

ALTRINCHAM HISTORY SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER No. 43 May 2025

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Hello everyone,

Our next meeting is the **AGM on Tuesday 13th May at 7.30pm** at the Altrincham Conservative Club, on Market Street.

We received some sad news that long-term member **Chris Hill** died on 12th April. Chris had been a very active member from the start of the society and on the committee. Chris had researched and written many articles and occasional papers for AHS, and contributed to books and other publications. His funeral is on 16th May at 11am at Altrincham Crematorium.

With Chris's death, we have lost one of our committee members. The number on the committee is dwindling, and we are down to five active members, and we do need a minimum number of people to make a quorum.

We have people in place to cover essential jobs for the coming year, but need a few more..

And **we will need a new Chairman** ! It has been pointed out that no-one can replace your current chairman Hazel's knowledge of the area. Well maybe, but that is in a way separate from the running of the society. Each of us has different local and historical knowledge, some more than others. Some have better 'management' or organisation savvy. **Also a Secretary** would be useful. Eleanor is really the Minutes Secretary, but has been filling the role of secretary as well. Another person to take on some of the jobs would help.

With this newsletter you will receive the latest List of Publications from AHS. Jill Groves has put this together. Don't forget that via the AHS website link you can download publications via Genfair.

What's On

Thurs 22 May - 'Digging the Ness of Brodgar' (on Orkney) a talk by De Ellen McInnes. 7.30pm at South Trafford Archaeology Group STAG HQ behind Ther Old Hall Hotel. Visitors charge £5.00

200 years of the railway - there will be much activity in Altrincham and **down the line to Chester** this year. Our member Moira is one of the Friends of Hale Station and in order to celebrate the bicentennial of the opening of the Stockton to Darlington Railway, the friends of Hale Station, together with various adoption groups at different stations along the Chester line are being encouraged to 'dress up' their station or do something to celebrate this occasion.

With the above in mind, they are seeking any photographs, memorabilia or stories etc that people have in connection with Hale station, which might be copied or otherwise exhibited possibly in May.

The local studies & archives at Sale library have 3 photographs we can use, but we are seeking more, especially of people going away by train or returning and being met at the station.

So we wish to ask if anyone has any items or photos, or reminiscences that we could use. They would be much appreciated. Please contact Moira on moirapercival@hotmail.com (07715 266547)

Sound Archives Kiosk Trafford Local Studies at Sale Library On **until June 2025**.

Come along and visit the Greater Manchester sound archives Kiosk here at Trafford Local Studies. Listen to first-hand accounts and recollections of the people who lived and worked in Trafford. Oral history recordings

have captured these fascinating voices from the past so that their memories can be preserved for future generations.

Some of the interviews you can listen to at the kiosk include "Stretford in the Old Days", "The Old Smithy on Broad Road", "Why is Flixton called Flixton?"

Also from Trafford Local Studies:

We recently had the national day of **reflection for the COVID-19 pandemic**.

It was an opportunity to come together to remember those who lost their lives and to honour the tireless work and acts of kindness shown during such a challenging time. A collection of photographs captured by local community members is available to see via our website Exploring Trafford's Heritage –

‘Our Lives in Lockdown’ .

https://exploringtraffordsheritage.omeka.net/items/browse?collection=10&page=1&fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAR2o0TzE47cS368y32ZuOQfqJ0Yq80KuFuhHCFgE7a-RINPHg7UaQBdCecE_aem_PVFEQSF8hGEsmPiUm4e5Hw



[I have a few – here’s one from the Larkhill Centre, Timperley, Dec 2020. No band concert that Christmas.]

A **query** from a Facebook local page, and from my sister – “Anyone remember the cafe above a shop on the corner of Bloomsbury Lane, Timperley opposite the Quarry Bank? I don't remember what the shop or cafe were called. Would have been late 40's. Mum took me for a cup of tea and a toasted tea cake. My first 'eat out'.

When we lived on Stockport Road I was told the actress, Helen Cherry used to live at No 225 Stockport Road, Timperley, the white cottages opposite the old farm. Right or wrong?

Also Helen Cherry and Trevor Howard lived in a house on the corner of Langham Road and Grange Road Bowdon in the late 50's.” How about a Blue Plaque for them?

