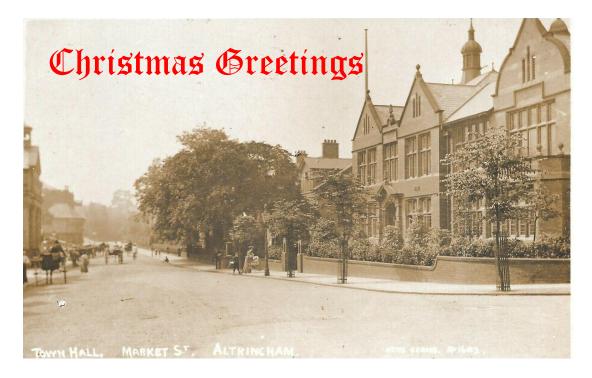
ALTRINCHAM HISTORY SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER No. 26 December 2022

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Hello everyone,

I'm looking forward to our <u>'Christmas Party'</u> meeting on 13th December. If you have not already booked a place, please contact Eleanor Rogers <u>before Friday 9th</u> December. (email: <u>eleanor.rogers5@btinternet.com</u> or phone 973 0829).

Included with this newsletter also the latest <u>Catalogue of AHS Publications</u> with new and forthcoming titles. Jill says - for December and January I am only doing click and collect, or pick up from the stall or edownloads via GenFair. This is because of all the problems with Royal Mail strikes etc. If anyone wants a particular booklet from the stall could they let me know via email.

December Events

Working Class Movement Library - Engels Walk with Dr Morag Rose

Saturday 10th December

As part of the library's Engels season we are organising an Engels walk in Salford and Manchester with Dr Morag Rose. Morag is a walking artist, activist and educator and her tour will be a creative exploration that weaves together the past, present, personal, poetic and political into a wander through Engels in Manchester and beyond. Morag's research has also been influenced by the walking tours written and delivered by Ruth and Eddie Frow, the founders of the Working Class Movement Library. The tour is free, but places are limited. To book a place please email enquiries@wcml.org.uk

BBC100 in Greater Manchester

This year the BBC celebrates its centenary. *Archives*+ has partnered with the BBC Archives and Greater Manchester's ten archives services to find interesting local items from the BBC's radio and TV archives. Explore all the content at Manchester Central Library until December 31. Find out more at https://librarylive.co.uk/event/bbc100-in-greater-

manchester/?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=

Altrincham Heritage Website goes Live

We hope you will enjoy exploring the new website about the fascinating bygone times of Altrincham and the surrounding area.

https://www.altrinchamheritage.com

The website was created under the umbrella of Altrincham and Bowdon Civic Society, supported by the HLF. It was only made possible by a host of volunteers, as well as the collectors, societies and institutions who very kindly provided items to be digitised and shared. Many thanks are due to them all.

WOW - the results of years of work by Sue Nichols. Look forward to many hours of exploring this new website - maps, old photos, local history publications.



Stuff on YouTube

<u>"The Brough of Birsay in Orkney"</u> a 13 minute video about the Pictish and Viking settlement on this small tidal island on the NW of Orkney mainland, by Dip in Media. Very informative. (It's 26 years since I was there, I don't remember the concrete causeway.)

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

There's another video about Gurness Broch and Iron Age village, about 9 minutes.

From the Isle of Man

'The <u>secret 1800s bank vault</u> discovered in the Isle of Man' - a 7 minute video by Culture Vannin https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yNws-SGqV28

<u>They used to be called DMVs - Deserted Mediaeval Villages</u> Here's a video from 2017 about 8 sites. <u>https://digventures.com/2017/04/7-abandoned-medieval-villages-seen-from-the-air-and-one-from-under-the-sea/</u>

WW1 composite footage

A little late for Remembrance, but excellent - I came across it recently on YouTube, well coloured: "Mademoiselle from Armentieres - WW1 Footage". 7 mins.14s. uploaded Jan 2021. By BertPraest - he says: I thought the rendition of "Mademoiselle from Armentières" by Plan 9 deserved better than just being played over the end credits, so I put it to some of the video. A tribute to the Poor Bloody Infantry on the Western Front, where my grandfather managed to survive for six months before 'Copping a Blighty'. Advises re: age of viewers. https://www.voutube.com/watch?v=uaEhRFFsDFE

Walking the Ypres Salient: Hill 60. A 24 minute video by 'Living History'.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h8ExHk9U b8

There are various other videos about Hill 60 I need to look at.

(My grandad was there, and his brother was killed there. Extract from grandad's pocket diary:

1915 April Sat. 17 60 Hill blew up trench at 7 o'clock shell fire fatigue

Fred hit.)

