



ALTRINCHAM HISTORY SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER No. 29, June 2023

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Hello everyone,

Another newsletter, sorry I missed April and May.

We've come to the end of another season of talks, ending with our AGM on Tuesday 9th May. After the business of the AGM we had an interesting short talk by member Rick Nosowski tracing a family line back through wills.

Altrincham Town Hall has had a reprieve, at least until the end of December 2023, so we will be remaining there for the September to December meetings.

Here are a few events for the summer, and the usual mixture of videos etc.

Keith Warrender will be giving his talk 'Whispers from The Willows' at South Trafford Archaeology Group (STAG) meeting on **Friday 23rd June, at 7.30pm.** at the STAG HQ behind The Old Hall Hotel, Stockport Road. Keith has done a lot of research on his house in Moss Lane, Timperley, and its occupiers.

Chester Heritage Festival 17th-28th June 2023.

Chester Heritage Festival brings to life the city's rich history and heritage and tells the stories that have accumulated over two millennia. It returns on 17th June 2023 with events and experiences for all ages and will incorporate the Midsummer Watch parades and the first night of Chester Mystery Plays on 28th June.

[I've seen the Midsummer Watch parade, happened to be in Chester on the right day (Photo 2013); and also attended one of the Mystery Plays many years ago.]

https://www.chesterheritagefestival.co.uk/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

The website also has a growing collection of videos, virtual tours, and assets for all ages.



ORDSALL HALL, SALFORD Friday June 23rd 2023 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm

'Join us as we welcome Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth I for a very special after-hours performance at Ordsall Hall. Get ready to be transported back to the time of Drake, Raleigh and Shakespeare on England's voyage into the Renaissance with this glittering performance. This exciting night will mark the Ordsall Hall debut of Lesley Smith, an English scholar and historian who has appeared in over 130 television programmes. Currently working as the curator of Tutbury Castle and featuring on *Most Haunted UK*, we are delighted to see Lesley step into the role of the Tudor legend Elizabeth I and bring the history of Ordsall Hall to life.

This event is strictly for those 18+, £16.50 per person.

Book early to avoid disappointment. Ticket price includes one complimentary drink upon arrival.'

To book head to: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/an-evening-with-queen-elizabeth-i-portrayed-by-lesley-smith-tickets-617238185027>

Stuff on YouTube etc

“The Lost Dress of Elizabeth I” - a 5 minute video from Historic Royal Palaces about the Bacton Altar cloth. (Bacton Herefordshire.) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mjai9PoRMo8> (From a few years ago, so the exhibition at Hampton Court Palace is finished.)

Another lost dress - “17th Century dress recovered from shipwreck” - a 3 minute video of dress found in wreck off Texel island. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-oVCEpp7GI>

The latest **Grave Tales** from Bowdon Churchyard- total of 27 Tales now researched by our member Ann Nasowska. <https://friendsofbowdonchurchyard.org.uk/grave-tales/?fbclid=IwAR1H7vDES7pUd1-46sGmQHUIGeZ2zn8WLyveASqm7QGUR88A6okErMut-JY>

From Guernsey to Bowdon WW2 - We’ve had an enquiry about an Evacuee -

“ I’m researching my grandmother Rita Faith Butler who was evacuated from Guernsey to Bowdon during the Second World War. I wondered if you might be able to connect me with anyone in the area who has information on evacuees who came to Bowdon.

Rita Faith Butler, born in Guernsey on July 29, 1931, was evacuated with other pupils from St Martin’s Girls’ School to Bowdon where she attended the Church of England School on Richmond Road.

I believe she may have stayed with the family of Herman Edward Hulme in Bowdon due to a 2003 post on the BBC website written by his daughter Sheila:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ww2peopleswar/stories/30/a2051830.shtml>

If you can shed any light on this, please contact Hazel for the email address of the enquirer.

Have you heard of **Bee Boles**? I know of them, but didn’t realise there is a specialist website which has a register of where there are bee boles. www.beeboles.org.uk

[Mentioned in *Signpost* the magazine of the Peak and Northern Footpath Society. The PNFS inspects the condition of footpaths, puts up the metal footpath signs, monitors proposals affecting rights of way, and also has a programme of walks. www.pnfs.org.uk]

Llys Rhosyr, mediaeval court of Welsh princes, Anglesey

One of the royal courts of the Princes of Gwynedd has been bought by Wales' historic buildings organisation, CADW.

Llys Rhosyr, near Newborough, Anglesey, is the only court of the Welsh Princes in Wales with visible remains that can be visited by the public. It was "significant" in the Middle Ages and believed to have been used to administer justice and collect rents. Other similar sites are known from documents or have been suggested from partial excavations, but Llys Rhosyr is the only undefended court of the Welsh princes confirmed through archaeological excavation.

It is believed to have been in use between 1237 and 1314 and was occupied when the princes of Gwynedd were dominant in the country. It was abandoned in the aftermath of the conquest of north Wales by Edward I, when it fell into English hands. More information and photo on here -

https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-65197383?fbclid=IwAR0HdP5o6k_iVMWgvAQCobv-Zx7T9FwgpWpiqZUnz6S0rd5sGqxzLTLhDiI

From The National Archives - ‘Stories Unboxed’ online exhibition

Our records come in all different shapes and sizes, but we love them all the same. We know there’s a story in every box that’s just waiting to be told. It doesn’t matter if they’re 1,000 years old or 20 years old, each offers a glimpse into the past. Stories Unboxed is a new display that takes a single document and explores its story. Let our specialists highlight topical finds and lesser-known treasures whilst you immerse yourself in moments of the past.

https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/about/visit-us/whats-on/exhibitions/stories-unboxed/?utm_source=emailmarketing&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=weekly_mailer_13_april_23&utm_content=2023-04-16

“Have we found the lost battlefield of Brunanburh?”

