



ALTRINCHAM HISTORY SOCIETY

Newsletter April 2020

Hello All

I hope you are keeping safe and well, and hopefully getting a bit of fresh air and exercise.

In lieu of the April meeting, here are just a few bits of news, and some websites and programmes on YouTube that you may be interested in

YouTube topics: I've been watching old films on YouTube and came across various episodes from Time Team, including:

The one from Warburton - S14-E08 Series 14 Episode 8. With Dr Mike Nevell and brief glimpses of some members of STAG.

I don't recall knowing about a conference called DigNation '18, in memory of Mick Aston.

Presentations from the event are available on YouTube. This one is good:

Time Team's Stewart Ainsworth on 'How to see time in the landscape'. It's about 45mins. Other presentations from DigNation also available.

Current TV - 'Digging for Britain' on BBC4 - I watched the other day - a Special all about digs and discoveries relating to Anglo-Saxons. Half hour programme.

News from The National Archives nationalarchives.gov.uk

Check out the website for tips and research guides and their 'Boredom Busters'.

There is news of the availability of the National Census from 1939, and a couple of blogs on dating and caring for photographs.

You can also do a tutorial on reading old handwriting.

Plus, you can sign up for news if you want. I get this emailed regularly, not always relevant for me but worth checking to see what's new.

Regent Road car park Archaeological Dig.

I've been peering through the screens to see how the work was going on while they were digging.

Here's the initial report on the dig, with some good photos, better than the ones I have taken through or over the screens:

<https://www.arch-england.co.uk/news/excavations-at-regent-road-altrincham/>

News from the Cheshire Records Office

I have signed up for regular newsletters from Cheshire Archives & Local Studies, and I've attached the email here. Keep going down to the end for a couple of databases relating to WW1 service people. If you want to receive the news yourself you can sign up via the CRO website.

Cheshire Archives & Local Studies News 26 March 2020

The Record Office is closed until further notice. All staff are working from home and may be redeployed to help deliver critical council services. We will still be responding to enquiries but there may be a delay. As we

cannot access any original records there will be a limit to the detail of the response we can provide but we will seek to help as much as we can. Our copying service and research services are temporarily suspended. Please note we are only able to respond to emails sent to us at recordoffice@cheshiresharedservices.gov.uk We will of course be ensuring the safety and security of our unique collections while the Record Office is closed.

We hope you will join us in discovering different ways of encountering our collections while you can't visit to see them in person. We will keep you updated by e-news and on our [website](#), where you will find links to our twitter feed, storytelling on the blog, images on instagram and flickr and all our [online resources](#).

Cheshire's archives: a story shared

Our project to relocate the service, create two new centres in Chester and Crewe, and help people share Cheshire's history across the county recently received permission to start from the [National Lottery Heritage Fund](#). This phase of the project is to develop detailed plans, leading to a further funding application in 2021. The timetable for this phase of the project will inevitably be affected by restrictions on day to day life we are all experiencing but we will post updates through this newsletter, social media and our website.

Home from Home

Lots of us are going to spend lots more time at home and get to know our local places differently, some of us will have children at home – if you are inspired to find out more or have a go at a research project contact us for a copy of our quick guide to house history. You can do quite a bit online in advance of a visit to see us sometime in the future.

Original building plans are a visual treat for anyone who finds they survive for their property, which is why our volunteer programme has helped describe thousands of plans over the past few years to help you find yours. They are fascinating in all sorts of ways, they tell stories of housing history, can help restore and renovate properties, and can even help deliver thrilling cultural events. We supplied a digital image of the front of the Municipal Buildings in Crewe to the designers who mapped the projections for Lumen - Crewe's Night of Lights festival that will hopefully be back in November 2020.

You can see how Warrington and Runcorn New Town records have inspired architecture students from around the world as part of our [Searchroom Stories](#) celebration on Instagram. Or discover more about Chester-based architect John Douglas and his beautifully designed buildings – if your daily exercise involves a solitary walk through the streets of Chester while they're quiet there might be more opportunity to look up and marvel at [Chimneys and Chester](#).

One of the sites we encourage you to visit is our [Tithe Maps](#) site where you can view and search almost 500 tithe maps and compare them with other historic maps. It is a unique record of land ownership, occupancy and use in Cheshire 150 years ago and Cheshire time travel can begin with a simple postcode search. We now have a video on [YouTube](#) to guide you through all the amazing features and functions of the updated tithe map site, helping you make the most of your virtual visit.

Thank you to a remarkable team

The **Cheshire First World War Servicemen's Index** is now complete! Over the last four years nearly 50 volunteers have been involved working remotely to transcribe the contents of the spring **1919 Absent Voters' Lists** for all nine Cheshire constituencies.

The lists are an invaluable resource for anyone seeking ancestors serving in the First World War. Names, addresses, ranks, regimental numbers, units and notes relating to each serviceman and woman have been extracted and added to a searchable [database](#), which has over 40,000 entries. You can even watch a video on how to use the database before you start.

A huge thank you to the team of 'Absent Voters' volunteers and the staff who supported them along the way. You can read more about what the project meant to some of the volunteers in a series of [blog](#) articles to mark the end of an amazing collaboration.

And finally

Have you heard that the nation's dogs are so happy to have their humans home there are cases of sprained tails with all the wagging? We present ['A photographer and his pets'](#) showcasing the work of amateur photographer George Haswell over 100 years ago.

Some more websites

Cheshire Tithe Maps Online

<https://maps.cheshireeast.gov.uk/tithemaps/>

- you can spend many a happy hour or three on this site. Compare mid-19th century with modern maps. Zoom in or search for a place, change maps.

There's more information and lots of other stuff, on the Record Office website,

<https://www.cheshirearchives.org.uk/home.aspx>

and I've included a copy of their latest newsletter, see below.

Trafford Lifetimes - from the photo collection at Trafford Local Studies

<https://apps.trafford.gov.uk/TraffordLifetimes/>

Trafford War Dead

<http://www.traffordwardead.co.uk/>

Greater Manchester Blitz Victims

<http://www.greatermanchesterblitzvictims.co.uk/>

Aerial Photos 1920s

<http://www.britainfromabove.org.uk>

OS Maps from National Library of Scotland

<http://maps.nls.uk/os/6inch-england-and-wales/index.html>

and this one

<https://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/side-by-side/>

Aerial photos Altrincham

This link was posted to Facebook, May 2106.

<http://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/nostalgia/nostalgia-step-back-time-altrinchams-11341096>

For any Music lovers: - this one from the Royal Northern College of Music

<https://www.rncm.ac.uk/blog/free-concert-live-streaming/>

And Finally - on Palm Sunday I should have been singing with Cantores Oecumenica at Holy Angels Hale Barns, and our organist would have been Jonathan Scott - unfortunately, cancelled of course. He was also scheduled to do a concert at Bridgewater Hall, so he did it, with no audience - now available online on YouTube, just search Jonathan Scott. With good close-ups of hands, and feet on the pedals.

Late Extra

Just through from Trafford Local Studies via Facebook:

“You can now access Ancestry from home for free through your Trafford Libraries account. Log in at <https://trafford.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/.../WPAC/HOME> and click on the Ancestry link under ‘Useful Information’.

Keep well, and keep reading and watching history.