



ALTRINCHAM HISTORY SOCIETY

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Hello everyone,

Here are some events that you might be interested in, and items online, some public consultations, and bits of local history.

What's On

Sat 18th October 10am – 2pm **Trafford Consultation on the Local Plan** Not strictly history but of local interest - Trafford Local Plan public consultation closes on **3rd November**. This is about the allocation of sites for housing, industry, leisure etc. The final display of the draft plans is at Altrincham Interchange from 10am to 2pm. You can respond online at www.trafford.gov.uk/draftlocalplan

Friday 24 October - Talk by Dr Mike Nevell : From boat lift to saltworks: recording Cheshire's Industrial Archaeology. 7.30pm at STAG HQ behind the Old Hall Hotel.

Talks from The National Archives (TNA) - Check the TNA Newsletter – for **Online Lectures**
<https://news.ewnews.nationalarchives.gov.uk/FC57A49166C7F58C5F3827A85750EDDF26175CF12C4003BC6CB4253B2CEA15DC/9158F81B5F7FB174AC4F0D114B0EA470/VIB>

Friday, 31 Oct 2pm - Witch Hunts and Hidden Truth: a spellbinding exploration of witches and witchcraft.

“What's Online is a series of events delivered by our experts and special guests. This webinar will be presented on Vimeo. You do not need a Vimeo account to join an event, and can join from your browser from a laptop or mobile device. However, for the best experience we recommend using either a laptop or desktop computer. You will receive a reminder email, including a link to join in advance of the event.” This works on ‘Pay what you can’ from £15 to £0. Select the amount when you click on ‘Get Tickets’. On this link: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/witch-hunts-and-hidden-truths-tickets-1569920587739?aff=presale&utm_source=e-shot&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Pre-sale+mailer+for+Q3+What%27s+On++28.08.2025

Fridays 7th, 14th and 21st November – The 14th Century : power. Plague and warfare

a series of three lectures exploring a hundred years of courtly intrigue, battles, social unrest and a global pandemic. Starts with ‘Sceptred Isle: a new history of the 14th century.’

Book via the link to the TNA Newsletter (above)

Tuesday 25 November 2025 **‘Will the Real Oliver Cromwell Please Stand Up?’** by Peter Gaunt (University of Chester) The first of a series of **free public lectures** at University of Chester.

These will be taking place over the next few months at the CML016 Cinema/Screen Room, Chester School of Education, Exton Park Campus, Parkgate Road, CH1 4BJ. Parking on campus is free and close to the venue. Culture and Society Research & Knowledge Exchange Institute at the University of Chester.

TICKETS are free and available via ticket tailor using the link below

<https://buytickets.at/universityofchester1/1765013>

Information can also be found on the University of Chester website, using this

link, <https://www.chester.ac.uk/about/events/event-details/international-slavery-museum--the-journey-the-progress-and-the-plans-with-michelle-charters-obe.php>

Exhibitions

Railway 200 - Saturday 13 September to 4 January 2026 at Weaver Hall Museum

A Celebration of the Railways in the Northwich Area. This exhibition will shine a light on the history of Northwich and other regional stations, the lives of railway workers and the Adoption Groups who keep stations looking their best. The exhibition is by the Mid Cheshire Community Rail Partnership and supported by the Friends of Weaver Hall.

Car park and cafe serving light refreshments. Admission: £4.20 for adults, £3 for concessions, children free.

The museum is open Tuesday to Friday 10am till 5pm, Saturdays and Sundays 2pm - 5pm

<https://weaverhall.westcheshiremuseums.co.uk/>

TREASURE - HISTORY UNEARTHED - at Museum of Liverpool 13 September until March 26 – celebrating Treasure from the North West and the work of the PAS (Portable Antiquities Scheme). Objects on display include Treasure from Manchester, Lancashire, Merseyside, Cheshire and North Wales and will include a loan of the lovely Mold Cape from the British Museum. We will also have the Portfield Hoard on display - found in 1966 at Whalley, the Boothsbank Roman coin hoard and the Silverdale Viking hoard from Lancashire. Find out more about it and tickets here <https://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/whatson/museum-of-liverpool/exhibition/treasure-history-uneearthed>