Where did the Battle in 937AD take place - near Bromborough, near Bamburgh or somewhere else? - Recent finds through metal detecting by Wirral Archaeology Group look interesting - in a 24 minute History Hit video with Dan Snow <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jy7Sw1BZOo0>

WW2 - We had an enquiry from a local history group in Holland about Reginald Ernest Buzza who was killed when a Lancaster bomber was shot down near their town in 1944. They wish to put up a memorial and are trying to trace relatives. It's a name I remember from a girl at school, so via a local Facebook group we have identified a niece, cousins, and hopefully grandchildren, and incidentally a 1960s rose grower trophy winner from Bowdon Vale. There you are, another success story for AHS !

‘The Roman Town that vanished - The Calleva story’. 20 minutes Video on YouTube by Paul Whitewick about Calleva Atrebatum - Silchester. Subtitles available

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PUNiun8bUN0>

(If you have ever read ‘The Eagle of the Ninth’ by Rosemary Sutcliffe, she explains it started with a Roman legionary eagle found at Calleva.)

[Photo is one of the entrance gates in the town walls, taken in 2015]



Missing Pieces Project - Historic England

“All over England are places with stories to tell: from buildings to battlefields, some on your doorstep, others just a day trip away. Their stories are still being written, and they won't be complete until you share your side. The Missing Pieces Project invites you to share your pictures and stories of the unique, significant and memorable places on the National Heritage List for England (NHLE) (otherwise known as ‘the List’).

<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/>

The List is a register of all nationally protected historic buildings and sites across England. Your view of a place is as unique as you are, so every snapshot and story you add is an important piece of the picture. And the more pieces of the picture we have, the better we can work together to protect what makes these places special.”

To join in the Project you need to create an account - follow this link for details and examples -

https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/missing-pieces/?gclid=CjwKCAjw04yjBhApEiwAJcvNofcK7pGJYhphQ19j3D2Thic4szWVXj62tkS2XfAVtfd1kB GaJNFIsBoC_xEQAvD_BwE

(I created an account to make a ‘minor amendment’ to the List description for Christ Church Timperley - that was simple and easy to use.)

Power on the Land: the story of the mechanisation of British Farming’.

I found this on YouTube, it is a British Council archive film from 1943, about 15 minutes long.

<https://film.britishcouncil.org/resources/film-archive/power-on-the-land>

I didn't know about this resource. ‘The British Council produced over 120 films to counteract Nazi propaganda and to refute the idea that our country was stuck in the past. The collection of films showcased Britain to the rest of the world, at a time when Britain itself was under attack. The films present an historic snapshot of Britain; its industry, its landscapes, and its people. The archive covers anything from how to make a bicycle, to how the British spend their Saturdays. <https://film.britishcouncil.org/resources/film-archive/about>

“King’s Coronation: the Last lamplighters in London”

In case you missed this on the BBC News (as I did) - here's a 5 minute video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gim72DK2ebQ>

British “Anti-slavery patrols - The West Africa Squadron” - c 14 minute video - Very good, I learnt a lot from this.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TiSekII0sjw>

The Mediaeval Agricultural Revolution: new evidence. This is a recorded lecture by Helena Hamerow. Nearly one hour long and a bit detailed but very interesting, about archaeological evidence for changes including crop rotation and the introduction of the mould-board plough. This is one of many lectures available from Gresham College, this one has subtitles, and can also be downloaded with a transcript. There's one on the Landscapes of Roman Britain, and others, mostly about an hour.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zeVG9DMbvcc>

If you are **interested in maps** - check out the Charles Close Society for the Study of Ordnance Survey Maps. <https://charlesclosesociety.org/>

In its online resources The Maps section has detail of all Ordnance Survey mapping in Great Britain & Ireland, a list of European surveys from the 19th century and an ongoing list of rare maps that The Society holds in its archive. It has links to other websites including the British Geological Survey.

Here's a titbit from someone who was born at Timperley Lodge when it was a nursing home. The drive to the house from Manchester Road was unsurfaced, with potholes. The two sisters who ran the nursing home didn't want it surfaced - they said that by the time pregnant mothers had been jolted over the potholes, their work was half done already !

Bowdon author Philip Graves

Information about a new book by David Beeston, of Univ. of York.

'2021 marked the centenary of a crucial event in the struggle against anti-Semitism. A series of articles in *The Times* newspaper (16,17,18 August, 1921) by their Constantinople correspondent, Philip Graves, proved conclusively that the infamous conspiracy work, 'The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion', was a crude forgery. Graves was born at Sandiford House, Stamford Road, Bowdon, Cheshire (his father was the Chief Schools Inspector for Greater Manchester) and later became an eminent journalist and travel writer.

These events are analysed in the new book, *Hospitable, Generous England* (ISBN 978-0-9512535-33, Birchwood Publications, £8.99). It can be ordered from any major bookseller, or bought online from e-bay.'

In the last Newsletter I put a notice for Stretford Family History Fair on Saturday 10 September. My errors - the date is wrong, and it may not be going ahead this year.

Advance notice for Heritage Open Days in September

Friends of Warrington Transporter Bridge

2 dates have been arranged for walks to the Bridge to take place during the Heritage Open Days. This year they will be on the **9th & 17th September**. The walks will need to be pre-booked so that numbers can be managed. FOWTB will start the walks from a site near Lidl on Old Liverpool Road. Booking mechanism to be arranged.

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

Following last month's meeting, a couple of people have suggested a visit to Middlewich. We'll see what can be arranged and let you all know.

Keep exploring history - on foot, in books, on TV, online, on paper, or even on parchment.

See you around, Hazel