



ALTRINCHAM HISTORY SOCIETY

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Hello everyone,

Just a short newsletter this time. Our next meeting at **Altrincham Conservative Club** on Tuesday 12th November is on 'Slave Ships in Neston and Parkgate' by Dr Anthony Annakin-Smith.

We had a few teething problems for the September meeting, but I hope the new venue at the Club will be suitable. We have had some feedback and would welcome any more.

A gentle reminder that **subscriptions** are due from September for this season, if you haven't already paid.

Dates for your diary:

Sat 23rd November - Reconnecting Roman Britain conference FREE

At the Grosvenor Museum in Chester - 9am start for arrival etc, first speaker at 10am; ends at 4.30pm. Check the link to the programme for details. And if you are interested go online to register.

The Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies and Chester Archaeological Society are hosting a free, one-day conference. Programme: <https://www.romansociety.org/Portals/0/RRB%202024%20Day%20Schedule.pdf>

Registration: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/reconnecting-roman-britain/reconnecting-roman-britain-chester-2024/e-lqxemo>

Advance notice:

Tuesday 10th December – our Christmas Party. At the Conservative Club, Market Street. We will have the usual buffet, and quizzes, but the drinks can be bought at the bar. We have yet to work out the cost, but it won't be higher than last year.

Recent enquiries

From our November speaker Anthony Annakin-Smith, an enquiry about children named Fenna from Bowdon who entered the Foundling Hospital at Chester in the 1700s. One child was baptised by Rev. Hugh Worthington at Hale Chapel. I gather Fenna is mostly a Cheshire surname. Not found much yet.

The Lamb family - At Christ Church Timperley Heritage Open Day we had a visit from one of the Lamb family asking about relatives. He mentioned several relatives, and there's the problem – there have been Lambs in the area since the 16th century. There are too many Lambs in Timperley and Baguley, and lots of Samuels and Williams. One Sam Lamb was the Parish Clerk and Sexton at Timperley and lived in the old toll-bar cottage at the end of Brooklands Road (by the roundabout). He was a gardener. Another Sam was a farm labourer in Baguley who lost two sons in WW1. I remember Reggie Lamb (Arthur Reginald?) who had the sweet shop on Stockport Road, on the corner of Orchard Place; and there was Bobby Lamb who had a shop opposite the Stonemasons Arms, which sold toys and craft materials – paper and paints etc. And then my neighbour had Lamb relatives in Baguley. It's going to take some sorting out by our visitor.



Some items on YouTube

“The Mystery of the Millom Lines – Britain’s Lost Stonehenge?” a 15 minute video on Neolithic monuments in the Cumbria. Text is based on an article in *British Archaeology*. Stone circles I haven’t come across before. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RLWtx6FqyDk>

“Boudicca’s Lost Tribe” a Time Team Special about the Snettisham gold torcs. About 50 minutes. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fCiUvQSD_zo



“Effigies and Tomb Chests of Cheshire Churches” – by ‘tvpresenter4history’ - James Balme narrates this 14 minute video; about Bunbury, Marton, Over Peover, St Elphin’s Warrington, Bartholmley, Astbury Plemstall.- includes aerial photos. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1nF0RKyioxg>

[Here’s one from Rostherne Church.]

“From Saxons to St Peter – History Walks”.

This is James Balme’s 600th film, and he visits Swettenham church. 20 minutes long.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2BRzOz06HG8>

A mystery from the South African War

Peter Taylor, formerly of Altrincham, died at Baguley Sanatorium on 1st May 1915.

“He was reported killed in action on Spion Kop during the South African War and a sensation was caused when 15 years later he was discovered at Baguley.” This short item appeared in the local *Guardian* ‘Yearbook’ in 1916 in a review of the year, and I came across it in my notes from a long time ago. Of course I had to look into this. The FreeBMD website confirmed his death registered in Altrincham aged 44. Knowing his interest, I passed the note on to George Cogswell, who searched and found more details, of his birth and enlistment, but nothing about a death at Spion Kop..

The next step? – To check the microfilm of the local *Guardian* around the date of his death to see if there are any more details. To be continued !

More from YouTube

“History of Manchester – a Tale of two ditches” This is part 2 of a series by ‘Bee Here Now’ and covers Post-Roman. He traces the route of Nico Ditch, then moves to central Manchester at Chetham’s and Hanging Ditch. About 17 minutes long. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QwEtoM4LUZY>

[I think he has done nine in the series, the first is ‘Mamucium’. Number 8 is ‘Suffragette City’.]

A bit different – this one’s from the USA: “Bones in the mud: the wreck of the *T.J.Potter* (Astoria, OR)”. [This title intrigued me, also my cousin lives in Astoria, Oregon]. This 20 minute video by ‘Part-time Explorer’ traces the history of the paddle-steamer *T.J. Potter*, as a passenger ship, its part in the gold rush and its end. With maps, plans and interior views of the ship in its heyday.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WLN0Gdk4CRE>

I’m still recovering from Heritage Open Day at Christ Church Timperley. Two of us spent months (literally) researching the people whose names were on lists of Pew Rents (or Sitings). The earliest was from 1877 after the church was extended, and names were written in pencil on a plan. We found Miss Cubbin (a Sunday School teacher), the ‘Keymer Servants’, Alfred Woodhead (whose family gave the present East window), and Samuel Lamb mentioned earlier. He retired in 1919 having been Clerk & Sexton for 37 years, choir member for 40 years, and died aged 73 in January 1939. Not a bad run.

Keep warm.

See you around, Hazel