News The Orange Tree pub, Old Market Place UPDATE There is a now temporary emergency listing (lasts 6 months) and a stop on any work proceeding. The pub as it has been in recent years combined numbers 13 and 15 Old Market Place (number 15 is next to Albert Place). This merging took place sometime after 1978. The building became a pub after the original Orange Tree (near the end of Regent Road) was burnt down. Number 15 may previously have been a beerseller's. On the 1852 Board of Health plan it was listed as 'house and shop' and was occupied by William Berry, and in the 1851 Census he was there listed as 'grocer and farmer'. But in the Pigot's Directory of Cheshire 1834 William Berry was listed as a butcher. In 1852 Berry was at number 15 and number 13 was John Ardern, butcher. Both these were probably original burgage plots in the mediaeval town centre. By 1898 (Slater's Directory) James Gant was a beer retailer at no.15, and Arthur Trevor, a French polisher was at no. 13. His shop shows on old postcards, as does the Horse & Jockey at no.11 - then Mrs Mary Wilton, beer retailer. Arthur Trevor was still there in 1927, and in the Kelly's Directory of 1942 Mrs Mary Gant was the beer retailer at no. 15.

[photo from 1978, H. Pryor]



Trafford Heritage Strategy Framework

Trafford Council have set up an initiative to shape the future of how Heritage is managed and run in the future. **Trafford's Heritage Survey** – They are inviting feedback from partners, organisations, and the public to help inform the framework. Here is the link to the survey [Trafford Heritage Framework • Heritage Lincolnshire](#) It explains what 'heritage' means – everything from dialect to industrial archaeology.

Cricket Connections - HP attended a Heritage Framework meeting at Lancs County Cricket Club and they had on display some items from the LCC archives. One was a silver cigarette box presented to **Cyril Washbrook**, who lived in Thorley Lane, Timperley.

I also asked about a local connection to cricket writer **Neville Cardus** – supposed to have lived in Timperley at one time. Their archivist came back with the details:

... the connection belongs to a period of Cardus's life around 1901/1902 when he was 13 or 14. His household had broken up and he was living between relatives. His mother was at this time residing with a Eliahoo Joseph, at Park Lane Timperley and Cardus would occasionally stay with them. He mentions this period in his Autobiography. "My mother lived with him in a house outside the city, and I went to stay there from time to time" ... "In 1902, I was staying with my mother for a few weeks ...and on June 26th I set out from a suburban place called Timperley to go to Old Trafford ..."

I haven't yet been able to track down Eliahoo Joseph anywhere in Park Road, Timperley, so it's still a mystery.



Chester Archaeological Society Newsletter is available online.

https://chesterarchaeolsoc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/CHE_Antiq-25_02_V01.pdf

Do you remember Alistair Cooke's 'Letter from America'?

I remember his distinctive voice. I have the book of his BBC TV series, and found out he was born in Manchester in 1908. He first met Americans in 1917 as some were billeted at the family house at Blackpool, and first went to America in 1932. He became an expert on America affairs, and first wrote for *The Times*, then for *The Manchester Guardian*, and became an American citizen in 1941. He did his weekly broadcasts from 1946 to 2004, retiring just a few weeks before he died age 95. Episodes are available on this link <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00f6hbp/episodes/player> and there is an audio book.

WW2 at The National Archives

This link has details about the WW2 Women's Auxiliary Territorial Service records, including those from Palestine and overseas. Click on *Read More* – very interesting.

<https://news.eneews.nationalarchives.gov.uk/B28FE3E99603792C5BCF68A91952141BB0CA9B706F17B45F716E9714FF225905/9158F81B5F7FB174AC4F0D114B0EA470/VIB> -----

Online articles

Vikings were captivated by silver – our new analysis of their precious loot reveals how far they travelled to get it [Copy and paste this long link into your web search for this interesting article]

https://theconversation.com/vikings-were-captivated-by-silver-our-new-analysis-of-their-precious-loot-reveals-how-far-they-travelled-to-get-it-263222?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20August%2020%2025%20-%203490835560&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20August%2020%2025%20-%203490835560+CID_6f8055f95b3f3dad2b51e4f5a4304292&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=Vikings%20were%20captivated%20by%20silver%20%20our%20new%20analysis%20of%20their%20precious%20loot%20reveals%20how%20far%20they%20travelled%20to%20get%20it

Liverpool's Old Dock that's still hidden beneath the city centre – an article from the *Liverpool Echo* [Keep scrolling down and ignore the other news items that interrupt the text].

