



ALTRINCHAM HISTORY SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER No. 38 September 2024

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Hello everyone,

I hope you have received the programme for 2024-25, and subscription renewal form.

We are looking forward to the start of the new season in September, and glad that we can continue to have our meetings still on Tuesdays at the new venue of **Altrincham Conservative Club** on Market Street. Note this is NOT the 'Con Club' on Greenwood Street, now a wine bar, that used to be the Conservative Working Men's Club. It's the other side of the market hall, just along from the Town Hall.

Dates for your diary:

Heritage Open Days - September

Sunday 15th September 2pm – 5pm at Christ Church Timperley – 175th Anniversary of the opening of the parish church. If you haven't visited, now's the time. Displays of the history of the church and its involvement with the community. Tea & cake.

Tuesday 17th September 3.30pm to 8pm

Massive development will impact on historic areas, and open land:

Davenport Green / 'Timperley Wedge' development consultation

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

Exhibition on **Tuesday 17th Sept at Bowdon Rugby Club, Clay Lane, Timperley 3.30pm to 8pm**

It says the first stage consultation 'extends from July to September'. I don't know about July, but I only found out in August.

Have you heard about this?



Field path to Buttery House site

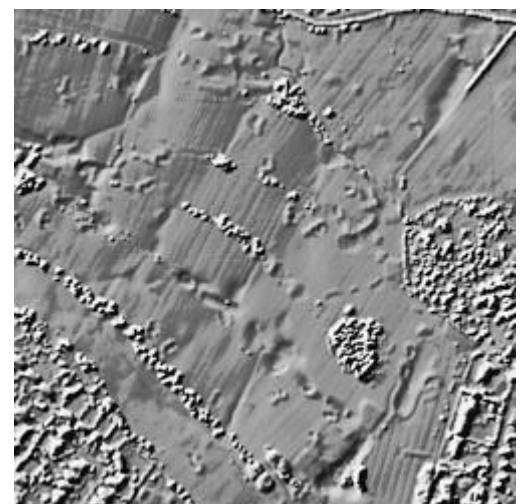
Here is a link to more details via *Altrincham Today*

<https://altrincham.todaynews.co.uk/regeneration/2024/09/04/events-give-more-information-about-750m-plan-to-build-2-500-homes-and-a-park-on-timperley-wedge/?ref=weekly-digest-newsletter>

The area covered includes the possible / probable site of the lost Domesday settlement of Alretone; the moated site of Buttery House; an ancient wood bank around the 'hey' of Sunderland; etc.

This development first came up in the 1990s, and at that time included three massive office buildings, a new Metro line and station, and a 'recreation park' with a lake to be made by flooding current agricultural land with an existing network of field paths.

This LIDAR view shows the area round Davenport Green. Lots of humps and depressions showing. This area is included in the proposed development. SEE the map on next page.





Alreton and Sunderland – Lost Domesday settlements

*Gislebertus ⁊ Rannulf ⁊ Hamo ten Sunderland
 ⁊ Bagelei Eluard ⁊ Suga ⁊ Vdeman ⁊ Pao tennet
 p. iiii. ass. ⁊ liti hoc fuer. Ibi. i. hida geld. ⁊ ⁊. e
 un car ⁊ dimid. Wafa. e tota. T. h. e ualb. i. n. sot.*

At the time of Domesday in 1086, Gilbert and Rannulf and Hamo (de Massey) held 'Sundreland & Bagelei'.

Can we assume from this that Sunderland was adjacent to Baguley?

These places had previously been held by Eluard (Aelward) (among others). Alreton was held similarly. The place-name and surname Artingstall probably came from Alreton: Alre-tone meaning alder farm, and the 'stall' element meaning site of.

In 1646 a 'messuage' [farm] in Ringey (Ringway, part of Hale township) was leased to Roger Artingstall. Artingstall remained as a local place-name into the 19th century: Balshaw's Stranger's Guide & Directory (c1859) listed a Mrs Moore at The Artingstalls, and William Blease, mole catcher, at Artingstalls, in Hale. Mary Moore leased land and a cottage roughly where the motorway cuts through Hasty Lane, Hale Barns.

The surname occurs locally from at least the 16th century. There is a gravestone at Bowdon Church of William Artingstall de Ringey who died in 1617; and a William Arstall of the Mean Woode was buried in 1641. The proof of the name variation comes from a lease of an estate called Hale Field: in 1762 it was occupied by 'James Arstall or Artingstall'. The name may have disappeared from our area, but there are graves in Middleton, Lancs for Artingstalls from the 1970s, and a 2008 phone book lists the surname in Denton and Hyde.

The name Sunderland means 'separate/d land', and appears in Hamo de Massey's 1290 Charter of Altrincham, where reference is made to the enclosure of Sunderland, and the power to fence it in. 'Sunderland Park' is referred to in the Dunham Massey Papers in the 15th century. Then



Sunderland Green is named on Greenwood's Map of Cheshire of 1819 and is marked on Bryant's map of 1831 at the junction of Clay Lane, Dobbinetts Lane and Whitecarr Lane. There are small triangular plots on either side of the junction with Whitecarr Lane, and the field to the right of this photo has various 'bumps', possibly the remains of settlement?

