



## ALTRINCHAM HISTORY SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER No. 32 November 2023

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Hello everyone,

Sorry I missed a newsletter in October, here's the latest.

It's still not clear what is happening with Altrincham Town Hall but it has had a further reprieve and we will still be there and have booked meetings for January to March 2024.

Details for the December meeting are being arranged, and tickets for our Christmas buffet and quiz will be available at the November meeting, and after then by email or phone.

Here are some events and interesting bits on YouTube and websites. Incidentally, for those of you without a computer or with only a laptop, you can watch YouTube items via your 'Smart TV', through WiFi..

### Events

Trafford Local Studies Library **Thurs 9<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm** at Urmston Library  
Book launch and talk by author Michael Billington about '**A History of Simpson Ready Foods**'.

It's the perfect event for local history enthusiasts to learn about the fascinating legacy of this iconic company - plus a trip down memory lane for many Urmstonians! Free Tickets book at:

<http://traffordlibraries.eventbrite.com/>

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**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November** 10am – 3.30pm **"1923 – the year that changed politics forever"**

North West Labour History Society event at Manchester Central Library. '1923 was a pivotal year in British politics: there was a short-lived Labour Government with working class men and women elected as MPs for the first time. Come and hear some of their extraordinary stories; a day of music, poetry, talks and discussions- and cake!' <https://www.nwlh.org.uk/> book via eventbrite or just turn up. Their website has contents of their Journals and articles from some of the older Journals are available to read online.

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Greater Manchester Archaeology Day **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November,**

at Peel Hall, The Crescent, University of Salford 9.30 – 5pm

A range of talks from Mesolithic and Roman to industrial archaeology. Cost £10 including refreshments, but bring your lunch. Parking is £4.10, but last time I went by tram and train – very convenient.

Details here <https://archaeologytea.wordpress.com/2023/10/20/greater-manchester-archaeology-day-2023/>

Also on **Sat Nov 25<sup>th</sup>** – 2pm Chester Society for Landscape History

Literary Landscapes by Dr Chris Green, at St Columba Church, Upton near Chester

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Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire on **29<sup>th</sup> Nov at 14:00 – 16.00**

Joan Thirsk and the porous frontiers of English regional and local history Joan Thirsk (1922-2013) did much to encourage the proper study of English local history, mainly in agricultural history. This lecture offers an overall assessment of her landmark status. **Online lecture**, booking needed.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/joan-thirsk-and-the-porous-frontiers-of-english-regional-and-local-history-tickets-731267038397?>

utm\_source=eventbrite&utm\_medium=email&utm\_content=follow\_notification&utm\_campaign=following\_published\_event&utm\_term=Joan+Thirsk+

Registered Designs at The National Archives - a very short video about the 3 million registered designs.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aYoHnh9w7ec>

There was an online talk on 20<sup>th</sup> October, but this little video is just a taste. You can sign up for the weekly e-newsletter from TNA - here's one example:

<https://news.eneews.nationalarchives.gov.uk/NLI/ViewHtmlEmail.aspx?a=7DC16824D65F4FA954F13AC4BFC3C025&b=9158F81B5F7FB174AC4F0D114B0EA470>

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### **For outstanding bravery: Civilian honours in the Second World War**

The National Archives project to catalogue these Second World War Civil Defence Awards files is now completed and can be searched by name - <https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C15354>

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On YouTube

“Time Team Special: Journey to Stonehenge” on the excavation at Durrington Walls, from 2005. Includes the reconstruction of the wood henge. 50 mins. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oktFMMF5uE8>

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“Lost in No-Man’s-Land: the missing of WW1” a 23 minute programme on finding John Kipling, son of Rudyard. Very interesting tracing where John might be, making use of records available through Findmypast. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z9LORNN7o3Y>

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### **Spotted in Aberystwyth**



The Montague Burton shop in Aberystwyth was built in 1938 on the junction of the main shopping streets in the town. The road on the left leads to the promenade and sea front. One foundation stone was laid by Raymond Montague Burton, the other stone by Arnold James Burton. The Art Deco details are still present in the design of the wooden doors on Terrace Road and the window metalwork.



The Altrincham store on Stamford New Road dates from two years earlier in 1936, and is of a contrasting style above the ground floor, with ‘corinthian columns’ and brick rather than the stark white. Quite a change, only two years apart.



## Altrincham Heritage website

Sue Nichols has sent an additional resource to use with the 1852 and 1876 plans of Altrincham. On the website you can look at the plans and Book of Reference from the 1852 Board of Health survey.