Can you 'read the landscape'?

I did a course on landscape history many years ago, and have joined <u>Chester Society for Landscape</u> <u>History</u>. They have a new website

https://www.chesterlandscapehistory.org.uk.

(Not a great deal on there as yet.) They produce a bulletin each year and have recently published a book - a collection of research articles. Meetings are on the outskirts of Chester, currently on Saturday afternoons. We had a good talk before Covid from Stewart Ainsworth of Time Team fame, who is based at Chester University.

Field visits are arranged - I went on one before Covid, looking at the development of New Brighton, and another looking at castles and churches south of Chester. The photo is Holt Castle remains.



Conway Castle - a short 3 minute tour with history https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3h9Pa9NWYc
Follow this with:

Conway Castle. a stonemasons commentary

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iEqcoX5kjHQ about 20minutes video. A stonemason from Pennsylvania visits Conway Castle, talks to masons mortaring the walls, and walks the town walls. (I once walked the town wall, and had to chicken out part way round - I'm not good on heights - so I found this 'proxy' tour interesting.)

He does another on **Caernarfon Castle** looking at the stonework and wall construction. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jTQ3uvowe5U&ab_channel=MikeHaduckMasonry

Beeston Castle - history - and set in the context of other sites for comparison. https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/beeston-castle-and-woodland-park/history/

Merseyrail - Building the underground loop & link - 27 minutes

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=krXBdSahsEc&ab_channel=Merseywail

The building of the Merseyrail underground, opened in 1977. Using previously unpublished plans & photographs This video tells the story of the work to transform the separate electric lines of Merseyside into a successful rapid transit network. The construction period spanning from 1972 to 1977. The planning stages go up to time 10.19,

from then onwards is the construction photos. (For anyone who knows the city or is interested in 'modern' railway construction. I must admit I skipped bits.)

'Saving a historic boat - <u>'The Oakdale' Mersey Flat'</u>. This 22 minute video by Bee Here Now shows the current state of the boat on the tidal mud in Morecambe Bay. It's sister flat 'The Mossdale' is at Ellesmere Port Boat Museum (right). He also does another video on Mersey flats.



Titbits:

"The Vicar will be away from home from September 1st to 19th. The Rev. A. J. Routley, chaplain of H.M. Prison at Knutsford, will take his work on Sundays Sept. 7th and 14th. On Sunday 14th Mr. Routley will preach on behalf of Altrincham & District Police Court Mission." [Timperley Parish Magazine Sept 1913.]

Altrincham Ice Rink, Devonshire Road - Do you have memories of the old Ice Rink? Here's an interesting article about the Ice Rink and it's founder Albert Allen.

https://talkingaboutmygeneration.co.uk/legacy-of-altrincham-ice-rink-and-albert-allen-mr-altrincham/

The Ice Rink closed in 2003 and was developed for housing.



Watch Hill, Bowdon

South Trafford Archaeology Group (STAG) has an article in the October 2022 copy of their newsletter 'Browsings' on the motte and bailey site next to the River Bollin near the big roundabout. The motte could be at risk due to flooding of the river. Access to the site is via a footpath off the main road A556. Back copies of some of Browsings are available on the STAG website

https://stagarchaeologymanchester.wordpress.com/

Among all the changes in Altrincham town centre, there is a planning application to demolish numbers 70 & 72 George Street, this is the premises next to The Bricklayers Arms i.e. Holland & Barrett (?and Millets). It also takes in the ginnel next to The Bricklayers that goes through to Central Way - the lower market. This would have been in part of the mediaeval layout of the town, and may represent a burgage plot. There might be some archaeology towards the rear of the site. The Salvation Army had rooms there. I remember a religious bookshop and a small cafe that served sandwiches and fruit pies - slightly burnt on one side so you know they were home-made, and very good.





(No, I wasn't tipsy, just in a hurry.)

Here's a bit of a laugh from years back. I always remember 'Too much bathin'll weaken you.' https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JuvRm7uVvcQ

This should be a Happy Christmas newsletter, however, we have some doubts about holding future meetings at **Altrincham Town Hall**. We have been told that we can't book anything beyond August 2023, as the Town Hall may be leased out for commercial purposes. Oh no!

What now? Well, we are looking at alternative venues that can provide the right size of room, with accessibility and (hopefully) parking, and reasonable for public transport. That's going to be a hard job. We will check out church halls and others round about, to see if Tuesday evening is available. Fingers crossed.

Wishing you all the very best for Christmas and a happy and healthy new year.

See you soon, Hazel