[Check out Dr Michael Nevell's 'The Archaeology of Trafford'. p39]



Advance Notice – save the date

Saturday 19th October 2024 - Cheshire History Day – “The Future of Cheshire’s Past”

9.30am – 4.30pm at The Grange Theatre, Bradburns Lane, Hartford. CW8 1LU. Cost is £15 for the day, including morning refreshments. Talks will be about: The Future of Cheshire Archives; Cheshire Archaeology; and the Portable Antiquities Scheme. As usual there will be stalls from local history societies and specialist booksellers. Bring your sandwiches. Plenty of parking and not too far away from Hartford rail station. It is always a good day and good value. www.cheshirehistory.org.uk

Some bits of News

A former local councillor and a founder member of Ashton & Sale History Society, Kathy Bullock has died. Kathy was an interesting lady and lived at Woodhouse Farm, Woodhouse Lane, Sale. The house was the subject of a survey by STAG back in the 1980s.

Recent enquiries

We've received a request for help to find a photo of a young man killed in June 1944. Warrant Officer Peter Edward **GODSELL** from Timperley, was pilot of a Halifax bomber that crashed near Lamastre (Ardeche).

Can you help with this query?

David Miller is trying to find out about a Blue Plaque in Bowdon to artist Gladys VASEY 1889-1981. He spotted a blue plaque years ago, and now cannot find any mention of it.

Cheshire Local History Association website has back numbers of the annual journal *Cheshire History*. The "Past Publications" feature on the website is a FREE resource that you can access to download articles of interest. A great piece about the nurserymen Caldwell's of Knutsford by Joy Uings is available from No. 55. Enjoy browsing! Go to Past Publications & the spyglass 🔍 & enter keywords to search, click on the title of the article.

Not quite 'born on a slip-road off the M6' - Found this whilst searching for family history.

Kirby Hill Parish Registers [North Yorkshire, near Richmond]

1798 August 12: 'James son of Robert & Elizabeth Lemman (travelling paupers) Baptised August 12th. This poor distressed woman delivered of her son on the turnpike road opposite to Rooker-hill; her husband is blind and has travelled as a Fiddler.'

Some websites and items on YouTube

"Yeoman, the story of the Cheshire Yeomanry" A very good 50 minute long programme produced by the Cheshire Yeomanry Association in 1997, on the 200th anniversary. Starting from the threat of invasion in 1796, through Peterloo, the South African War, WW1 in Palestine & France, WW2 and back to horses in Palestine, through to the modern role (in 1997). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m8SQ8bL9p6w>

"RAF Ringway and the birth of Britain's 3rd busiest Airport" 10 minute programme by 'Bee Here Now'. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qjfejfPjn4M>

“Manchester’s Secret WW2 Airfield – Fact or Urban Legend”. 8 minutes long, by ‘Ringway Manchester’ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r4iAY52jeJk> There has always been this myth that Shaftesbury Avenue, Timperley was built as an emergency runway. This programme includes the background, with maps and aerial photos, exploring the pros and cons.

“The Pilgrim’s Way to Britain’s Great Cathedrals: Episode 1”. A one hour video presented by David Suchet. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iS6E78hdsFo>

“The Grandest Sights of Britain’s Countryside: Treasure from the Air” About National Trust properties, from brief glimpses to start with, then more detailed aerial views. About 1 hour long. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RMywrmI1GFM>

“St Peter’s Church, Barton-upon-Humber” a 10 minute video by ‘Ropewalk’. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ITzhpSz6Kyw> Geoff Bryant gives some historical background to the Saxon church of St.Peter's. There’s a transcript to follow as well.

“Hedge-laying” – a 9 minute long film from 1942. ‘A Northamptonshire hedger is ably assisted by a smiling land girl eager to learn the rural craft of hedge making and maintenance in this gentle instructional film, made by the Realist Film Unit for the Ministry of Agriculture’. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WoprVhpOKIk> There’s a transcript for this film.



You can still spot old hedges that have been layed. Here’s a sample of hedge that has grown up after laying – on Clay Lane, Timperley, taken in 2016.

And remains of an older one on the path across Altrincham Golf Course, taken during a ‘Covid walk’ in 2020.

Does this sound familiar?

November 1936 – Timperley Parish Magazine

“The chief problem of the parish . . . [is] the unparalleled building activities which have so rapidly changed our village into a large township. Houses are springing up on all sides. Avenues, drives, groves, leading here, there and everywhere (and often nowhere !) are appearing where but a short time ago meadows and waste land alone were to be seen.”

[Houses in the Riddings Road/Sylvan Ave area and around Arderne Rd and Vaudrey Drive, Timperley were built in the 1930s.]

What is proposed for the Davenport Green area, is definitely not 1930s semi-detached houses.

I visited the plans exhibition at Bowdon Rugby Club on Weds 4th Sept. This development will have a big impact on the whole area – increased traffic all around; what about the drainage /sewage disposal; school places; doctor’s places; as well as the loss of an ancient landscape. If you can’t make it to the exhibition on 17th Sept, have a look online <https://davenportgreenconsultation.co.uk/>

See you around, Hazel