

## ALTRINCHAM HISTORY SOCIETY

Newsletter for September 2020.

Hello Everyone, I hope you have enjoyed the summer weather and are all managing to keep well. We're trying to keep in touch, so here's another mixed bag of bits and pieces that may be of interest.

You should have received by post in August the Journal, list of Publications and subscription renewal letter, so thank you to all who have re-joined the society - we hope to keep going.

We are still not sure if it will be possible to hold meetings from January 2021, but we have some more publications available.

AHS Occasional Paper 51: Petty Crime and Misdemeanours 1613-1700: from Ashton-on-Mersey to Altrincham (the court system; fighters, drunkards, scolds, rioters, owners of dangerous dogs, poachers, thieves, trespassers, gamblers; the Black Game Act; stocks, cuckstools, pillories; Altrincham's and Manchester's dungeons) is now available as an edownload and printed copies will be ready soon.

Jill Groves has published her 'Timperley Lives: Part 1, 1600-1640', as an edownload. It includes sections on the Mini-Ice Age (1350-1850) and how it affected farming in this area, and Riddings Hall. It will probably be in print before the end of the year.

Jill says the **WW2 Memories Occasional Paper** is coming along nicely, but we could still do with a few more memories. I've got something about fire-watching on Thorley Lane, any more local bits?

### Bit of Local News

Altrincham & Bowdon Civic Society met with developers Bruntwood and asked if they could use empty shop units for community use. One of schemes will be an exhibition on the Archaeological Dig on Regent Road car park, together with The Bravest Little Street (Chapel St). Both STAG and Trafford Local Studies will be involved.

*Below are a mixture of websites to explore, online talks and free courses, e-newsletters and other stuff as well. Not in any particular order except as I came across them.*

British Association for Local History - Ten Minute Talks [https://www.balh.org.uk/resources-other-presentation-material?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=BALH&utm\\_campaign=newsletter-735](https://www.balh.org.uk/resources-other-presentation-material?utm_medium=email&utm_source=BALH&utm_campaign=newsletter-735)

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[www.railwayaccidents.port.ac.uk](http://www.railwayaccidents.port.ac.uk). The Railway Work, Life and Death project is trying to improve our knowledge and understanding of British and Irish railway worker accidents from the later 19th century to the start of the Second World War. We want to unlock the mass of details – some minor, some startling, all significant – contained in a variety of sources, and show how valuable they can be as a means of accessing the experience of working on the railways. The database contains details of railway worker accidents investigated by the state (1911-15), applications to the Great Eastern Railway Benevolent Fund (1913-23) for assistance after an accident, and legal cases handled by the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants trade union (1901-1905).

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"Organising Family Archives" - ICA (International Council of Archives) has launched a new online learning course. It is not intended for the archives and records management profession but for the wider public, including genealogists and family historians. You can find more information here: <https://www.ica.org/en/register-for-the-ica-online-course-organising-family-archives>

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Vernacular Architecture Group - if you are interested in farm buildings, cottages etc, i.e. not 'polite' architecture. <http://www.vag.org.uk/index.htm>

Association for Industrial Archaeology e-News Bulletin July 2020.

<https://mailchi.mp/b264ad082c37/aia-e-news-bulletin-july-2020?e=11dc076a73>

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How's your Latin? Can you read old manuscripts? Volunteers needed for Cheshire Deeds project.

<http://cheshirero.blogspot.com/2017/10/medieval-deeds-project.html>

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Manchester Evening News article 8 June 2020.

Marauding Viking raiders & Norman rulers, Salford's towns and how they got their names.

