



ALTRINCHAM HISTORY SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER No. 28 March 2023

Hazel Pryor
11 Thorley Lane,
Timperley
Altrincham
WA15 7BJ

Hello everyone,

Spring is coming at last, bringing another Newsletter and some changes for the History Society.

I have found an alternative venue in Timperley, Holy Cross Church on Park Road, not too far from Timperley Metrolink station and with parking, and on a (round-the-houses a bit) bus route from Altrincham, with comfy chairs, level access and a sound system. This is reserved for the 2023-2024 season, in case we cannot use Altrincham Town Hall.



Some Events:

Before the Walls: Life in Prehistoric Cheshire - University of Chester student exhibition 2023
launched on Friday 3 March at Grosvenor Museum, Chester

STAG - South Trafford Archaeology Group

Next meeting will be on Friday, 24th March at 7.30 pm. At STAG HQ behind The Old Hall Hotel, Stockport Road, Timperley.

Ian Doughty of Congleton Museum will tell us about the excavated finds that have been deposited at the museum over the years and insights into running a museum. I have chatted to Ian at the museum and heard him speak and feel sure you will enjoy his talk.

Chester Society for Landscape History

- monthly lectures at St Columba's Church Hall, Plas Newton Lane, Chester, CH2 1PL Lots of parking

Members: free. Visitors: £4. Student visitors: £2.

Saturday 25th March 2pm *Place-names and Landscape of Medieval Cheshire* Lecture by Alan Crosby

Saturday 22nd April 2pm *Thomas Pennant* Lecture by Paul Evans.

Events at **Grosvenor Museum, Chester** - FREE

Object of the Month 6 April, 1 – 1.30pm

April's talk will explore the history of the women's rights movement in Britain, through the lens of a satirical handkerchief from the Grosvenor Museum's collection. Inscribed 'WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND WHAT CAME OF IT "1981"', the handkerchief depicts Victorian imaginings of what society might look like in 100 years if women were given the vote. **Drop in.** Free.

Working Class Movement Library events and news -

<https://mailchi.mp/0a40243a28a3/march-at-the-working-class-movement-library?e=4494527afb>

Cheshire Local History Association is holding its next quarterly meeting at Christ Church, Thorley Lane, Timperley on **18th April at 2pm**. This is the AGM meeting, so there will be some 'business' and then a talk by (guess who) Hazel Pryor and the opportunity to look round the church. The CLHA spread their meetings around the (old) county and it's a while since any were held near to us. AHS is a member of CLHA and as such any of you can attend the meetings.

And later the same day -

'The rise and fall of non-conformist chapels in the north of England', **April 18th 6.30 for 7.30pm**

at Bowdon Vale Methodist Church, Priory St, Bowdon Vale. Altrincham Methodist Circuit is in the process of considering its present and future - as part of this we are presenting an illustrated talk on the History of the Non-conformist Movement in the North of England, by Dr. Amy Binns. The talk concentrates on Dr Binns research in Yorkshire, and how you can use online map archives to find more about your local area. Gathering and buffet at 6.30pm and talk at 7.30pm. No charge, but donations welcome.

Closures - the end of two local 'institutions'.

I've just heard that The Hare & Hounds pub in Timperley closed on Sunday 19th March. Rumours that the pub was closed have not helped, and customers have dropped off. Planning applications for retirement housing there have been put forward, one lot refused by the council, but maybe a second one has gone through.

Loreto Prep School will also be closing, with word that it is no longer financially viable. It currently has about 200 children, so they will have to be squeezed in somewhere in the locally full schools.

And what about The Unicorn pub in Altrincham (or The Old Market Tavern)? I passed today and spotted the For Sale sign. The agent is Thomas Willmax - check the details here:

<https://thomaswillmax.co.uk/property/freehold-grade-ii-listed-building/> Their description:

Freehold: Grade II Listed, Part two- and three- storey building offering approximately 13,500 Sq Ft, plus Basements. Currently occupied by a Public House on a rolling lease agreement, with the remainder being residential accommodation. Can be offered with vacant possession and suitable for a variety of uses/development. Subject to planning.

It says 'Dating back to 1849'. I think we know it is a lot older than that.

There has already been work done - it says there are 16 en-suite rooms with communal kitchen and lounge areas, plus a two-bedroom apartment.

It's a while since I was in there, shown round by the new landlady, and a lot of work was needed.

Only £2.1.million. How about it folks?

WW2 Memorial for Timperley

There is a Roll of Honour for Timperley war dead from the first World War in Christ Church Timperley, but there are no names for WW2. I'm hoping to compile a list.

I have some info about Timperley men such as Tony Wyatt, William Ostick, Maurice Gornall and George Yates; but there are at least 40 others I have traced so far. These include a captain from the Intelligence Corps, an ATS girl, an auxiliary fireman, and the two pilots who died in air crashes in Timperley.

