



## ALTRINCHAM HISTORY SOCIETY

Newsletter for July 2020.

Hello Everyone, I hope you are all managing to keep well.

### **The Big Question - when can we resume meetings?**

We have had a committee meeting - actual not virtual, in our Treasurer's garden.

At the moment the Council Chamber at Altrincham Town Hall can only hold 18 people, and each user group would be required to carry out and police a Covid risk assessment.

The general consensus of the committee was that many members would be uncomfortable about taking part in any indoor meetings in the immediate future. **It was therefore agreed to suspend all our Society meetings until January 2021, at the earliest.**

We would like your opinions about the following:

- a) Attending at meetings, with restricted numbers, etc.
- b) Participation in meetings via Zoom online conferencing
- c) Downloading Powerpoint presentations, to view when you wish
- d) Watching speakers on YouTube.

We discussed the various alternatives to actual meetings using new technology. So I am asking for your thoughts on this. I know several members don't have access to the internet, and I regret, we don't know how to get around this.

The annual Journal is in progress and we will be sending out a printed copy to members, as part of this year's subscription. We decided to reduce the subscription for next season 2020-21 from £8 to £5, and this will include a printed copy of the Journal.

We have abandoned the idea of having a delayed AGM for 2019-2020, and will schedule the next AGM for May 2021. We will send in our accounts to the Charities Commission as usual.

We will be sending out our usual letter in mid-August for renewal of subscriptions, along with your membership card with the provisional proposed talks, and the journal.

**Please let us know your thoughts about the future for the Society.**

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Here is another collection of news, websites, programmes and other bits that I hope may interest you.

**Cheshire Archives & Local Studies (CALs)** Suggestion - if you haven't already - sign up for the Cheshire Archives News - to receive by email. Or access it via the website.

<https://www.cheshirearchives.org.uk/pdf/Cheshire-Archives-news-June-2020.pdf>

Have a look at their site for Old Photos of Cheshire [www.cheshireimagebank.org.uk](http://www.cheshireimagebank.org.uk)

In addition to the suggestion about members writing about WW2, Chris Hill has suggested asking members for their memories of how Altrincham has changed in the time they have known it. Even in the time we have been in 'lock-down', things have changed, if it's only the fancy paving installed near the market! Anyone remember local privies?

Every now and then either our secretary or myself get contacted, sometimes with queries, sometimes with offers of donations. One of the latter came to us recently - a bit battered, but full of interesting detail about the area. Here's a sample.

*Altrincham Bowdon & Hale Guardian Feb 1924.*



### Trafford Local Studies

In 1984 Trafford Library Service launched its 'Tell Me a Story' competition, inviting readers to share their reminiscences of the Altrincham area.

Read about their stories here in a wonderful online exhibition put together by one of our volunteers:

[https://exploringtraffordsheritage.omeka.net/exhibits/show/tellmeastory/introduction?fbclid=IwAR2D3im0S-uKKQV0ME9VvYy7IzJVdJV5FbMY\\_ITfZ5yenQFrhphJZwKlyo8](https://exploringtraffordsheritage.omeka.net/exhibits/show/tellmeastory/introduction?fbclid=IwAR2D3im0S-uKKQV0ME9VvYy7IzJVdJV5FbMY_ITfZ5yenQFrhphJZwKlyo8)

The Trafford Local Studies Centre is creating a new archive collection, one which aims to record the experiences of Trafford community members throughout the coronavirus pandemic.

Find out how you can contribute here: <https://exploringtraffordsheritage.omeka.net/livinghistory>

Have you looked at the website [altrinchamheritage.com](http://www.altrinchamheritage.com).

There's a digital copy of Alfred Ingham's 1896 book on Altrincham, Bowdon & Sale. Here's the link <http://www.altrinchamheritage.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Altrincham-and-Bowdon-with-Historical-Remiscences-of-Ashton-on-Mersey-Sale-and-Surrounding-Townships-Alfred-Ingham-1896.pdf> And other items.

Following a recent post on Facebook group 'Memories of Timperley' there's an article about Altrincham Gas Works railway. <http://www.altrinchamheritage.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Altrincham-Gas-Works-Railway-Bylines-Vol5-Iss-5-April-2000.pdf>

North Cheshire Amateur Operatic Society Closed in 1990 after 76 years, there's a new Tribute website. <https://rphncaos1974.wixsite.com/north-cheshire-a-o-s>

Here's a Gravestone from Rostherne to transcribe. Remember the one from Bowdon - watch for reversed letters. (Sorry about the bottom bit, the stone is worn.)

[HP's photo P6110387.]

SEE answer below.



