



## ALTRINCHAM HISTORY SOCIETY

Newsletter No. 6 December 2020.

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Hello Everyone

80 years ago, we would have been heading for the air raid shelters. Remember especially when you are thinking about not having Christmas parties, the bomb that devastated the houses on the corner of Oakfield Road and Moss Lane, Altrincham on the 23<sup>rd</sup> December 1940. There's a plaque there. Also other local victims are on George Cogswell's website

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

**War Memorials Online** I've recently added a couple of photos of the Timperley Parish War Memorial to the website of the War Memorials Trust, and found a couple of Altrincham memorials that I didn't know about. <https://www.warmemorialsonline.org.uk/>

You can search by Location, or by Keyword, e.g. a search for 'Speakman' brings up a map showing Woodlands Road Flyover - with a marker. Change from Map View to List View then click on the entry for more details of 'Speakman's Bridge' plaque. You can easily register to add or edit information, and upload photos.

### From the National Archives.

"We are pleased to announce that we've doubled the monthly limit on free access to digital records from our website, which means you can now download up to 100 records per month. If you haven't explored our digitised collections yet, now is a perfect time to explore, particularly as we approach the Armistice anniversary, as we have thousands of First World War records available to download."

Remember Guy Fawkes - here's his Confession as a Jigsaw [took me about 30 mins. without looking at the crib, HP] <https://www.jigsawexplorer.com/online-jigsaw-puzzle-player.html?url=aHR0cDovL2xpdmVsYi5uYXRpb25hbGFyY2hpdmVzLmdvdi51ay93cC1jb250ZW50L3VwbG9hZHMvMjAyMC8xMS9jb25mZXNzaW9uLmpwZWw~~&color=teal>

**Trafford Local Studies** keep adding interesting stuff to their dedicated website

<https://exploringtraffordsheritage.omeka.net/> Check out The Unicorn Hotel :  
[https://exploringtraffordsheritage.omeka.net/exhibits/show/trafford-pub-crawl/the-unicorn-hotel-in-altrincha?fbclid=IwAR0AWLc0rsAAohXIvmTR5X\\_qIZXYy2u-VOJTAbmpQeWWnhEMHo6WQ9Kg4o0](https://exploringtraffordsheritage.omeka.net/exhibits/show/trafford-pub-crawl/the-unicorn-hotel-in-altrincha?fbclid=IwAR0AWLc0rsAAohXIvmTR5X_qIZXYy2u-VOJTAbmpQeWWnhEMHo6WQ9Kg4o0)

### SPELK !

From Cheshire Gardens Trust newsletter Jan 2017, information from the Caldwell's archives:

"In August 1822, Wilbraham Egerton of Tatton ordered 6 Spelk Baskets. I was pretty sure that was what was written down, but the name was unfamiliar. However, Google came to the rescue. Apparently a Spelk Basket – also known as tatty baskets, tatty swales, oak swales, oak spales, spale-oak, scuttle, slop, skelk, wisket, swill, skep, skulls or sculls – were made from woven wood and used for a huge variety of purposes, including harvesting potatoes. You can watch an oak spelk basket being made in the video at

<https://vimeo.com/107803539> (approximately 2 minutes in, lasting just over 2 minutes).

Advance Notice and fingers crossed.

FAMILY HISTORY FAIR at Manchester Central Library Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2021, 10am-4pm  
[www.mlfhs.org.uk](http://www.mlfhs.org.uk)

**Friends of Bowdon Churchyard** group has been set up by St Mary's Church, Bowdon, to care for the graves in the churchyard and to create a beautiful wildlife friendly green place for visitors. In particular they are looking for people to 'adopt a grave', to keep it clear of growth. There are over 4000 graves in the churchyard, dating from the 17th century onwards, many without anyone to look after them, and including 14 Commonwealth War Graves. If you are interested, contacts are:  
 Website: <https://friendsofbowdonchurchyard.org.uk>  
 Facebook: Friends of Bowdon Churchyard  
 Email: [sredford@friendsofbowdonchurchyard.org.uk](mailto:sredford@friendsofbowdonchurchyard.org.uk)



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Here's an example that needs clearing to read it.

Manchester Architects - information about The Pelican Hotel Timperley  
<https://www.manchestervictorianarchitects.org.uk/buildings/rebuilding-pelican-hotel-manchester-road-west-timperley> NB I found two architect gravestones at Hale Cemetery - Stephen Kemp and Charles Henry Heathcote.

**Cheshire History**

We get a copy of the annual journal of Cheshire Local History Association, as part of AHS membership. The latest has arrived. The main articles are: 'The Evolution of St Boniface Parish Church, Bunbury: faithfully following the fashions (Part 2)'; 'Select documents for local and family historians in the Cheshire Quarter Sessions files, 1571 to 1616: Part 2 [with summary for 1603-04]'; 'George Latham and Bradwall Reformatory School'; 'The rise of John Trevor: editor of *The Chester Chronicle*, public servant and Mayor of Chester, 1861 & 1862'; 'Women Doctors in Cheshire, 1891-1939'; 'Men's Hockey in Cheshire before 1914'; 'Learning the ropes: Parkgate, rope-making, and The Ropewalk'.

If you are interested in having a read, let me know.

