



ALTRINCHAM HISTORY SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER No. 21 May 2022

Hazel Pryor
11 Thorley Lane,
Timperley
Altrincham
WA15 7BJ

Hello everyone,

I'm sorry for the gap in Newsletters, I hope I'm excused as I have had Covid and I'm still feeling the after effects, mainly tiredness and a lack of get up and go.

The next meeting will be our **AGM on Tuesday 10th May** at 7.30pm. We don't have an outside speaker booked, but will present some recent research, and have time for a chat. And at last we will have tea or coffee, and as a treat - Biscuits. Please note that now you don't need to book in to attend meetings.

Can anyone provide a lift for one of our members to attend society meetings. She lives in Oldfield Brow, is not very mobile and uses a walker, so will need transport for that as well. (It should be noted that three of the committee don't drive and two others already give lifts, so no help there.) If you can help please contact Hazel to be put in touch.

We have planned a **VISIT to Norton Priory on Friday 17th June** to the priory ruins and museum. This will start with tea/coffee at 10 am, then a tour of the site for about one hour. The cost will be £10.00, then if you wish you can add lunch extra: choice of sandwiches, quiche, soup, hot dish. There is a walled garden a little walk away if you wish to extend your visit in the afternoon.

We need to confirm numbers, so please let us know if you wish to go. The society last visited in 2014, just before the museum closed for renovation with a grant from English heritage.



Other Event dates -

Tuesday 10th May at 2.30pm There is a FREE lecture at Chetham's Library or on Zoom, "A Society with no equal: the Chetham Society and nineteenth century Antiquaries of the North West" by Alan Crosby [He's a very good speaker HP] *You don't need to miss our AGM, as you can join on Zoom.* If you want to attend in person or by Zoom, please notify in advance Dr Simon Harris at: chethamsociety1843@gmail.com

The 11th annual Frow lecture: Dr Katrina Navickas 'Trespass before Mass Trespass'

Saturday 28th May 2pm - 4pm, at The Old Fire Station, Salford. Local author Keith Warrender has written about the Kinder Trespass, on the 90th anniversary of the Mass Trespass. The Working Class Movement Library are continuing the theme of land access at this year's Frow Lecture with speaker Dr Katrina Navickas. Her lecture will explore resistance to enclosures of the Pennine landscape and the role of trespass in the 19th Century. Tickets are free, but limited, bookings at this link

<https://working-class-movement-library.arttickets.org.uk/working-class-movement-library/2022-05-28-the-11th-annual-frow-lecture-dr-katrina-navickas-trespass-before-mass-trespass>

The National Archives has launched its programme for the Queen's Jubilee, here's the link:

https://clicks.econnectmail.com/view_online/view_online.php?token2=hGJHeY3rr8VpimMn1NDtPcL_SqMG0ZjmX0HUSNWgvsyhXnOQxqEldfsuX5J0cpnPBI3zOd9EzMUMIAJ6WeBiw..

Advance Notice - Stretford Family History Fair - 10th September 2022 at St Matthew's Church Hall (behind the greenery next to Stretford Mall).

P.A. System - Help needed

We are looking at providing a portable public address system for our meetings at Altrincham Town Hall, to help those who are hard of hearing and miss out when we have lecturers with soft voices, but we need someone with a bit of expertise in how best to set up the speakers and the unit to avoid any sound problems. If anyone has some knowledge of using PA systems, we could do with having a trial run at the Town Hall some time to establish the best positions, then possibly someone to help set up before meetings. Any offers? Don't forget you are hearing from a Luddite where electronics are concerned.

Local Heritage Listing Project - update - The list of possible 'assets' for Trafford is now being reviewed against a set of criteria. It is being done by area starting with Warburton, Carrington & Partington. The possible candidates for Local Listing, as well as farm-houses and cottages, include Warburton Toll Bridge, Carrington Coal Basin (on the Ship Canal) and a water tower in Carrington. Next is the Dunham area, where some buildings are already fully Listed by Historic England (English Heritage as was.)

