



ALTRINCHAM HISTORY SOCIETY

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Hazel Pryor
11 Thorley Lane,
Timperley
Altrincham
WA15 7BJ

Hello everyone,

I hope you have had an interesting summer, exploring on foot or from your chair, and are looking forward to the programme for the next season, starting on 12th September.

Altrincham Town Hall has had a reprieve, at least until the end of December 2023, so we will be remaining there for the September to December meetings. The future of meetings at Town Hall is still to be decided.

The society's annual Subscription is due in September, and the form and programme for next year will arrive very soon, with a copy of the Journal as included in last year's subscription..

In the mean time here are some events and some interesting bits on YouTube and websites. You could even call this a special about WW2 and footpaths.

What's On:

Could you be Local History Photographer of the Year? Deadline 11th Sept.

British Association for Local History - Your chance to take part in BALH 2023 quest to find some great local history images from around Britain. This year's theme is "**Up my street**".

We would like to see your view, around where you live, work or study, within the context of local history. Your image could focus on a street view, a building, some street furniture or some little details on a wall or the ground.

The competition is open to all. You do not need to be a member of BALH to take part. We actively welcome submissions from anyone interested in local history, from across Britain. Local history societies, schools, universities, voluntary organisations, youth groups, please share the competition details with groups. You may submit **up to three photographs**. Entry is open until midnight on **Monday 11th September 2023**.

Also - Young Local History Photographer of the Year - There's a category for under 18s, so we're really keen to see photographs from our younger local history enthusiasts.

The winners and runners up in both categories will also receive a cash prize and a certificate. Details on the website

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

'All About the Place' - Friday 22nd September to Sunday 1st October

Quote: "One-Place Studies are the next best thing to a time machine. As much as I can investigate my ancestors, I'm always looking at their lives in isolation, and of course, there are gaps. One-Place Studies help us to understand and learn about the things people would have gossiped about, laughed about, or cried over. When they walked out of their front door what did they see? Who did they go to see when they became ill? How did they socialise? What did they think of their neighbours? One-Place Studies look at all these questions and more". – Liz Craig, Society for One-Place Studies.

Join like-minded history lovers to explore the places your ancestors lived in, all from the comfort of your own home. Inside our pop-up Facebook Group and on our YouTube channel, you'll be able to enjoy a plethora of free online bite-sized recorded talks from a wide range of speakers.

This one-of-a-kind event isn't just about idly watching, it's specially designed to help you to take part and start diving into local history. Alongside the wide collection of talks on research tools, analytical techniques, and place history, you'll be provided with motivating challenge instructions, created to help you to begin exploring place history. You'll be able to download a free challenge workbook to record your learning activity and progress.

[Local History from the family history point of view? Looks interesting anyway.] Details here :

https://www.subscribepage.com/allaboutthatplace?utm_medium=email&utm_source=BALH&utm_campaign=newsletter-1542

'Stained Glass Revivals' - The Ecclesiological Society Annual Conference 2023

Saturday 7th October, 10am-5pm at St John's, Waterloo, London SE1 8TY

This event will be both face-to-face and live-streamed via **Zoom**. Expensive, but presumably a good programme for anyone particularly interested. More information here: <https://ecclsoc.org/2023/07/23/annual-conference-2023-stained-glass-revivals-7-october/>

Cheshire Archives & Local Studies has an article - 'Historical thinking: using the census in primary teacher education.' Aimed at trainee teachers, but may be useful for anyone introducing children to the past.

https://cheshirero.blogspot.com/2023/02/historical-thinking-using-census-in.html?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

WW2 Starfish Decoy at Tatton -a Historic England research record - a brief record of the location.

https://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Single.aspx?uid=1469161&resourceID=19191

And comment from a family living at Birkin Farm, Ashley - 'Winston made us a target! I do remember being shoved under the table once!'

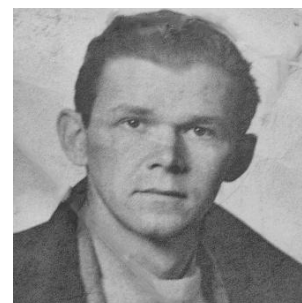
Serendipity - WW2 information online www.ata-ferry-pilots.org

While searching for anything about a pilot of the Air Transport Auxiliary (ATA), I found this website, with information about the many pilots who ferried planes around for the RAF, including the two who crashed in Timperley. One was buried in Scotland, the other at Hale Cemetery near to another two ATA pilots - Americans Earl Renicker of Wichita, Kansas, who crashed in Staffordshire on 7 Feb 1942, and Bill Elliott, from Chambersburg, Pennsylvania who crashed near Kirby Stephen on 8 Feb 1942. Bill died just a few days before he was due to return to USA.