[https://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-news/history-town-names-salford-swinton-](https://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-news/history-town-names-salford-swinton-18314908?utm_source=men_newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=EM_MENNews_Nletter_DailyNews_News_smallteaser_Text_Story5&utm_campaign=daily_newsletter)

[18314908?utm\\_source=men\\_newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=EM\\_MENNews\\_Nletter\\_DailyNews\\_News\\_smallteaser\\_Text\\_Story5&utm\\_campaign=daily\\_newsletter](https://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-news/history-town-names-salford-swinton-18314908?utm_source=men_newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=EM_MENNews_Nletter_DailyNews_News_smallteaser_Text_Story5&utm_campaign=daily_newsletter)

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Online lecture (less than half an hour) by the Arts Society: Rescuing unwanted diaries by Irving Finkel.

It is about the Great Diary Project at Bishopsgate Institute where they are collecting any diaries that people wish to donate for posterity. If you haven't heard about the project it is worth a look:

<https://www.connected.theartsociety.org/talks-lectures>

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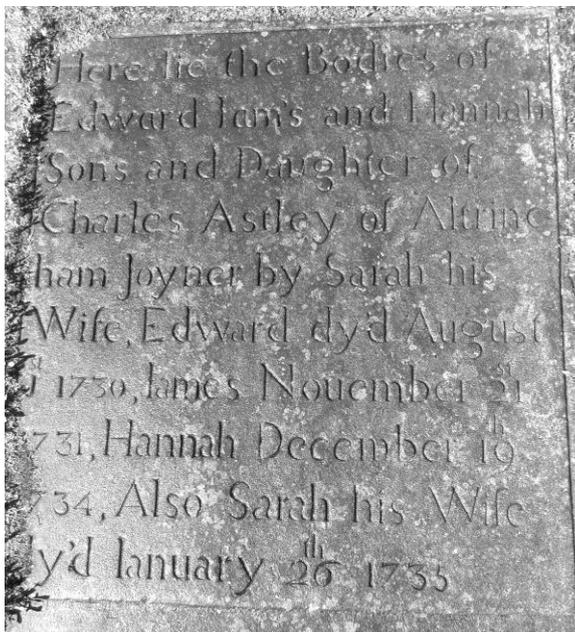
From Altrincham & Bowdon Civic Society - Just to let you all know that in our quest to make young people more aware of what we do and encourage them to get involved, our new public face *Altrincham & Bowdon Community Voice* now has an Instagram Account. It just adds another facet to our presence on social media which can only be a good thing. If you are a user you can view it at [@altandbowdoncommunityvoice](https://www.instagram.com/altandbowdoncommunityvoice). Please follow us and encourage others to do the same.

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St Mary's Church Bowdon - short video by Jim Balme, a member of STAG.

<https://twitter.com/JamesBalme/status/1296760171390263296?fbclid=IwAR1JyL6kOrFL-IFaOeUvQsUy-Syjh2gK-z45c9D2GuS9pG8kcwOXoxi1JDU>

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Here's another gravestone puzzle - from Bowdon Church. (Transcription at the end).

And check out the website for St Mary's Bowdon e.g. History

<http://www.bowdonchurch.org/parish-history/>

Using satellite imagery to locate ancient sites.

[https://www.ted.com/talks/sarah\\_parcak\\_archaeology\\_from\\_space?utm\\_source=tedcomshare&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=tedsread](https://www.ted.com/talks/sarah_parcak_archaeology_from_space?utm_source=tedcomshare&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=tedsread)

## From The National Archives:

How Walter Crane redesigned the Victorian children's book - a blog from National Archives

Walter Crane (1845-1915) was an artist and designer, a prolific book illustrator and leading figure of the Arts and Crafts movement. As August marks his 175th birthday, Olivia Gecseg examines some of his extraordinary works held in our collection.

