaded to Facebook by Stuart Allen. If you use Facebook, you will find good descriptions from the time it was built, and about William Cunliffe Brooks, the banker. There are more photos, hover over the centre of the right edge and click on the arrow.

<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=1582973292087988&set=pcb.1581608372224480>

Who was Mary Cowsill?

Wandering round Hale Cemetery (like you do) checking war graves, I found a CWGC stone for Mary Cowsill, a Private in the ATS who died 18th Feb 1944. The Commonwealth War Graves website doesn't have any more information except her service number and that she died in the UK. Cowsills had hardware/ kitchenware shops in Altrincham, one at the top end of George Street, and another on the corner of Lower George St and Kingsway, so I wonder if she was one of those Cowsills.

Then there was a draper as well, advertising in January 1901.



This may be the same Mary - Alfred E. Cowsill married Jane Quinn in 1922 and they had a daughter Mary in 1923. [FreeBMD]

If you like [vintage photographs of Cheshire](#), you may be interested in a new article by Cheshire Archives and Local Studies (CALs), *18 Months of Mystery Image Mondays*. Use this link if you would like to see how Twitter users have helped identify hundreds of photographs from Cheshire's past:

<http://cheshirero.blogspot.com/2022/01/18-months-of-mystery-image-mondays.html>

This is just one of many short articles in CALs's *Curiouser and Curiouser* blog, which highlights a vast range of material relating to the archives in its care. Clicking on the above link (or pasting it into your web browser) will also enable you to select and read the other articles in the series – check out the list on the right-hand side of the web page to see what's on offer.

Don't forget to check for online [Talks from British Association for Local History](#). They have a 'History Hour' on Thursday evenings. I missed one called 'From front parlour to Funeral Parlour: looking after the dead in England c.1850-1950'. (Unfortunately that time clashes with choir practice.) As members of AHS it will cost you £3.00 instead of £5. If you see anything you want to watch, let me know and I can give you the Discount Code.

<https://www.balh.org.uk/events>

Events - Looking ahead

Association for Industrial Archaeology - Liverpool Weekend, June 17th-19th 2022

A long weekend of tours in and around Liverpool, organised by the Merseyside Industrial Heritage Society. The three days of tours and the Saturday evening dinner, at which AIA's awards for the past two years will be presented, are all included in the weekend package, costing £160. Accommodation is extra. More information and bookings here <https://mailchi.mp/0598f55cbc11/aia-e-news-bulletin-january-13603246?e=c09613c722> Very much transport based - docks, ferries, aircraft, railways and industrial sites.

We hope to arrange a visit soon - venue and date to be confirmed later, fingers crossed for decent weather.

Spring is the best time for exploring when you can see a lot more through bare hedges and trees.

Best wishes, Hazel.