Friends of Bowdon Church Yard (FOBCY) have a regular series of short articles about people buried at Bowdon. The latest series of 5 have been about John Allen from Oldfield Hall, and his second son Bulkeley Allen and a connection with the Joynson family of Bowdon.

“In 1872, Mary's sister, Susan, widowed with three children, married as her second husband Richard Hampson Joynson, who was another silk merchant, living in Bowdon. They settled in Chasefield (now demolished) and had a child named Grace Lynn Joynson. When she grew up she married a future Home Secretary, William Joynson-Hicks (he added his wife's surname to his own), later 1st Viscount Brentford. Susan laid the foundation stone of St Peter's church in Hale in 1890, as her husband was the principal patron; their donations included stained glass, bells and the alabaster reredos as well as money to the nearby school and vicarage. Susan died in 1896, and Richard moved to Perthshire until his death in 1908. As St Peter's has no burial ground, both Susan and Richard, along with others of the Joynson family, were both buried at Bowdon. “ *Thanks to Rosie Hurley, whose detailed article with photos can be found on our website:* <https://friendsofbowdonchurchyard.org.uk/>

On YouTube

“Discovering Chester’s Industrial past: a walk along the Canal corridor” – a video from 2021, of a heritage walk led by Stewart Shuttleworth, author of ‘Chester’s Industries’. c 17 minutes.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m1-cSFawhwU>

“What lies in the St John’s Vault” - a lecture by Professor Lady Sue Black about St John’s Chapel Oxford. She is President of St John’s College. 45 minutes lecture with slides about investigating the crypt.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sDNGiaSEfOw>

“Monumental Anglo-Saxon Church in Yorkshire” a 15 minute video by ‘Church Searcher’ about Kirk Hammerton, N. Yorks. Semi-circular arches – pre-Norman clue, with 19th C additions and Victorian murals.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BZRnCT5oOlc>

Melsonby Hoard - You may have seen on the News about the Iron Age discovery in North Yorkshire. Here's a very short video by Durham University <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yviuXp00pGk>

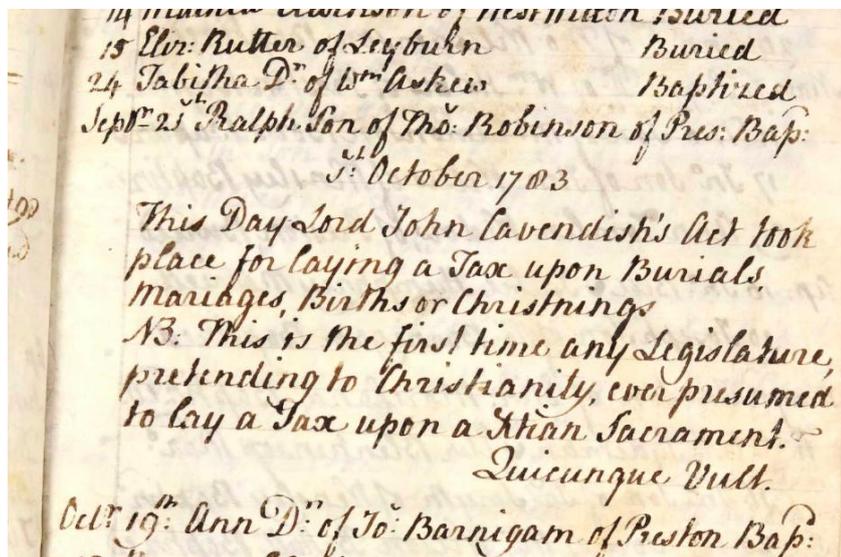
“What happened to Seighford Hall”, 16th century hall in Staffordshire. c 13 minutes video on its history and current condition, by ‘The Red Haired Stokie’. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UKcBvFNfzvK>

“The incredible true story of Operation Postmaster” WW2. A film by IWM, about 10 minutes. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TqxfzPVHZZo>

Story of the audacious plan where a team of commandos infiltrated a Spanish island (Spain was neutral) and stole three Axis ships.