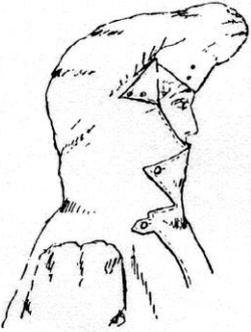
[https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/the-art-of-learning-to-read-with-walter-crane/?utm\\_source=emailmarketing&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=weekly\\_mailer\\_27\\_august\\_2020&utm\\_content=2020-08-28](https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/the-art-of-learning-to-read-with-walter-crane/?utm_source=emailmarketing&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=weekly_mailer_27_august_2020&utm_content=2020-08-28)

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Another Jigsaw from TNA. 1887 poster advertising sporting goods. After, take a look at how the Cobbett trademark looks to be a cricket bat and a Willow tree

[https://www.jigsawexplorer.com/online-jigsaw-puzzle-player.html?url=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubmF0aW9uYWxhcmNoaXZlcy5nb3YudWsvaW1hZ2VzL2ppZ3Nhd3MvMTcvY29weTEtNzgtZjQ3MXotcmIjaGFyZC1hbGxlbnouanBn&cred=RnJvbSBUaGUgTmF0aW9uYWwgQXJjaGl2ZXMGQ09QWSAxLzc4LzQ3MSBSaWNoYXJkIEFsbGVuIGNyaWNrZXQgYmF0cw~~&utm\\_source=emailmarketing&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=weekly\\_mailer\\_27\\_august\\_2020&utm\\_content=2020-08-28](https://www.jigsawexplorer.com/online-jigsaw-puzzle-player.html?url=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubmF0aW9uYWxhcmNoaXZlcy5nb3YudWsvaW1hZ2VzL2ppZ3Nhd3MvMTcvY29weTEtNzgtZjQ3MXotcmIjaGFyZC1hbGxlbnouanBn&cred=RnJvbSBUaGUgTmF0aW9uYWwgQXJjaGl2ZXMGQ09QWSAxLzc4LzQ3MSBSaWNoYXJkIEFsbGVuIGNyaWNrZXQgYmF0cw~~&utm_source=emailmarketing&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=weekly_mailer_27_august_2020&utm_content=2020-08-28)

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The Jigsaws come with the email newsletter from National Archives. Here's the Newsletter from 20 August, with details of Online 'Meet the Author' dates.

[https://clicks.econnectmail.com/view\\_online/view\\_online.php?token2=hGJHeY3rr8VpimMn1NDtPcL\\_SqMG0ZjmX0HUSNWgvuvqvDtwF7Pb1xUpzV8ZhkU-qEMvpjyb4F7c8XRJdyBLA..](https://clicks.econnectmail.com/view_online/view_online.php?token2=hGJHeY3rr8VpimMn1NDtPcL_SqMG0ZjmX0HUSNWgvuvqvDtwF7Pb1xUpzV8ZhkU-qEMvpjyb4F7c8XRJdyBLA..)

	<p><b>The Vallacks' Improved Coat or Garment for Motoring or Travelling</b> protects the hair of the wearer from dust and the neck from the wind and in a coat for railway travelling keeps away draughts from the head and neck. It consists in a helmet cut out in one piece with the coat, the helmet being formed to cover the neck and head all except the eyes and mouth, and is adapted for wear by both sexes.</p> <p>820/1905 Eliza Jane Vallack William Edward Vallack <i>Costumiers</i> 21 Stamford New Road, Altrincham, Cheshire, England (H B Barlow &amp; Gillett)</p>
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New in 1905!

I found this years ago in a book about patented inventions: 'Edwardian inventions: an extraordinary extravaganza of eccentric ingenuity', by R.Dale & J.Gray, published by W.H.Allen in 1979.

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National Trust Online Exhibition: 'The National Trust in Cheshire' is now available to view online: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/cheshirero/albums/72157714178669223> Detailing the history of the charity in Cheshire, this album contains photographs, postcards and prints of grand country houses to small watermills.

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Some Jigsaws from Cheshire Archives & local Studies newsletter, choose from a selection:

<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=search&q=Cheshire%20Archives>

More Jigsaws - from the far north

<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/OrkneyLibrary/jigsaws>

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Stockport's Heritage Pubs

It should have been Stockport's Beer Week, but with current restrictions, at least you can read up about heritage pubs. Scroll down to about halfway. <http://ssmcamra.co.uk/BeerWeek.htm>



Keep your eyes alert on your exercise walks. Look what I spotted in Timperley, just off Park Road. How old is it? Do you see the - Bucklow R D C? Before amalgamation with Altrincham Timperley had a Parish Council but came under Bucklow Rural District Council for things like roads. Amalgamation was in 1937 - so it's at least that old.