https://www.liverpoolecho.co.uk/news/nostalgia/liverpools-old-dock-thats-still-32325282?utm_source=liverpool_echo_newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=main_nostalgia_newsletter&utm_content=&utm_term=&ruid=fee879e0-f9b7-4c6f-8ca5-a9fa64e03ff9&hx=84ce638986bc73b191ec0774c05a547009942838093c58c9450b62a0b824de21

What's in a Namestone? How Lindisfarne's unique carvings reveal the secrets of early medieval life, faith and memory. [I didn't know anything about these].

https://digventures.com/2025/08/inside-our-collection-exclusive-expert-insights-on-our-lindisfarne-namestones/?mc_cid=567c43ed9c&mc_eid=fc106e6893

On YouTube

“The only Roman lighthouse in Britain” by History Hit, c 22 minutes in the series ‘The History of Roman Britain’. A video about the Pharos at Dover Castle and a new dig at Lympne.

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

“Five historical things you might not know about Manchester” a video by Bee Here Now, about 11 minutes long with old maps and photos. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZB7Ot4ew5_s

“The only country that celebrates WW2 Occupation” – a video about the Faeroe Islands, and the British ‘occupation’ during WW2 that led to the current status of the Faeroes as self-governing but still part of Denmark. About 10 minutes long. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5uL7CFNCkaA>

Welsh churches - I came across some videos by L T Jones on churches in Wales, he explores old churches and graveyards, especially on Anglesey. His videos are about 10-15 minutes long; ignore the Hollywood intro, and you have to get used to his accent. Once you have found one, check out his other videos

Like other small Welsh churches many are L-shaped. Most are neglected and are away from the road, like St Afran's near Llanerchymedd and St Beulan's near Gwlachmai. Both of mediaeval origin, with overgrown graveyards with table tombs and slate headstones. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V1fMe-RcsvM>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sx6QgXuZfJo>

“St Mary’s Church: silent witness to the Black Death”. This one only 9 minutes.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UEKT_qg-Bao

“Attacked by the Vikings: the story of an ancient Welsh church” - St Cwyllog’s churchyard includes the grave of a Mayor of Bootle and info about him and the development of Liverpool. 13 mins.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rCZpQo4pPLM>

“The Fallen: climbers’ graves of a Welsh National Park” – very interesting video about the graves at Capel Curig, with background information, including one of the Pennant family of Penrhyn Castle. About 14 minutes. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TsQcr7YrSUQ>

The Bedale Hoard, a video by York Museums Trust of the Viking hoard found by metal detectorists in 2012.

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

“The Rock Cut Tombs of Heysham, England” a 10 minute video looking at the tombs cut into the sandstone overlooking the sea. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xsj445xYIu4>

“St Hieu of Healaugh: lost Anglo-Saxon saint, Norman door arch, Battle of Solway Moss and Y Gododdin”. A 35 minute video by ‘Church Searcher’ about St John the Baptist Church at Healaugh, Yorkshire.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EvcEzD4mJ48>

“This abandoned village vanished 500 years ago” – a 21 minute video exploring the lost village of Ingarsby, Leicestershire, with aerial views of earthworks, exploring on the ground and using LIDAR.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FO9dgz5j1G4>

“How Manchester saved its Oldest pubs by picking them up and moving them”- a 15 minute video by Bee Here Now, about the Old Wellington and Sinclair’s Oyster Bar. Very good with old maps and the history of the area and the pubs. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QbMQDPJLL6w>

Sources for farming history -

National Farm Survey – the records from this survey are kept by The National Archives.

Captured in the shadow of war, The National Farm Survey of England and Wales (1941–1943) stands today as a fascinating gateway into 20th-century archival research. In just three years, over 300,000 farms were surveyed to assess the state of British agriculture (MAF 32). These farms were then drawn onto nearly 30,000 Ordnance Survey maps (MAF 73). By collecting data on land use, acreage, livestock, and conditions, the survey set out to find where agricultural improvements could be made during a time of food shortage.

Here’s an example of what can be done using various records:

https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/explore-the-collection/the-collection-blog/using-the-national-farm-survey-as-a-gateway-for-research/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Campaign+2025_09_25_2

I’ve always wanted to look at these records for Timperley, when it was still mostly farms and market gardens. I gather it’s quite complicated to match up all the forms. Hopefully when the digitisation is done, it will make it more straightforward.

Titbits - Did you know that the script for the film “Tarzan the Ape Man” (1932) was written by Ivor Novello? It says so in the credits. [There was nothing really good on TV that evening !]

See you around, Hazel