On a different topic – if you are interested in **beer brewing**, this is a very good description of cask ales, brewing, characteristics, differences and science. Don't be put off by the title “American tries English cask beer” He is shown and told about ales and beers. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nwplGTvXvC4> Video about 17 mins by Clawhammer Supply.

Serendipity - Another find from Family history research – this one from Wensley Parish, Yorkshire. An example of extra comments made by vicars in the parish registers, from 1783.



October 1783
This Day Lord John Cavendish's Act took place for laying a Tax upon Burials, Mariages, Births or Christnings
NB. This is the first time any Legislature, pretending to Christianity, ever presumed to lay a Tax upon a Xtian Sacrament.
Quicunque Vult.

'Quicunque vult salvus esse is the opening of the Athanasian Creed, roughly translated as 'whoever wants to be saved'. The Creed itself is often known by its opening words quicunque vult or "whoever wants to." Which naturally became early 19th century slang for prostitute.' Wikipedia

Here's another from Misson, Notts, the burials register in 19th century. Cause of death was added often from c. 1850 onwards. All these were added by Wm. Thorp vicar, showing e.g. scarlet fever in summer/autumn of 1854. The last entry like this, in 1860, precedes that for “William Thorp Vicar of Mison for 13 years age 57” and someone has written in the margin, not under the name, “Sudden death”.

1849 May 19	Catherine Needham	Misson	47	apoplexy (being pregnant)
1858 Dec 28	Mary Nobles	Misson	15 yrs	pneumonia
1859 Feb 16	John Needham	Misson	60	cancer of the stomach
1860 Apr 13	George Needham	Misson	Infant	measles

Also from Misson - “In the year 1866 the Rindepest or Cattle Plague ... broke out in this parish in January 1866 ... until June 1866 ... during which period 205 head of cattle were destroyed by the disease or slaughtered to prevent the spread of contagion ... Some farmers in Misson lost their whole herds. C. Postlethwaite, Vicar.”
We had the cattle plague in Cheshire as well that year.

Have you ever been to Shrewsbury? Lots to see there – the castle, timber-framed buildings around Bear Steps, the river, parks. Shropshire Museums advertise events including a guided tour: ‘Discover Shrewsbury’s medieval town with over 1100 years of history. Join Shrewsbury’s knowledgeable guides, to learn fascinating stories about Shrewsbury’s chequered past, during a 90 minute walk around this historic

town.' Daily walks April to September. Adults £12.50 children £6.50. Bookings: 01743 369741
Other themed tours in 2025 include: Shuts and Passages Tour; Historic Hostelrys Tour , at £9 for adults.
<https://www.shropshiremuseums.org.uk/smag-walking-tours-are-back/>

Family History Society of Cheshire has a good website, with details of their meetings – visitors welcome for a fee. <https://www.fhsc.org.uk/>

If you use Facebook – why not follow: Cheshire Local History Association, for some interesting pictures, maps and information. And check the website <https://sites.google.com/site/cheshirelha/>

There's a new trail - '**Discover Altrincham: a Journey Through Time**'. A free printed leaflet for this town trail has been created by Altrincham BID who produce Visit Altrincham. "The trail is designed to bring Altrincham's history to life through a collection of landmarks, stories, and key historical points throughout the town. The trail makes for a fun FREE family activity." It uses QR codes within the leaflet to access more information. I picked up a copy at Altrincham Town Hall or you can download it here:
<https://visitaltrincham.com/news/discover-altrincham-a-journey-through-time-heritage-trail-launched-at-altrincham-town-hall/>

Time to start exploring then – where will you go? Altrincham?
Or Shrewsbury? Or – How about Stockport? Worth a visit for more than just the shops Bus no.370 or 371 from Altrincham (about 1 hour).

Underbank Hall - town house of the Ardernes (NatWest)



The Market hall & Staircase House & the Museum



The Plaza –Art Deco



The Hatworks with ARC cafe



Plaque to Howard Beckwith, Superintendent of Stockport Fire Brigade from 11th June 1897 who was killed near this place whilst proceeding to a Fire on 29th December 1926 at age of 64 years.
- Awarded multiple medals for saving lives.
[On bridge arch near bus station, can you find it?]

Enjoy your exploring either on foot, or online, or in print.

See you around, Hazel