Lasted well, hasn't it.

## ARCHAEOLOGY

Archaeology - 'Planning for the Future' White Paper.

There is a consultation on the **current white paper 'Planning for the Future'** which seeks to speed up decisions regarding requests for development. People interested in archaeology are encouraged to write to their MP to express their concerns that the chance to explore archaeological features before construction will be lost under the white paper proposals.

As an example is quoted work on the **Manchester Relief Road**. There is a booklet 'Life on Marr', one of the Greater Manchester Past Revealed series - available to download.

[https://www.wessexarch.co.uk/sites/default/files/field\\_file/Manchester%20Airport%20Relief%20Road%20booklet.pdf](https://www.wessexarch.co.uk/sites/default/files/field_file/Manchester%20Airport%20Relief%20Road%20booklet.pdf)

If this link doesn't work go via <https://www.wessexarch.co.uk/our-work/manchester-airport-relief-road-marr> and scroll down.

The Council for British Archaeology and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists have released a joint statement regarding their initial response to the consultation. Both bodies are concerned that the white paper in its current form is insufficient to protect archaeological interests within the planning process. You can read more about the initial response from the CBA on the following link. <https://new.archaeologyuk.org/news/cba-and-cifa-response-to-planning-white-paper>

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Archaeology - FREE online course from Univ of York on the site at **Star Carr**

[https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/exploring-stone-age-archaeology-the-mysteries-of-star-carr?utm\\_campaign=Share+Links&utm\\_medium=futurelearn-run\\_details&utm\\_source=email](https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/exploring-stone-age-archaeology-the-mysteries-of-star-carr?utm_campaign=Share+Links&utm_medium=futurelearn-run_details&utm_source=email)

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Archaeology - detailed stuff about Eddisbury Hillfort in an article available Open Access at

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/00665983.2019.1711301>

**'Hillfort gate-mechanisms: a contextual, architectural reassessment of Eddisbury, Hembury, and Cadbury hillforts'**

I must admit the first paragraph put me off a bit and I skipped a lot of technical stuff, but there's info in there about the excavations at Eddisbury, and a route round the site.

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**Working Class Movement Library (WCML)** in Salford - the reading room will be opening again on 15<sup>th</sup> September by appointment only. You can get details via the WCML ebulletins e.g.

<https://mailchi.mp/8392457cc89a/news-from-the-working-class-movement-library?e=4494527afb>

**Invisible Histories talks** Our live-streamed talks will begin again on **Wednesday 30 September at 2pm** with a talk by sociologist Lisa McKenzie, author of *Getting by: estates, class and culture in austerity Britain*.

The free talks will run weekly, and [full details are on our events page here](#). Some of the talks will link with the topics of our [Begin the World Over Again project](#), including [Dee Malik-Johnson](#) helping us celebrate Black History Month with a talk on activist and boxer [Len Johnson](#), and [President of the Labour Land Campaign Dave Wetzel](#) talking on 'the historic theft of land'. We're also delighted to welcome good friend to the Library [Cyril Pearce](#) to talk

about his long-awaited study of resistance to the First World War in communities in England, Scotland and Wales, [Communities of Resistance](#).