**The National Archives** - the reading room at Kew will re-open on 21 July 2020.

[https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/about/news/coronavirus-update/?utm\\_source=emailmarketing&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=reopening\\_announcement&utm\\_content=2020-07-06](https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/about/news/coronavirus-update/?utm_source=emailmarketing&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=reopening_announcement&utm_content=2020-07-06)

For the time being, TNA "will also continue to provide **free downloads** of our digital collection on our website, along with a huge number of research guides, resources and activities for the whole family to enjoy."

National Archives - News 4 June - has lots of info.

[https://clicks.econnectmail.com/view\\_online/view\\_online.php?token2=hGJHeY3rr8VpimMn1NDtPcL\\_SqMG0ZjmX0HUSNWgvsAoaEjuCd5mPvdBpBXdy-fVB2YaS3srzcksbGqHzhUdQ..](https://clicks.econnectmail.com/view_online/view_online.php?token2=hGJHeY3rr8VpimMn1NDtPcL_SqMG0ZjmX0HUSNWgvsAoaEjuCd5mPvdBpBXdy-fVB2YaS3srzcksbGqHzhUdQ..)

Online Lecture on **Hadrian's Wall**, by Dr Rob Collins, Project Manager Hadrian's Wall Community Archaeology Project. About 40 minutes. Looks good.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f1ZpGxz4CX0&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR11YMoF4Sx1D b-Cfxv2ZcTrAiBtMxz2DUx7t6MNma-8EqURqOb1vDC\\_YE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f1ZpGxz4CX0&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR11YMoF4Sx1D b-Cfxv2ZcTrAiBtMxz2DUx7t6MNma-8EqURqOb1vDC_YE)

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On YouTube: Vikings: Live at the British Museum from 2014. Presented by Michael Wood and Bettany Hughes. A bit long, one and a half hours. Includes the longest Viking ship ever found, and the Vale of York Hoard. I watched it on 1<sup>st</sup> June.

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**Platt Hall Museum** - has a new website [www.platthall.org](http://www.platthall.org). The Museum has been having discussions as 'Open Door' sessions about the future of the Museum and its collections. "The site at the moment is pretty basic - we have lots of ideas for further content so it will develop, but we would also very much like this space to be a place where different points of view come together. So we welcome suggestions, ideas and contributions. As a first step I'd like to invite you to take part in '100 Objects from Platt Hall' a small project to continue our exploration of the wider collections associated with Platt and to think about what should be housed here in the future.

See <https://www.platthall.org/100-objects.html>. We'll also be looking at capturing some of the histories of the Hall - both official and unofficial." Looks good so far.

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I receive a new E-Newsletter from BALH (British Association for Local History) which includes: 'A selection of websites to keep everyone busy!'

- **Royal Museums Greenwich and The National Archives – get involved in a virtual volunteer project** <https://royalnavyrecordsww1.rmg.co.uk/>

- **Watch 85,000 British Pathé films** [www.britishpathe.com](http://www.britishpathe.com)

- **Community Archives & Heritage Group (CAHG) - a central online resource of advice and guidance for the collection, care, preservation and enjoyment of community archives**

<https://www.communityarchives.org.uk/resources>

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**Royal Armouries Museum** - Exhibition "Field of the Cloth of Gold" & "Tudor Power and Glory"

<https://royalarmouries.org/>

Make your own Jousting Lance (or not?) Interesting video on Facebook

[https://www.facebook.com/RoyalArmouriesMuseum/videos/627756607819803/UzpfSTU4MTE4ODU5NzoxMDE1ODc1MTgzODMzODU5OA/?sk=h\\_chr](https://www.facebook.com/RoyalArmouriesMuseum/videos/627756607819803/UzpfSTU4MTE4ODU5NzoxMDE1ODc1MTgzODMzODU5OA/?sk=h_chr)

For a mix of stories from Museums, have a look at [museumcrush.org](http://museumcrush.org)

Museum Crush is Culture24's collaborative online storytelling platform designed to help smaller museums explore innovative ways of sharing stories about their collections.

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**WCML - Working Class Movement Library** - more talks. Catch up on <https://www.wcml.org.uk/>

Online exhibition 'The Air of Freedom' - the Derbyshire Boot and Shoemakers Strike 1918-20.

Although the Library is not open - images from the exhibition are available for viewing here:

<https://wcml.org.uk/wcml/en/our-collections/working-lives/footwear-hosiery-and-knitwear-trades/the-air-of-freedom--the-derbyshire-boot-and-shoemakers-strike-191820--guest-exhibition-summer-2020/>

There is a one-hour talk by Stephen Bond about the strike on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JZG8j3oNlVg&feature=youtu.be>

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**Elizabeth Raffald book**. - If you remember AHS had a talk about Elizabeth Raffald, the amazing 18<sup>th</sup> century Manchester cook and businesswoman. The speaker Suze Appleton has written a novel about her life, available on Amazon, as an ebook and a paperback, here's the link.