The website includes photos of some of the pilots and other information. The entry for Bill Elliott also has the photos below of the funeral of the two Americans on 11th February at Hale Cemetery, copies were sent to his parents.



Earl Lamar Renicker - above
William Johnston Elliott - below



Both men were buried at Hale presumably because No. 14 Ferry Pilot Pool was at Ringway. The ATA website includes the Pilot Personnel Records, with details of training and any accidents, also letters to and from the next of kin. Earl was billeted with a Mrs Lawrence, presumably somewhere local to Ringway - maybe in the Altrincham/Hale area. He was ferrying a plane from Preston to Thorney Island when he crashed in bad weather.

The Flixton Footpath Fight

From the Newsletter of the Peak and Northern Footpath Society:

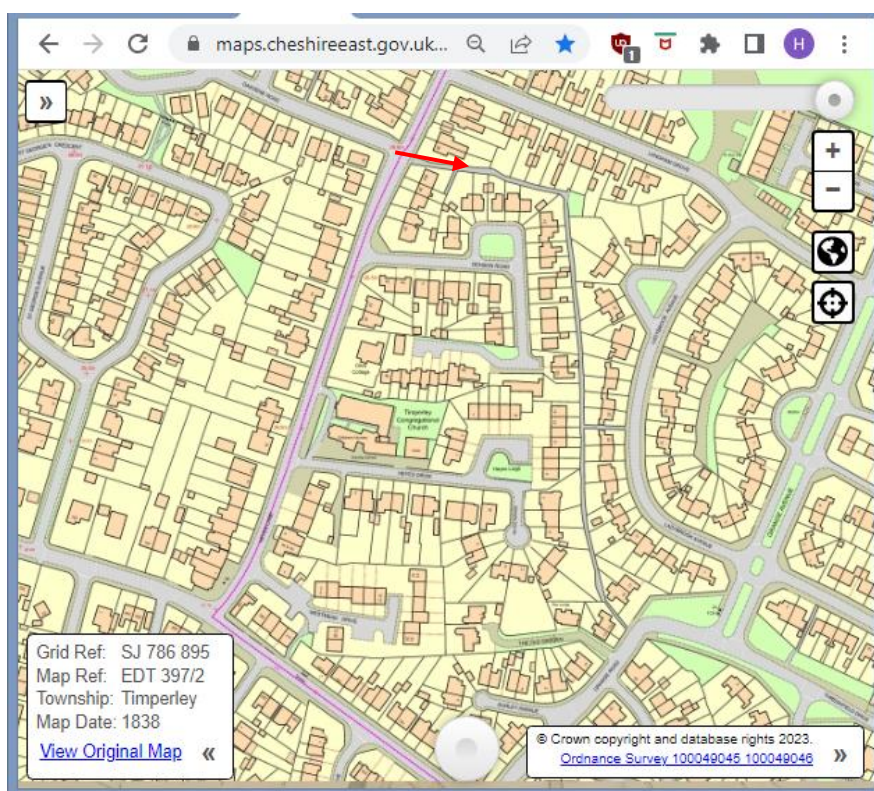
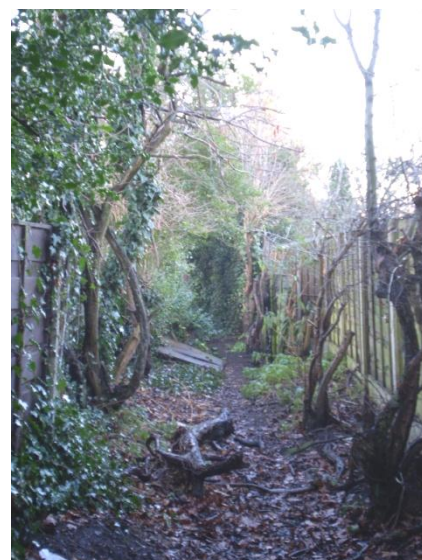
A booklet about the Flixton Footpath by campaigner Don Lee from 1976.

<https://peakandnorthern.org.uk/about-us/documents/TheFlixtonFootpathBattleDWLee.pdf>

Not Altrincham area, but I knew Don Lee, he led a couple of walks tracing local footpaths. The fight in Flixton was similar to that for 'The Boggart' footpath in Timperley, when Benny Rothman was a key figure.

That path, from Heyes Lane to Grange Road, appears on the 1838 Tithe map for Timperley, and gave access to fields. It would have been wide enough for a horse & cart. Unfortunately The Boggart, although a Right of Way, was 'gated' in 2007, following concerns from neighbours about security. The last time I walked 'The Boggart' it was already encroached on by garden rubbish and fences that crept ever inwards. (Photo on the right). I suppose now it is completely overgrown.