**7 October 2pm** Dave Wetzel, *The historic theft of land - and attempts over the centuries to redress this injustice*.

**14 October 2pm** Ralph Darlington, *Strikers versus scabs: violence in the 1910-14 labour unrest*

**21 October 2pm** Andy Croft on radical poet Randall Swingler

**28 October 2pm** Black History Month - Deej Malik-Johnson on Len Johnson

**4 November 2pm** Cyril Pearce, *Conscience and dissent in Britain during the First World War*

**11 November 2pm** Matthew Kidd, *The renewal of radicalism 1867-1924*

**19 November 2pm** Being Human Festival event: *Begin the World Over Again - radical thoughts & actions for radical times*

**25 November 2.30pm** Carole O'Reilly, *The greening of the city*

**2 December 2pm** Clara Jones and Natasha Periyar, *Labour women: Ellen Wilkinson, and Vera Brittain*

[Full details are on our events page here](#). And a reminder that all our online talks to date have been recorded and can be viewed at [www.youtube.com/wcmlibrary](http://www.youtube.com/wcmlibrary).

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**"OFFA'S DYKE : A WATERY PERSPECTIVE"** Chester Society for Landscape History (CSLH)

Prof. Howard Williams of Chester University who was due to speak to us in September, has very kindly offered an online lecture for us – "OFFA'S DYKE : A WATERY PERSPECTIVE".

This lecture can be accessed via the link below on his YouTube site. He will post the pre-recorded lecture from 6.00pm on **Mon 14<sup>th</sup> Sept & it will be available for 2 weeks**. [ You may have to sign up to YouTube.]

Don't worry about the title **Archaeo Death** - just keep going.

(I'm a member of CSLH and can access the lectures, so I hope non-members can also. HP)

Video: "Offa's Dyke: A Watery Perspective - Part 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4sXUFtFxcYc>

Here is the link to Part 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vmaBbvi2OAK>

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### **From The National Archives:**

A letter from Chester 1917

[https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/about/visit-us/whats-on/with-love/letters-of-lockdown/week-3-strength/?utm\\_source=emailmarketing&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=weekly\\_mailer\\_4\\_september\\_2020&utm\\_content=2020-09-07](https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/about/visit-us/whats-on/with-love/letters-of-lockdown/week-3-strength/?utm_source=emailmarketing&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=weekly_mailer_4_september_2020&utm_content=2020-09-07)

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Letter-from-Hetty-to-William-Crawford.pdf>

I get a weekly email from National Archives with details of news, events, books, blogs etc. It's worth signing up for if only to get the latest jigsaw. Here's the latest email:

[https://clicks.econnectmail.com/view\\_online/view\\_online.php?token2=hGJHeY3rr8VpimMn1NDtPcL\\_SqMG0Zj\\_mX0HUSNWgvsP-vw0B9lIAP1cZ0W3R-nyxrZZZ3XE8bRdYDaE885ytw..](https://clicks.econnectmail.com/view_online/view_online.php?token2=hGJHeY3rr8VpimMn1NDtPcL_SqMG0Zj_mX0HUSNWgvsP-vw0B9lIAP1cZ0W3R-nyxrZZZ3XE8bRdYDaE885ytw..)

From The National Archives about the London Blitz

[https://clicks.econnectmail.com/view\\_online/view\\_online.php?token2=hGJHeY3rr8VpimMn1NDtPcL\\_SqMG0ZjmX0HUSNWgvs9KX-X584KtqBGzMaK\\_Rfnl3kDwBW0W4vh1JvnJ\\_yA..](https://clicks.econnectmail.com/view_online/view_online.php?token2=hGJHeY3rr8VpimMn1NDtPcL_SqMG0ZjmX0HUSNWgvs9KX-X584KtqBGzMaK_Rfnl3kDwBW0W4vh1JvnJ_yA..)

