



ALTRINCHAM HISTORY SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER No. 40 November 2024

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Hello everyone,

Looking forward now to **Tuesday 10th December** and our **Christmas Party**. This will be at the Altrincham Conservative Club, on Market Street. We will have the usual buffet, and quizzes, and raffle. Drinks can be bought at the bar. Tickets are £10. We need to know numbers, so if you haven't already put your name on the list please contact Hazel on 0161 980 5464 or reply to this newsletter email to Dot Scholes. And let us know before Thursday 5th December. You can pay on the night.

If you have any dietary needs – gluten free, or other, please let us know.

A gentle reminder that **subscriptions** are due from September for this season 2024-25.

Dates for your diary:

Thursday 5th December, 2024. Co-operative Heritage Trust at Home 6pm to 7,30pm

Join us for an evening of films and discussion, presented by the Co-operative Heritage Trust, to mark 180 years since the formation of the Rochdale Equitable Pioneers Society.

This screening will be followed by a Q&A with Jane Donaldson (Archivist, Co-operative Heritage Trust), Ryan Bird (Filmmaker, Midcounties Co-op) and John Henshaw (Actor, *The Rochdale Pioneers*).

Venue: HOME Cinema, 2 Tony Wilson Place, Manchester, M15 4FN

Tickets: £11.15 with booking fee and £9.15 Concessions

To book go to HOME's website <https://homemcr.org/film/co-operation-180-years-co-ops-on-film-qa/>

Please contact the venue directly for any assistance in booking or accessibility requirements.

<https://www.co-operativeheritage.coop/Event/co-operation-180-co-ops-on-film-at-home-manchester>

Saturday 7 December 2024.

MEDIEVAL FEST – ONLINE cost £15 organised by The British Library

Join us online for a special day of talks and discussions with leading historians, writers and speakers, who'll delve into rich medieval histories to explore global stories, investigate fascinating discoveries, unravel medieval literature, and much more!

Speakers include Peter Frankopan, Janina Ramirez, Michael Wood, Raksha Dave, Helen Castor, Nathen Amin, Charlie Higson, Shazia Jagot, Heather O'Donoghue, Lubaaba Al-Azami, and Charlotte Roberts.

In-person tickets have sold out, but you can still attend Medieval Fest from your own home.

Schedule:

10.30 am – Byzantium and the wider world – Anna Komnene

12.30 pm – How to overthrow a Medieval Ruler

3.15pm – Medieval Literature – from Beowulf to Du Fu

5.00pm – Medieval Bodies

<https://mailchi.mp/histfest/announcement-all-things-history-17459988?e=0162d84345>

Recent enquiries – Can you help?

An enquiry about 'Dunham Rise' - a house on Dunham Road, demolished for apartments (in the 1960s?). I can't find a photo of the house, just an interior view of the Witte family who lived there around 1900.

Some items on YouTube

“Ships that still exist somehow (but probably shouldn’t)”. This 17 minute video by ‘Oceanliner Designs’ - maritime researcher Michael Brady - includes an interesting mixture of ships from *RMS Queen Mary* via navy vessels to a three-masted sailing ship. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JxRhQFt3dK8>

“How the Dambusters sank Germany’s ‘Unsinkable’ Battleship” - The Tirpitz. 48 minute programme from 2014 by Lion Television, on Youtube by ‘War Stories’ (part of History Hits). Includes archive film and interviews with survivors of 9 Squadron and 617 (Dambusters).
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=66wvwKcpe5Q>

“The Mystery of WWI’s most famous face”, a video from the Imperial War Museum, 11 minutes. There’s a well-known piece of archive film showing a man carrying another on his back along a trench. Who was he?
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1TZINhbH6YM>

“Real Story of the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior” – a History Hit programme with Dan Snow. 22 minutes. If you don’t already know the story, here’s one version. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K-KffYvXBjA>

The National Archives latest newsletter – very interesting mix of topics: a corruption scandal from Ireland in 1325; an intimate view of the household of Churchill’s grandmother; an online talk about the history of the British high street on **4th Dec**. And a spy puzzle.
<https://news.eneews.nationalarchives.gov.uk/NLI/ViewHtmlEmail.aspx?a=787E5B6FDB73A0910356AD6A70678460&b=9158F81B5F7FB174AC4F0D114B0EA470>

Details of local burials

Friends of Bowdon Churchyard (FOBCY) notice for 29 Nov 2024.

Derrick Murdie, the Church Archivist, has done a massive amount of work on recording the graves in the churchyard. He has produced a map showing where each one is situated by name and number. It is on our website - you need to zoom in to see them. Derrick also has recorded the texts engraved on each stone, including graves which are now covered.

For Derrick's map, go to: <https://friendsofbowdonchurchyard.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/John-Finnie-Grave-Location-compressed-1.pdf> Click on ‘Churchyard Map Smaller’ and Zoom in by about 150%.