Local Libraries

The new Timperley Library is open on Stockport Road. I've only called in once yet, to put up a notice, but, there isn't a notice board - yet, let's hope they decide to add one. (The same thing happened when the new Altrincham Library first opened.)

Hale Library building is taking shape next to the bowling green.

Photo by David Miller.



Serendipity - Another family history accidental finding

This entry for a baptism was found while checking the parish registers of Lower Peover:-

Baptised on 29th November 1807 - "Emily Jane Julia Moika, a negro girl of about 12 years old from Congo but now at Lower Tabley". We thought she might be living with a gentry family, and the most likely would be with the Leicesters at Tabley House, at that time it would have been John Leicester, 1st Baron de Tabley. Another search on FindMyPast showed a marriage between Emily J. J. and a Richard Brown at Liverpool on 14 June 1827. A further search for Richard Brown brought up a baptism at Liverpool in 1829 of a Richard born in Demerara [Guyana] in 1777, described as 'Domestic Servant & an Adult'. I wonder if this is the same Richard. After that it's a bit difficult looking for a Brown in Liverpool, so no more information.

Cheshire - Women's Land Army. International Women's Day on 8th March prompted this blog from Cheshire Archives & Local Studies, including photos records and an audio clip.

http://cheshirero.blogspot.com/2022/03/international-womens-day-2022-womens.html?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

Broadheath in WWI

It struck me that there is very little in print about the way the firms in Broadheath were involved in WW1. We know that munitions were produced but not much detail. Frank Bamford's book 'Broadheath: a century of industry' does not relate much about that period. Colin Graham worked through the local newspapers for his Occasional Papers on Altrincham in WWI, but of course, such details were restricted and not reported. So there's a project for anyone interested.

Women's Football - Trafford Local Studies are looking for any information about local Women's Football Teams. I seem to remember my Mum talking about a team in Altrincham sometime around 1930, I'm not sure if she played. (Family oral history - how reliable is it ?!)

Centenary of Hale War Memorial - article by Trafford Local Studies

https://exploringtraffordsheritage.omeka.net/exhibits/show/hale-war-memorial/hale-wa-memorial?fbclid=IwAR30T7eMOBBDUTPLVR-WzJIZ_7TcmTyE_YiAPHfr7U01W_9q5emIgWr2WuY

After 100 years it is more hidden from the road now by the surrounding trees, and you can drive past without noticing.



A bit of Welsh history - Mapping Historical Boundaries in the Digital Age - Chester Society for Landscape History had an online talk last month with speaker Scott Lloyd, that I missed, about how he has created a digital map of the mediaeval parishes and commotes of Wales. You can catch up on it. Here's the link.

[Mapping Historical Boundaries in the Digital Age by Scott Lloyd - YouTube](#)

(If you get a message that your browser is up-to-date, just click on 'Browse YouTube' and it will take you to the talk.) It is just under an hour, and has sub-titles.

'A Country Parish', by A.W.Boyd

I've been catching up on a pile of books I bought a few years ago, this one second hand in 2015, published by Collins in 1951. It is about Great Budworth, the usual large Cheshire parish consisting of several townships, and I had flipped through looking at the colour plates - photos of birds, plants and also buildings, and an old map. It's in the New Naturalist series, but the first third is about the landscape and history of the area, including farming, dialect, customs and place-names, then the book goes on to describe the wildlife and flora. Arnold Boyd lived in Antrobus from 1920, so he had local knowledge, and could tap into the memories and experience of local people. Worth a read if you get access to a copy, for a comparison with the local scene in the similarly large Bowdon Parish. (I'm passing my copy on to my sister.)

A couple of **YouTube** items (search YouTube for the title):

'[El Triunfante](#): the biggest shipwreck ever discovered in Spain' a 51 minute video from 2017 by Timeline, on a mid 18th century ship that sank in 1795.

'[The Giant Archive](#) hidden under the British countryside' a short video by Tom Scott about DeepStore, located in the salt mine at Winsford. (I've been down there !)

[The Great Bronze Age Orme Mines of Wales](#) - Copper Mining and Evidence of Giants in Ancient Britain
20 minute video by Hugh Newman

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L_lubPVzg4s&ab_channel=MegalithomaniaUK

Something Different - '[Offered Up](#)' at Liverpool Royal Court Studio from **22nd June to 9th July**.

