



ALTRINCHAM HISTORY SOCIETY

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Hello everyone,

Here are some events for the summer and a few things to watch.

Walking through Mediaeval Altrincham Wednesday 20th July starting at 7pm until about 8.30pm. Meet at the Old Market Place outside The Orange Tree pub. Part of this year's Festival of Archaeology this walk is a chance to look at and hear about the medieval and post-medieval archaeology and buildings of Altrincham. We'll talk about the excavations around the Old Market Place since 2000 and hear about the newly rediscovered timber buildings. Walk led by Dr. Michael Nevell.

STAG talk on Vale Royal Abbey by Tony Bostock, **Friday 22nd July** 7.30pm at STAG HQ behind the Old Hall Hotel, Timperley.

More Walks in July:

St Olav's Viking Heritage Walks, early notice of two walks with Chester and/or West Kirby starts. 15th Annual St Olav day walks.

Walk 1: **Friday 29 July** (St Olav's Day) 6pm: **Viking Chester** (meet at Grosvenor Museum) – approx 2 mile

Walk 2: **Saturday 30 July** 12noon: **Viking Meols & West Kirby** (meet Meols Railway Station) – approx 3 mile

Associated St. Olav's Talks:

Talk 1. Friday 29th July, 5-5.45pm: **St. Olav, Vikings in Chester & Wirral - & the isotopes project** (Grosvenor Museum, Chester)

Talk 2. Sunday 31st July, 4-4.45pm: **Clinker boats & the Meols Boat under the car park project** (St Bridget's Centre, West Kirby)

Details here <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/ncmh/vikings/olsok.aspx>

The **National Archives** programme of events for the summer - mostly online talks - details here:

https://clicks.econnectmail.com/view_online/view_online.php?token2=hGJHeY3rr8VpimMn1NDtPcL_SqMG0ZjmX0HUSNWgvuaUdER2Fj-g5s9x23tKwZtWL_KtCHjC5htuOP3_YxLGQ..

Civil War event Sunday 21st August at the Phoenix Tower in Chester - a talk about the Great Siege of Chester and the Battle of Rowton Moor, (the King is supposed to have watched the battle from the tower.) Followed by a walk along the walls looking at places impacted by the Civil War. Probably start at 11 am (to be confirmed). Check out the Battlefields Trust website for other events <https://battlefieldstrust.com/>

Warrington Transporter Bridge - never heard of it? Neither had I, but attended a very good talk about it. Here's a possible chance for a visit. Heritage Open Day - Friends of WTB will have a stand inside the Masonic Hall on **Saturday 10th September** 2022 during the Heritage Open Days and hope to run guided walks to the bridge, from there, on the same day, subject to weather and footpath conditions.

www.warringtontransporterbridge.co.uk

Hockenhull Platts - ever been there? Mediaeval packhorse bridges on an old road, now a quiet spot. Just off the main Chester Road near Tarvin, I called in once on the way home from Wales. Here's a walking route: <https://www.chesterstandard.co.uk/leisure/features/17949879.walk-hockenhull-platts---cheshires-ancient-packhorse-route-8km/>

Found on YouTube

Wow - Sailing ship film - 38 mins. Filmed in 1928, with a commentary added in the 1970s by the photographer Captain Irving, includes views from the top of the mast, and storm round the Horn. Details about size of sails and furling. Search for the title: "Four-masted barque rounding Cape Horn in 1928 - Captain Irving". The ship 'Peking' sailed out of Hamburg on a regular run to Chile for the nitrate trade. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZLzBDhilDL0>

In contrast - "The 1979 Woolworths Fire" a 10 minute documentary including a brief outline history of Woolworths and the fire. [Ignore the unfortunate title "Fascinating Horror". I didn't check out any of their other videos.] Search on YouTube.

And a BBC report - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-manchester-20598600>

Cruising the Cut film 'Gate Expectations' replacing canal lock gates using a boat crane - about 15 minutes. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uy5FoEg4Lwc> You see the use of modern equipment and wonder how the gates were originally installed, was it muscle power or steam-driven cranes?

Irish National Records recovery project

The National Archives are proud to be part of Beyond 2022 - a collaborative research project working to virtually reconstruct the Record Treasury of Ireland, which was destroyed in a fire on June 30th, 1922. The Record Treasury stored seven centuries worth of Irish history, which had long been considered lost.

Read on to learn about what we've worked on and how we've supported this innovative and exciting project, actively reconstructing history:

https://clicks.econnectmail.com/view_online/view_online.php?token2= hGJHeY3rr8VpimMn1NDtPcL_SqMG0ZjmX0H_USNWgvuCl0WiWLBBrwMkDGCSp_ztbnf00JL3O9fFmJhxutAz1sQ..

Primary School History Club - I had a history session with some ten-year olds last Monday. Their theme was WW2 and I asked in advance what they would like me to talk about from a selection including: where the bombs fell, Home Guard, Fire-watching, POWs, etc. They chose air raid shelters and secret agents. So off I went with some photos and my sister's infant's gas mask (which incidentally should have been returned to the local authority, but spent the last 70 odd years in our garage). I had to 'remind' them of the year the war ended. (No, I wasn't quite old enough to remember it! Some good mental arithmetic from one lad.) We talked about various types of shelters and people's memories of them, then moved on to 'secret agents'. I told them I didn't have much information about secret agents, and asked why would that be? They knew the answer to that - because they were secret! If any members fancy lending a hand with this sort of occasional 'outreach' to youngsters, let me know.



World War 2 - Timperley Dead - The Roll of Honour in Timperley Parish Church lists only men who died in WW1. I'm compiling a list for WW2, and later wars e.g. Korea, Falklands etc. About 20 names so far, although a couple of those may not be local. I have names from Trafford War Dead, CWGC and from family gravestones. Do you know of any? Also does anyone know of a Mary Cowsill, in the ATS, who died in February 1944 and has a war grave at Hale Cemetery? It's a local surname, Cowsills had shops in Altrincham, a grocers', and I remember a china/kitchen ware shop on the corner of Kingsway and Lower George Street.

Still researching and compiling! Have a good summer.

Best wishes, Hazel