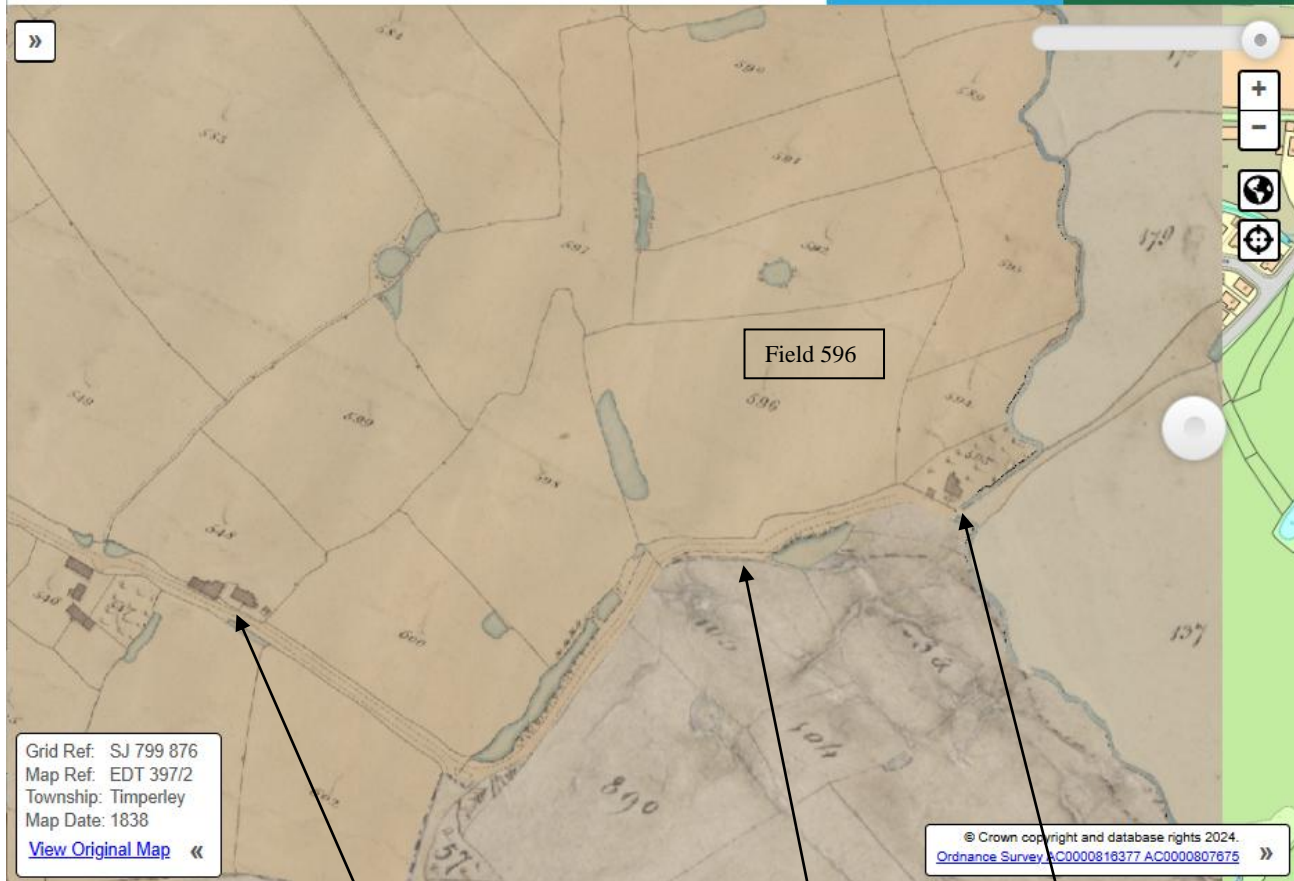
The Dobbinetts

There’s a planning application (Ref: 113553/FUL/24) to build 179 dwellings on land at the border of Timperley and Baguley on the site of a house called The Dobbinetts and its land. If you drive the back way round to Wythenshawe Hospital you will pass this house and the one next to it called ‘Fairywell’, next to Brooks’s Drive. Dobbinetts Lane is very narrow, with bends and a dip down to Fairywell Brook.

Aside from objecting to the plan for this number of dwellings accessed from such a bad lane, you may wonder where the name comes from.



On the Tithe Map of 1838 there were no buildings shown and Brooks’s Drive was not put through until about 1860. The field there (plot no 596) was called Dobbinetts Field and was owned by Thomas Barton and occupied by Samuel Rowbottom. The field to the northwest of it was also Dobbinet Field, owned by Mary Worthington and farmed by Thomas Rogerson. Rogerson lived at what is now Holly Tree Cottage, the white cottage on Clay Lane, Timperley. Samuel Rowbottom lived across Clay Lane at Holly Tree Farm (Mill Farm), plot 547. The farm buildings of Mill Farm were demolished between 2015 and 2021.



Holly Tree Cottage, Clay Lane

Dobbinets Lane

Gatley's cottage

<https://maps.cheshireeast.gov.uk/tithemaps/>

The house 'Fairywell' was there by the time of the 1876 OS map, and a bit further along Dobbinets lane was a building and what looked like market garden land. This cottage is shown on the 1838 Tithe Map as belonging to John Gatley, with an orchard, and was in a sharp bend of the lane. It is also on the 1876 OS map and by the 1898 map a new building is there, a little away from the road. This is the house called The Dobbinets.