You can trace where it runs on the map below.



New Definitive Right of Way - 'How long, oh Lord, how long?' [Psalm 13]

There's a path along the side of the Bridgewater Canal from Timperley Station to the boundary with Sale. (Accessed by a gate under the steps to the Manchester bound platform.) Back in 2014, The Ramblers' local Footpath Secretary June Mabon started the long procedure to get this path accepted as a 'Definitive Right of Way'. In 2015 an appeal was made for people who have used the path over a period of 20 years to come forward. June put the assembled paperwork in to Trafford B.C. The Council had a map drawn showing the proposed start and end points of this footpath, with the details. Now that the official Order has been confirmed by an Inspector for the Dept. for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the dates of this process become clear. The map by Trafford B.C. is dated Sept 2018; the 'Definitive Map Modification Order' made by Trafford was done in March 2021; and it has taken until 19th May 2023 for this to be confirmed by DEFRA. The final Notice is dated 29 June 2023. At last!

**NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF A MODIFICATION ORDER
SECTION 53 OF THE WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981
TRAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**THE BOROUGH OF TRAFFORD DEFINITIVE RIGHT OF WAY MAP AND STATEMENT
THE BOROUGH OF TRAFFORD (TIMPERLEY METRO STATION TO SALE FOOTPATH NO. 19, TIMPERLEY) DEFINITIVE
MAP MODIFICATION ORDER 2021**

Some suggested YouTube video lectures from University of York - Festival of Ideas, check this link for more <https://www.youtube.com/yorkideas> each about one hour long.

Charles Dickens and Georgina Hogarth: a curious and enduring relationship
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=70QKwWQcKGs>.

Rediscovering the Dead of Roman York - a panel discussion, about the use of gypsum in some Roman burials. **Warning** - this talk will contain sensitive content including images of human remains and burials, and discussion of death of both adults and children. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MQ23upbKBHU>

As Good as a Marriage: the Anne Lister diaries If you have watched 'Gentleman Jack' on BBC - Join award-winning writer and historian Jill Liddington, whose 'Female Fortune' (1998) was the book that inspired Sally Wainwright to write 'Gentleman Jack'.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B_G_-7E3edc

'Hidden Dark Age Burial Ground' - Digging up the Dark Ages on the route of HS2. This is a History Hits video with Dan Snow on YouTube - 38 minutes. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2xSmITnazFE>

"The Last WW1 Trophy Guns" - on YouTube - excellent report, 17 minutes, by Mark Felton Productions, using lots of archive photos and a survey of the few remaining trophy guns, including one on top of a hill in mid-Wales. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-RYB8HZ9lyU>
(There *was* a Gun in Stamford Park, Altrincham, from either the Boer War or Crimean. It was marked on a map of 1910, so not from WW1.)

Church Kneelers - Book Review via an online Newsletter

Kneelers, by Elizabeth Bingham ISBN: 9781473581869

With the increasing removal of pews from churches the textile art of church kneelers is rapidly disappearing. Some thirty years ago, aware that the folk art of designing and making kneelers was endangered, Elizabeth Bingham set up the Parish Kneelers website <https://parishkneelers.co.uk/>

Her book *Kneelers* traces their history; from their spectacular beginnings at Winchester in the 1930s to their booming popularity after Queen Elizabeth II's coronation and current congregations who are keeping the tradition alive.

[I visited Rostherne Church ten years ago and took this of the kneelers there.]



Archaeological Pub Crawl Yours truly led a walk in Altrincham during the Festival of Archaeology week, looking at 17th C pubs, Georgian houses and Victorian businesses, how they relate to the layout of the mediaeval borough around the Old Market Place and Church St. and to later road developments.

We called in at The Orange Tree (timber framing, and ceiling beams in the snug), The Malt Shovels (may be 18th C with signs of an inglenook fireplace, and Victorian addition) and finally The Roebuck in 'Well Lane', where stagecoaches used to call. A dig opposite had revealed 19th C 'tippler' toilets a few feet away from an earlier well. Pottery finds ranged from 14th to 19th century. The Roebuck backs on to one of the mediaeval burgage plots, in 1852 it was the site of three houses, a workshop and a stable, but is now empty of buildings and overgrown with trees. Might be worth investigating?

We didn't have time to visit the Old Market Tavern (the Unicorn). Please do call in at the pubs in the Old Market Place, they are on the 'wrong' side of the main road, and need customers if we are not to lose them.

Following last April's meeting, a couple of people have suggested a visit to Middlewich. We have checked, but have been unable to arrange a tour, so will look at alternatives.

Thanks to the people who pass on records, I now have some birth & death certificates, AND a massive pile of very interesting deeds - should keep me busy all winter.

See you around, Hazel