This new resource is a compilation of the extended captions, describing all the images on the 'Compare 1852 and 1876 Plans' page on the Altrincham Heritage web site.

<https://www.altrinchamheritage.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Compare-1852-1876-Plans-Extended-Captions.-Copyright-Altrincham-Heritage-2023.pdf>

As explained in the introduction, it's not meant to be a narrative as it is arranged numerically by the first Plot number not in brackets, but is intended to be a quick way of searching for names, topics and places, or Plot numbers. And of course it needs to be used in conjunction with the website, in order to see the images described. The 1852 Plot numbers are in the Book of Reference – link here:

<https://www.altrinchamheritage.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Altrincham-Survey.-Book-of-Reference.-1852.-Charles-E.-Cawley-1852-TLSC-ALT-9-1-4-1.-V7.-1-April-2023.-COPYRIGHT-ALTRINCHAM-HERITAGE-2023.pdf>



'Altrincham Survey. Book of Reference. 1852.'

Numbers referring to the Plan: 1119

Description of Land or Premises: House, Yard & necessary etc

Mode of Cultivation: -

Quantities in Statute Measure: [Part of] 0 acres 0 roods 23<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> perches

Owner or Reputed Owners: William Hamilton

Occupiers: John Hamilton

Remarks:



Plots 1123 1124 1120 1119 (1655): This is a photograph taken of the two Georgian houses at Plots 1120 and 1119, either side of the entry on Police Street. To the left barely visible, are the adjacent pair of houses, set back at Plots 1123 and 1124.

Matching the Census for 1851, in the house to the right of the entry, the head of household was John Hamilton, one of the bobbin turners of the town. With him was his wife Sarah and their son 15-year-old William who was an apprentice wheelwright, along with Sarah aged 6 and Frances aged 1. The family were still there in the 1861 Census.

## Land in Wales owned by the Crown – interesting article with maps and photos

[https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/wales-news/mapped-land-castles-coastline-owned-27847564?utm\\_source=wales\\_online\\_newsletter&utm\\_campaign=daily\\_newsletter2&utm\\_medium=email](https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/wales-news/mapped-land-castles-coastline-owned-27847564?utm_source=wales_online_newsletter&utm_campaign=daily_newsletter2&utm_medium=email) The Crown owns chunks of Wales coastline including Llandudno Bay and Penrhyn Bay.

More YouTube items, including one from the BBC you may have missed:

“**Melting Ice reveals Viking artefacts**” - BBC News item - 6 minutes about finds in Norway

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IM3EL94UKDM>

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“**The Wonderful world of Northern Water Towers**” – I found this by accident but it’s an interesting look at water towers mostly around Merseyside, produced by ‘Bee Here Now’. 15 minutes of video, a real eye-opener. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rCfMZdOkDQQ>

He has also done a series of videos on The History of Manchester, here’s the first one on **Mamucium** .

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yJpIPk0YX0c>

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A selection from many videos about **Pompeii & Herculaneum**:

“How Herculaneum is better preserved than Pompeii” a programme by Timeline, 54 minutes.

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

“Out of the Ashes: Recovering the lost library of Herculaneum” produced by Brigham Young University, USA – a 57 minute programme. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f5b8igA644o>

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“If this old House could talk - Bishops’ House, Sheffield the dark and light side of history”, a YouTube video by The Wanderlust Way - 22 minutes about this stone and timber house.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uwdqueXX7oQ>

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“A Sewage Cathedral - Crossness Pumping Station” - a 9 minute video by Historic England.

25 years to restore one beam engine? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=16y9w3z4gnc>

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**Demolished** Broadheath Warehouse demolition



Here’s a photo of the site taken from the car park by Halford’s, showing the Old Packet House, and Broadheath bridge on the right.

There’s more information from Dr Mike Nevell - about ‘Permitted Development Rights’ for un-listed buildings.

<https://archaeologytea.wordpress.com/2023/09/29/permitted-development-rights-and-the-demolition-of-the-18th-century-broadheath-canal-warehouse/>

**Query answered 2 years later.**

Back in the July 2021 Newsletter, I passed on a query about Thomas James Jenkins who was killed in The Netherlands in WW2, asking for any relatives; this was for Jorg who has ‘adopted’ his grave there. This week I had a phone call from a lady who had seen that query – a great-niece of Thomas, and she emailed me a photo of him with his wife Aida and her family, probably taken in Sale. I’ve now passed on that photo and the details she sent to Jorg. Success at last.

She lives on the south coast and I forgot to ask how she came to see the Newsletter. Do you pass yours on?

Keep warm, keep reading and watching, and how about doing some writing?

*See you around, Hazel*