



ALTRINCHAM HISTORY SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER No. 16 October 2021

Hazel Pryor
11 Thorley Lane,
Timperley
Altrincham
WA15 7BJ

Hello everyone,

Here is another mixture of bits and pieces that may be of interest and a couple of reminders.

To those of you who came to the first meeting of the season, I hope you enjoyed being back together, and hearing Bryn Mallion's memories of growing up in Altrincham and the shops he knew. Some of us still remembered them.

Important - change of speaker for the next AHS meeting on **12th October** at Altrincham Town Hall. The talk will be on the **Buildings of Edgar Wood in Hale by Christine Grimes** and will replace that of Keith Warrender, who is still being very careful. We have arranged for a swop and hopefully Keith will feel able to give his talk in March 2022 when Christine was scheduled.

A gentle reminder to those who haven't already renewed their subscriptions. If you have mislaid the renewal form, it is on the AHS website, or available at the next meeting, or copies from Hazel, or Ray.

Some dated Events (sorry for the delay, may be late for some of these):

Safeguarding the Revolution - The Industrial World Heritage Sites of England & Wales

New 5 week evening course by Dr Mike Nevell. **Starts Wed 6th October** at STAG HQ, behind The Old Hall Hotel, Timperley, cost £50. use this link to sign up:

https://mancent.org.uk/?page_id=3578

The Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales recently became a Unesco World Heritage Site. To celebrate, RCAHM Wales is offering a **FREE** Zoom talk on **Thursday 7 October 2021 at 5pm** on "**Exploring the Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales**". Further details and the registration tab can be accessed via this website:

<https://rcahmw.gov.uk/event/exploring-the-slate-landscape-of-northwest-wales-a-celebration-of-wales-new-world-heritage-site/>

The **English Place-Name Society's** annual lecture is being delivered online via *MS Teams* this year and is open to non-members. **Saturday 16 October 4 pm.**

'**Field-Names and Agrarian History: reflections from Cumbria**' by Professor Angus Winchester.

To register, use the following link: [Looks like it's free].

https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/english/events/events/2021-2022/epns-lecture-2021.aspx?fbclid=IwAR0sU_QS9n6uo6CiZcs3MeOK5MIzk2EqBV8mgxDY7UC1VK3TXMvPKL7MWYQ

Cheshire History Day Saturday 30th October - The theme this year - 'Cheshire's Pioneers'.

https://sites.google.com/site/cheshirelha/cheshire-history-day?fbclid=IwAR3RU9PxUKMuhRRtAI7DyuyUHeqWJ7uNFJg4_4MAPGJOeNf5q7PTyv5Copl

Regional Heritage Centre Newsletter with programme of events for 2021-22.

<https://lancasteruniversity.cmail20.com/t/ViewEmail/j/FB9A34038E870E112540EF23F30FEDED>

Streets of Bowdon Photography Project

Here's a new project by local resident Martin Henderson. Did you know there are 148 streets in Bowdon? He has taken photos in all of them, and added some information, on this website.

<https://streetsofbowdon.co.uk/>

Bradbury School boy Obituary in *The Guardian*

Did you ever watch 'Roobarb' on TV with your children, the story of a green dog and his friend the pink cat 'Custard'? Creator Grange Calveley has died aged 78 on 22 August. He was born in Hale and attended Bradbury Central School (on Stamford Park Road), where he was head boy when he left aged 15 to join a Manchester advertising agency. Full obituary in *The Guardian* Weds 1 Sept 2021.

Alan Laver, of Altrincham Court Leet died in July 2021.

Alan was an Alderman & Freeman of Altrincham Court Leet, a Past Provost, Clerk to Altrincham Court Leet & Deputy Baron Steward of Dunham Massey. Alan grew up in Bowdon, attending nursery school in Bowdon, Oldfield Brow Primary School and Altrincham Grammar School for Boys. His funeral took place at Dunham Unitarian Chapel on 19th August. There is a full Obituary on the Old Altrinchamians website

<https://oldalts.com/>

Altrincham and its Market: a tale of two halves. Some thoughts on 'history'.

Comments on local Facebook groups have shown an interesting division of opinions on the present state of Altrincham town centre and especially the market. Some older (i.e. longer resident) locals regret the changes in recent years, missing the variety of shops and market stalls. Others say the facilities now available are much better, with the number and variety of eating places, especially in the market hall. It is certainly very busy on the market with people spending money eating, but you can't buy - sewing material, seconds bedding, knickers, net curtains, a quarter of Pontefract Cakes, or get a cup of tea and a toasted teacake for under £5. (Guess which group I fall into).

Do we need to record these opposite opinions that are present now among the local population, as a part of the history of Altrincham? This is evidence of change in the local scene.

I wonder how the locals felt when Broadheath first grew as an industrial estate on a much larger scale than the previous more 'craft' scale trades and manufactures. Then how was it for the workers made redundant when the engineering firms there closed in the 1970s/80s?

Since Facebook started (and one local Timperley group in 2015), it has had a lot of comments about how people feel right now. Should we be recording these for future historians?

Graffiti in Altrincham

Spotted last week in an Altrincham back road, some graffiti on a sandstone block next to a back yard door.

Has anyone got any ideas what it might represent?

It is on Post Office Street, off Market Street.



The Luddite Lament, a Radio 4 documentary available on YouTube. A half hour programme from 2011 with stories from The National Archives, and discussion and songs about the Luddites sung by Roy Palmer and John Tams (known from the 'Sharpe' TV films).