Farming jigsaw

[https://www.jigsawexplorer.com/online-jigsaw-puzzle-player.html?url=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubmF0aW9uYWxhcmNoaXZlcy5nb3YudWsvaW1hZ2VzL2ppZ3Nhd3MvMTcvbnNjMjUtNTguanBn&cred=RnJvbSBUaGUgTmF0aW9uYWwgQXJjaGl2ZXMGtINDIDl1LzU4IE5hdGlvbmluZ3MgcG9zdGVy&utm\\_source=emailmarketing&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=weekly\\_mailer\\_10\\_september\\_2020&utm\\_content=2020-09-10](https://www.jigsawexplorer.com/online-jigsaw-puzzle-player.html?url=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubmF0aW9uYWxhcmNoaXZlcy5nb3YudWsvaW1hZ2VzL2ppZ3Nhd3MvMTcvbnNjMjUtNTguanBn&cred=RnJvbSBUaGUgTmF0aW9uYWwgQXJjaGl2ZXMGtINDIDl1LzU4IE5hdGlvbmluZ3MgcG9zdGVy&utm_source=emailmarketing&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=weekly_mailer_10_september_2020&utm_content=2020-09-10)

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Exploring Trafford's Heritage : Trafford Local Studies collection of artefacts.

[https://exploringtraffordsheritage.omeka.net/collections/show/9?fbclid=IwAR2\\_BR2gRtINT\\_EQbAi1bHhldagMLDh-Tl6WV6ancd6b9YCFBwt3NEoIO\\_Q](https://exploringtraffordsheritage.omeka.net/collections/show/9?fbclid=IwAR2_BR2gRtINT_EQbAi1bHhldagMLDh-Tl6WV6ancd6b9YCFBwt3NEoIO_Q)

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Have you come across this website? Grace's Guide to British Industrial History - very useful for local firms, or Manchester businessmen living in our 'suburbs'

[https://www.gracesguide.co.uk/Main\\_Page](https://www.gracesguide.co.uk/Main_Page)

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**Regional Heritage Centre FREE Online Course on Lancaster Castle Registration Now Open**  
The RHC's Massive Open Online Course - or MOOC - is back for another run this October. The course was produced in partnership with the Duchy of Lancaster and the University of Lancaster's Information Systems Services. Registration is now open for those who would like to experience '*Lancaster Castle and Northern English History: the View from the Stronghold*'. Learners range across two millennia of history, from the remains of Roman forts to the castle's life as a prison and a visitor attraction. Our engaging educators respond to the castle and its surroundings in relation to their particular research interests, such as medieval Anglo-Scottish warfare, the witchcraft trials of the 17th century and the achievements of prison reformers. The course lasts for five weeks, each structured around high-quality videos filmed against the impressive backdrop of Lancaster Castle. The videos are accompanied by learning exercises which tackle a rich variety of primary sources.

To date over 6000 learners have joined us from 128 countries, but why not see for yourself? This year's course begins on Monday 19 October. For more information and to register:

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/lancaster-castle>

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John Rylands Library Special Collections - the Reading Room is now open to members of the public. Check the website or phone for details, if you are planning a visit to look at documents.

<https://www.library.manchester.ac.uk/rylands/> There are some interesting tweets on the website.



I thought I would just include this photo of Alderman Miss Edith Fitton, who was Mayor of Altrincham in 1957 - the first lady Mayor. She was a daughter of Charles Fitton who came from Rochdale area to be schoolmaster at Thorley Lane C of E School in Timperley (at the corner of Mainwood Road). The family lived at the adjoining school-house and included her brother Edmund Fitton who produced the Nottif series of postcards of Timperley and Hale, and her brother Norman who served in a Canadian Regiment in WW1, received the Military Medal and was killed in August 1918. Her sisters married into local families: Cocker architect, Barker blacksmith, Marston builder and Isherwood school master. Edith taught at St John's School, Baguley for many years and lived on Stockport Road, Timperley.

The Gravestone:

Here lie the Bodies of / Edward Iam's and Hannah / Sons and Daughter of / Charles Astley of Altrinc / ham Joyner by Sarah his / Wife, Edward dy'd August / 1<sup>st</sup> 1730, Iames Nouember 21<sup>st</sup> / 1731, Hannah December 19<sup>th</sup> / 1734, Also Sarah his Wife / dy'd Ianuary 26<sup>th</sup> 1735

Keep well, and keep reading and watching history. And keep your eyes open if you are out and about.

Best wishes.