John Gatley also held the two fields to the north along Fairywell Brook. These two fields and three more working north along the brook were all called Mere Brooks Field, 'mere' in this case meaning boundary. Fairywell Brook was the boundary between Timperley and Baguley, and later the county boundary between Cheshire and Manchester, and now Trafford and Manchester. Two fields further to the west were called Nearer and Further Long Shuts. 'Shut' is a name associated with open field agriculture. This area is close to Manor Farm on Ridgeway Road, and the whole of this area may have been farmed as open field.



Before it was abandoned, the land at The Dobbinets was a market garden. I remember seeing the colours of rows of chrysanthums. Since then scrub and brambles have grown up and there are quite substantial trees self-seeded in the fields to the north alongside Brooks's Drive.

Where does the name come from? I remember my dad using the name 'Dobbinets Hole' to describe that area. In Hadfield's Directory of 1886, Edward Warren is listed at 'Dobinet's Hole, Clay Lane'. He died in 1900 and his gravestone at Timperley Church says: of The Dobinets.

Dodgson (in Place-names of Cheshire vol 2) has mention of 'Dobbins-in-the-Hole' and 'Dobin-heads Hole', with possible explanation of Dobbin as a diminutive of Dobb, a pet form for Robert, giving us 'Robert's hollow'.

But I wonder. Field numbers 558 and 560 to the north of Manor Farm have the name Dubbed Hedge Field. (Meaning a hedge trimmed, with dubbing shears.) And a road in Hale Barns is Dobb Hedge Close. Could that name have applied to other fields? Imagine a 19th century surveyor asking Cheshire locals what name they gave to a lane or field. Could Dubbed Hedge have been heard as Dobb Head? It's all speculation. Don't get me started on the derivation of Roaring Gate Lane !

More videos

Roman Road uncovered in Worcestershire – article and video by Ancient Origins, from 2022. Work revealed a paved section of road, probably a ford, near Evesham.

<https://www.ancient-origins.net/news-history-archaeology/roman-road-ford-0017445>

“Lost builders of the Middle Ages: Skilled Craftsmen of Hereford” a 26 minute video by “Skillbuilder”. Looks at stonemasons' work - Hereford Cathedral and All Saints Church, and Kilpeck Church. Don't worry about the look of the website – he's obviously a builder, and this is from a builder's point of view. There's a summary text as well as the video. <https://skill-builder.uk/lost-builders-skilled-craftsmen-of-hereford>

Welsh Tudor Manor – Althrey Hall. Sale Details from 2016 for a £700,000 house near Bangor-on-Dee. Only brief historical info, but it includes photos of the timbers, roof trusses and rare wall paintings. Just ignore the sales blurb.

<https://www.walesonline.co.uk/lifestyle/welsh-homes/historic-welsh-tudor-manor-trademark-11511232>

“Well-preserved Tudor wall paintings discovered” – this from *The Smithsonian* in 2021 is about Calverley Old Hall in Yorkshire. It's a short article with photos and link to a short video.

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/gobsmacked-restorers-make-discovery-of-a-lifetime-at-medieval-manor-in-england-180979053/> [There are traces of painted decoration at Wythenshawe Hall. Think of all the Tudor buildings that we had in this area, were some of those decorated like this?]

South African Mystery continued. More details via George Cogswell

Peter Taylor was probably born at 87 George Street in August 1870, which is where he and his family were living in 1871. But by 1881, the family had moved to Back House No. 1 beyond No. 65 Chapel Street. He was the son of shoemaker Samuel Taylor and his wife, Sarah. So, he's a Chapel Street lad.

Quite coincidentally, he was employed as a Baker for Robert Martin, a Baker in Altrincham.

Peter enlisted into the Manchester Regt on the 24th June 1889 when he was aged: 17 years 10 months. He was 5 feet 8½ inches in height and weighed 129 lb. His chest measurement was 32½ inches, he had a 'fresh' complexion, grey eyes and brown hair and was Church of England. His regimental number was 2852.

George has visited Anglo-Boer War sites in South Africa: 'I've had a look at my video film of all the memorials situated on top of Spion Kop (an eerie place) and whilst there is a C. Taylor and an R. Taylor recorded, there is no P. Taylor. I have also looked through my VERY expensive Roll of Honour book of the A-B War – “In Memoriam” by Steve Watt, and there is a P. Taylor listed in that, but he died of disease at Ladysmith and was in the Dragoons.'

Peter Taylor died 1st May 1915 at Baguley Sanatorium (Wythenshawe Hospital). George found no record of where Peter was buried, so I checked at Christ Church Timperley with nil result. Then I checked the Family History Soc. of Cheshire CD of Monumental Inscriptions in Altrincham District – nothing listed.

So it is still a mystery.

Keep warm, and best wishes for Christmas.

See you around, Hazel