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/Elizabeth-Raffald-Uncommon-Woman-Appleton/dp/B088BF5MM3/ref=tmm\\_pap\\_swatch\\_0?encoding=UTF8&qid=1592902489&sr=8-8](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Elizabeth-Raffald-Uncommon-Woman-Appleton/dp/B088BF5MM3/ref=tmm_pap_swatch_0?encoding=UTF8&qid=1592902489&sr=8-8)

It is called *Elizabeth Raffald, An Uncommon Woman*, by Suze Appleton. If you have a Kindle you may be able to download a sample of the book to get a flavour of it.

Suze writes: 'I have written it in the form of a diary kept by Elizabeth herself, and incorporated many details taken from news advertisements and articles of the time as well as other contemporary sources. It was a very interesting period covering the American rebellion to British rule, Louis XVI's marriage to Marie-Antoinette, and the growth of the Industrial Revolution, which brought great wealth to Manchester. Mainly though, it is Elizabeth's view of her life from her marriage to her death at an early age. It tells us what C18th Manchester was like, especially for a woman.'

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Here's another TNA Archive Jigsaw - not all that easy !

[https://www.jigsawexplorer.com/online-jigsaw-puzzle-player.html?url=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubmF0aW9uYWxhcmNoaXZlcy5nb3YudWsvaW1hZ2VzL2ppZ3Nhd3MvMTIvbnNjNS0yNTguanBn&cred=TmF0aW9uYWwgU2F2aW5ncyBwb3N0ZXIgmTtk0OCBmcm9tIFRoZSBOYXRpb25hbCBBcmNoaXZlcw~~&utm\\_source=emailmarketing&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=weekly\\_mailer\\_9\\_july\\_2020&utm\\_content=2020-07-09](https://www.jigsawexplorer.com/online-jigsaw-puzzle-player.html?url=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubmF0aW9uYWxhcmNoaXZlcy5nb3YudWsvaW1hZ2VzL2ppZ3Nhd3MvMTIvbnNjNS0yNTguanBn&cred=TmF0aW9uYWwgU2F2aW5ncyBwb3N0ZXIgmTtk0OCBmcm9tIFRoZSBOYXRpb25hbCBBcmNoaXZlcw~~&utm_source=emailmarketing&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=weekly_mailer_9_july_2020&utm_content=2020-07-09)

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"Time Signs" - Landscape History/Archaeology - short series of four 25minute programmes on a valley in Devon. I found this on YouTube, from 1991. If you have watched Time Team you will know of Mick Aston. He presented this series -search for "Time Signs" S01E01 The Deserted Valley; 2 The Lost Village; 3 The Turning Wheel; 4 The Final Harvest. Worth a watch.

### Battles in Cheshire

How's your knowledge of the Civil War in Cheshire? You may know about Marston Moor, but what about the battle of Rowton Moor? <http://www.chestertourist.com/battleofrowtonmoor.htm>

At a meeting of Cheshire Local History Association a couple of years ago, we had a talk about the Battle of Nantwich 1644, by Keith Lawrence (Commander of the Sealed Knot). I missed 2020's re-enactment in January (25<sup>th</sup>) - maybe next year?

[http://www.battlefieldsofbritain.co.uk/battle\\_nantwich\\_1644.html](http://www.battlefieldsofbritain.co.uk/battle_nantwich_1644.html)

Battlefields Trust website has educational resources on different periods. Here's the link for The Battle of Shrewsbury. Or try the Civil War battles

<http://battlefieldstrust.com/resource-centre/medieval/battleview.asp?BattleFieldId=39>

### "We all collect things - and don't do anything with them" - quote by a local historian.

If you are spending time sorting out old paperwork, think before you throw out old bills, minutes of societies, etc.

Here's a bit that I have had passed on to me.

I've been interested in the history of Altrincham's Old Market Place and the roads in and out, and, looking for a bit from an old newspaper to include with this newsletter - guess what I found - the real meaning of serendipity.

People around 1901 would have remembered when Dunham Road was cut through in the 1870s. Was it the cellar from the old Waggon & Horses pub?

*The Altrincham & Bowdon Guardian*

12 Jan 1901.



Gravestone: JOHN CHADOCKE / VICAR OF ROTHES / TORNE DYED / IN ANNO / 1630

Keep well, and keep reading and watching history.  
Best wishes.