I have a puzzle with a Sergeant J. Smith, commemorated on a gravestone at Timperley which says 'late RAF' with a mention of wife and children, but no other names. He died in 1935 aged 45, and was then living in Wendover, Bucks, (death registered in Bucks) but buried at Timperley. Not had much success in tracking him down. Was he 'late' as in deceased, or 'late' as in used to be in RAF?

Do you know anyone connected with Timperley who was killed in WW2, or died whilst in service?

Any information is welcome.

Remember when - pills came in round cardboard boxes, and powders in cardboard tubs; we had Calomine lotion for skin irritation; Andrew's Liver Salts (could make a fizzy drink with orange squash); and Dr Collis Browne's mixture for tummy upsets.



I don't think our family used Carter's Little Liver Pills.

I wonder if Meshach Roberts & Co. is still dispensing in Bangor?



YouTube - a random selection of my recently watched items

“Tornado: the 100mph steam engine” a film by Tom Ingall. 28 minutes. This is about the recently built steam loco that achieved 100 mph in 2017. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-8fp8Gkm0w> (I know someone who contributed to the fund to build it - a few rivets worth, or maybe even a boiler tube.)

“WW1 Bombs are still being found over 100 years later” 5 minute film following a bomb squad in Metz, near some of the deadliest battlefields of Verdun, as they go about their grave, daily mission driving to farms to gather unexploded bombs, diffuse them, or safely blow them up on the spot. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YNIBE64CAgs>

“Incredibly rare Battle of Waterloo skeletons discovered in an attic” 21 minute film from History Hits with Dan Snow <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CAEG8tMHh9g> Why are skeletons from Waterloo so rare?

“The incredible historic shipwrecks still lying in British rivers” by Sam Willis, in the History Hits series. 30 minute video - Sam travels down the Rover Dart from Totnes towards the sea, checking out wrecks along the way. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0hVgDUOgiB8>

Online item, about **Aerial archaeology**

<https://historicengland.org.uk/research/methods/airborne-remote-sensing/aerial-reconnaissance/>

News from Cheshire Archives

Parkside Asylum Case Books - Not just names on a page...

The history of Parkside Asylum can be found on-line today <https://www.countyasylums.co.uk/parkside-macclesfield/>

But what do we know about the patients who were admitted there? Who were they? Where did they live? Why were they admitted? How long did they stay? Where can we find their stories?

At Cheshire Archives, we are just beginning to explore the wealth of incredible material found within Parkside's case books. Technology is supporting the information shift from these original leather-bound books into a searchable, accessible on-line research goldmine. With that transformation, our insight into the lives of those living within its walls magnifies and we start to gather information beyond the medical... These patients were real people, with real lives, in a time when we were just learning about mental health. Records include details of patients, names and places, case notes and even photographs.

http://cheshirero.blogspot.com/2023/01/parkside-asylum-case-books-not-just.html?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

Civil War Petitions

The English Civil Wars were a time of great upheaval and hardship for soldiers and their families. Afterwards many were forced to petition authorities for welfare payments because of injury or bereavement.

We recently digitised some Cheshire petitions that you can now discover online transcribed and translated into modern English thanks to the 'Conflict Welfare and Memory' project.

Search for Cheshire documents and you will find over 400 cases submitted by local veterans, war widows and their families along with fascinating insight into the lives of ordinary men and women in extraordinary times.

https://www.civilwarpetitions.ac.uk/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

Altrincham Signature Coverlet

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My niece spotted this. It is in the collection of the Quilters' Guild.

<https://www.quiltmuseum.org.uk/collections/heritage/altrincham-signature-coverlet.html>

Just a corner shown here.

It's difficult to make out the names.



Looking ahead - Events

Tuesday 23rd May 2023, 2pm-4pm The History of Tameside Churches, talk by Brian Hartley of Tameside Local History Forum, at St Mary's Church, Newton, Hyde. No charge for talk and tour of the church.

The **Stretford Family History Fair** goes ahead this year on 10 September at St Matthew's Church Hall (behind all the greenery next to Stretford Mall - ex-Arndale).

Remember when?

We hung out washing on a line in the fresh air. The washing line was of cotton-wrapped string (sisal or similar.) We couldn't leave it out all the time in case it rained, but had to take it out and fasten to the posts in the garden, and then bring it back in afterwards, gathered up wound round your elbow. And Mrs.C. next door would come round and warn if it started raining. We used a dip in Dolly Blue to get the whites white, and something on the cotton net curtains that coloured them yellow - can't remember it's name.

Now I use a 44 minute wash, with eco laundry liquid, and hang out on the plastic coated washing line that stays out all the time. At least I grow my own clothes prop, replaced every two years when I prune the *Corylus avellana* down the garden (that's my tree - the Hazel).

Best wishes

See you soon Hazel