The year is 1645 and the English Civil War rages through the country.

Willmas runs an inn just outside of Chester with the help of his daughter Rosamund, struggling to stay afloat by serving both sides.

Their lives are about to become a lot more complicated as Reverend Thomas arrives, a man of the cloth whose robes don't sit right. Then Jennet, a gun-slinging outlaw bursts in, bringing intrigue and danger behind her. Is there enough room at the inn for the problems that they bring?

Joe Matthew-Morris has created an absorbing thriller full of bluff, double-bluff and secrets laid bare which will captivate you and keep you on the edge of your seat all night.

Join us in The Royal Court Studio for a historical adventure that shows just how far people will go when their future is at stake. Let's see who comes out of this battle alive.

Performances 22nd June - 9th July Tickets £10-£12,

Further information

https://liverpoolsroyalcourt.com/whats-on/offered-up/?utm%20source=Master&utm%20campaign-c67b0c1217-Studio+January+2020_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_b2252032e3-c67b0c1217-204165509&mc_cid=c67b0c1217&mc_eid=855d50a957

Remember Bowdon Hydro Hotel ? recently The Mercure.

Memories of dinners, wedding receptions, funeral teas. There's a planning application for development of the site:

Ref no: **07877/FUL/22** - The Bowdon Hotel, 5 Langham Road, Redevelopment of site for a mixed use including retention and extension of Hydro building to provide a 95 place children's day care nursery, erection of 53 bedroom care home, retention and conversion of 2 villas into 6 apartments, erection of 6 townhouses, demolition of all other buildings and structures on site and provision of car parking, landscaping and associated works.



Lost Country Houses website - scroll down the list for Cheshire halls demolished or drastically altered.

http://www.lostheritage.org.uk/lh_complete_list.html

Cheshire Archaeology website <http://www.cheshirearchaeology.org.uk/>

- lots of interesting stuff, including a link to -

Aerial Archaeology Mapping Explorer

<https://historicengland.org.uk/research/results/aerial-archaeology-mapping-explorer/>

Photo Opportunity - Photography Competition - run by Maguire Family Law.

The community competition is open to all local people - all ages, and the photo can be of anything, as long as it represents this area in some way - people, the natural environment, landmarks or local wildlife.

Shortlisted entries will be displayed in an exhibition and the final 12 images will feature in a charity calendar on sale locally, and there are prizes for the top three.

Photos should be sent in between 1st May and 30th June 2022 by post to Maguire Family Law at 58a Stamford New Road, Altrincham WA14 1EE, or by email to: maguirefamilylaw@peppermintsoda.co.uk.

Recent Queries - Help needed - Please !

We quite often get enquiries via the society website, they come through to Eleanor and she passes them on to me. I try and answer briefly, if I can without too much work, or refer the enquirer to other sources. We had a query recently from the editor of Altrincham Today, asking about previous Royal visits, and I passed on some information and also referred him to Trafford Local Studies.

Some of these prompt me to do bits of research in reply and sometimes result in short articles in either the Journal or the Newsletter (I've got one in progress).

Others ask for more direct input from the society. Recent ones have included contact from a Timperley Primary School from the history lead teacher who is forming a History Club. Another from a Care home asking for a visit to the home and a slide show, *during May* which is Local and Community History Month - short notice and I will be hard-pressed to pick up on that one in the next 2-3 weeks. Each one that I answer, however briefly, takes me away from the research I'm trying to write up, (as well as housework !)

Frustrating for me, but the more people we can engage with and encourage an interest in history, the better, and I don't want enquirers to think the society will not help.

I need to spread the work load a bit, so I hope a few members would be interested in following up some of these contacts. We need someone other than me who could take a Powerpoint slide show to different groups, (can be pre-prepared), or to engage with schools if the opportunity arises. Would you be able to help?



Puzzle photo - History under your feet - if, like me, you watch where you put your feet when walking, we are walking on the history of the services that we use daily.

Keep your eyes open for more evidence!

Hope to see you soon

Hazel