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/b0112y4d>

‘Grave Tales’ from Bowdon Churchyard - 1855 - very interesting detailed account of a fire at The (old) Orange Tree pub on Railway Street, with evidence from named people.

<https://friendsofbowdonchurchyard.org.uk/grave-tales/?fbclid=IwAR3S17qGH70CzoVQR6L6gEh3CtLSXKHqFgyq2K3CoCdEk8oVSOPd-qrR1tA>

Some developments affecting historic / landmark sites in Timperley.

119 Park Road, Timperley - the house that was Park Medical Practice, has been sold, and plans are proposed to keep the present house and add more houses behind. Planning application no. 105662/FUL/21. Pleased to see that they are retaining the house.

This house was called ‘Oversley’ and built between 1905 and 1910 when it was occupied by Dr William Hartley Tattersall, who moved there from ‘Mayville’ the house next to Westwood Ave on Park Road. Was Oversley originally purpose built for a doctor, to include a doctor’s surgery? In 1942 it was the practice of Dr Frank da Cunha. He was a surgeon at Altrincham Hospital, and, born in Portugal, was honorary vice-consul in Manchester.



Paddock Farm, Wellfield Lane, Timperley. The Hut Group have got planning permission to turn this house into ‘serviced accommodation’ in conjunction with Hale Spa (on Clay Lane, Timperley). The current building is a house from about 1970, on the site of an older farm. Wellfield Lane runs from Timperley towards Well Green, Hale and is a pleasant country lane, part of it very narrow. Beside Paddock Farm is a now pedestrian lane that cuts through to Clay Lane, and opposite is ‘Newfoundwell’, the thatched house. This whole area is a little bit of rural Timperley near Timperley Brook on the border with Hale, with damsons and hessle pear trees in the old mixed hedgerows.

World of Pets / World of Water on Wood Lane / Thorley Lane, Timperley - plan for 116 housing units on this site, which once was Warburtons’ ‘Wood Lane Nurseries’ market garden.



The Pelican, Manchester Road, Timperley. Another landmark going soon, a planning application is in for a care home and housing.

Ref: 105786/FUL/21.

Demolition of existing buildings and their replacement with a specialist residential scheme to provide a care home (Use Class C2) and fully accessible and adaptable apartment scheme (Use Class C3), new access, car parking provision, open space and associated work.

The present pub was built about 1930/31 for Groves & Whitnall, designed by the architect George Westcott, who later was Lord Mayor of Manchester.

Regent Road Archaeology - results of the excavations in advance of the new buildings on Regent Road, and the site of Chapel Street and Albert Street.

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

Speaking with Shadows - English Heritage has a series of podcasts about little known episodes of history, spoken as by the people concerned, e.g. Queen Joan of Navarre imprisoned by her step-son Henry V at Pevensey Castle. More information for each episode on the website.

<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/inspire-me/speaking-with-shadows/episode-5/>

Exploring Local Places - North West Festival of Archaeology 2021 - asked people to contribute photos of a local site with a couple of sentences. The results here show just how much history and archaeology there is in the northwest. <https://archaeologynw.wordpress.com/events-less-colour/>

‘Forewarned is Forearmed’. “30th September 2021 marks 30 years since the Stand Down of the main elements (the Posts and HQs) of the **Royal Observer Corps**.

The Corps, an organisation created after the First World War and battle hardened in the Second World War, ended almost overnight. Some personnel continued on as nuclear reporting cells on RAF bases, but for the vast majority the ROC simply ended on the 30th September 1991.

Royal Observer Corps motto was ‘Forewarned is Forearmed’.”

Copied from the Facebook page of Services Archaeology and Heritage Association.

HMS Artemis: A real-life submarine drama in two acts

The recent BBC drama *Vigil* set on a fictional Royal Navy Vanguard-class submarine, starred Suranne Jones as a detective helicoptered out to investigate the death of a crew member. Filmed on a specially constructed set, viewers got a real sense of the claustrophobic living conditions, even though real submarines have even tighter spaces. The realities of living and working on a submarine are hardly an appealing prospect to most people, so you might wonder what would attract someone to join this service? How did they recruit submariners?

Discover the full real-life drama of HMS Artemis and records in our collection on recruitment campaigns for the Royal Navy. Here’s a blog with the story of the 20 minute film *Voyage North*, which shows a new young officer, Ellison, narrating his experiences sailing from the UK to the Arctic.

https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/hms-artemis-a-real-life-submarine-drama-in-two-acts/?utm_source=emailmarketing&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=weekly_mailer_30_september_2021&utm_content=2021-10-01

World War Two - Trafford Libraries has local information and photos online

<https://exploringtraffordsheritage.omeka.net/exhibits/show/75years/safetyofanation>

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If you are queuing up for petrol, you may be on the site of the Unity Garage, on Dunham Road. This advert from WW1 was in St George’s Parish Magazine.

Local Heritage Listing Project is under way and the website has background information about historical aspects of Trafford, and some examples of the type of ‘assets’ that can be registered for the Local List.

<https://local-heritage-list.org.uk/greater-manchester/trafford>

I have started uploading a couple of buildings, a slow start and I’m not sure I’m getting it right !

Fancy yourself as a Photographer? British Association for Local History has a competition for **Local History Photographer of the Year** - details here -

https://www.balh.org.uk/photo?utm_medium=email&utm_source=BALH&utm_campaign=newsletter-1055

Best wishes to you all. Keep safe, keep warm.

Hazel

Website address: <http://www.altrinchamhistorysociety.co.uk/>