**Abermagwr Roman Villa, Ceredigion**

Report of excavations in 2010-15 have been published in *Archaeologia Cambrensis*, Volume 167 (2018), and can be read here: <http://orapweb.rcahms.gov.uk/coflein/6/647060.PDF>

National Monuments Record of Wales, Aberystwyth online record has 100 images to view and several PDF documents, including exhibition panels, to download: [www.coflein.gov.uk/en/site/405315/details/abermagwr-roman-villaabermagwr-romano-british-villa](http://www.coflein.gov.uk/en/site/405315/details/abermagwr-roman-villaabermagwr-romano-british-villa) All the finds from the villa have been deposited in Amgueddfa Ceredigion Museum, Aberystwyth, with the best finds on display. <http://www.ceredigionmuseum.wales/> (That's a Museum that I'm familiar with - check out >Discover >Collections. Worth a personal visit if you manage to visit Aberystwyth sometime. )

Take a **Virtual Tour of Ayton Castle** near Scarborough, with buildings expert Chris Hall  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DvUi4egLegg>

### Have you got . . . ?

Any photos or information about Numbers 8 to 12 Old Market Place, opposite the Orange Tree pub.  
Dr Mike Nevell is writing up a buildings survey report.

Number 12, on the left used to be Michael Duffy estate agents back in the '70s. Altrincham Chamber of Commerce had their office at no. 6a - down the passage between no. 6 and no. 8 (behind the skip). Number 6 of course was Whitwham's shop before it was rebuilt.

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### More from The National Archives - Maps Collection

[http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/maps/?utm\\_source=emailmarketing&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=weekly\\_mailer\\_6\\_aug\\_2020&utm\\_content=2020-11-10](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/maps/?utm_source=emailmarketing&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=weekly_mailer_6_aug_2020&utm_content=2020-11-10)

And a Blog about Noise Pollution in the 1950s & 60s [https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/the-industrial-bedlam-of-modern-](https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/the-industrial-bedlam-of-modern-britain/?utm_source=emailmarketing&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=weekly_mailer_26_november_2020&utm_content=2020-11-30)

[britain/?utm\\_source=emailmarketing&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=weekly\\_mailer\\_26\\_november\\_2020&utm\\_content=2020-11-30](https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/the-industrial-bedlam-of-modern-britain/?utm_source=emailmarketing&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=weekly_mailer_26_november_2020&utm_content=2020-11-30)

National Archives Online Catalogue - Top Level Tips on YouTube

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tu\\_68o\\_mYpo&list=PLddhSH7bW0pVGcxnswdeZpu1DKURt\\_wcAP](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tu_68o_mYpo&list=PLddhSH7bW0pVGcxnswdeZpu1DKURt_wcAP) Our 30 minute expert-led guides on YouTube will show you how to use our online catalogue, First World War and Migration records, and how to start your family history project.

**Towards a National Collection** Collections United is a social media campaign connecting and highlighting the rich and diverse range of cultural heritage collections across the UK. The aim is to bring together material from more than one collection, telling the stories that connect them, and encouraging the public to do the same.

[https://www.nationalcollection.org.uk/?utm\\_source=emailmarketing&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=weekly\\_mailer\\_23\\_july\\_2020&utm\\_content=2020-11-10](https://www.nationalcollection.org.uk/?utm_source=emailmarketing&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=weekly_mailer_23_july_2020&utm_content=2020-11-10)

I think I've mentioned this before, but well worth reminding about **Time Travel TV**. Although aimed at children during the school holidays, there is some good stuff for anyone.

[http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/students/time-travel-tv/?utm\\_source=emailmarketing&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=weekly\\_mailer\\_23\\_july\\_2020&utm\\_content=2020-11-10](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/students/time-travel-tv/?utm_source=emailmarketing&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=weekly_mailer_23_july_2020&utm_content=2020-11-10)

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**Oldfield Lane** from Oldfield Brow to Charcoal Road, Dunham is now closed to vehicles. I drove it last in May, my first time in the car since March 23<sup>rd</sup>, to keep the car battery going, and it was a real country lane with lots of potholes and tall cow parsley leaning in. I've walked it in winter when the hedges are bare and seen how it demonstrates that Altrincham is situated on a hill - you can see down and across to Carrington and the hills beyond.

Only now looking in detail at the Tithe Map of 1839 can I appreciate the layout of the fields. The map shows Oldfield Lane heading west (passing where the entrance to Dunham Forest Golf Club is now) and providing access to fields including three named 'Town Field', each occupied by a different person. It then continues as two dotted lines cutting diagonally across these fields (i.e. unfenced) and at a main field boundary picks up as a lane with boundary hedges/fences, coming out by Big Tree Farm. All this area looks like it was originally open fields, in fact two of the plots are shown divided only by a dotted line, again unfenced. I'll walk it again this winter and explore some of the field paths. [<https://maps.cheshireeast.gov.uk/tithemaps/>]

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**Halton Heritage Partnership** have a virtual museum website, with maps, oral history, videos, heritage walks etc covering the local history of Widnes and Runcorn. [www.haltonheritage.co.uk](http://www.haltonheritage.co.uk)

**Family History** The Institute of Heraldic & Genealogical Studies has Online Tutorials. [www.ihgs.ac.uk](http://www.ihgs.ac.uk). They cost £10 each, but look useful for anyone interested. Here's the list for December.

3/12	Thur	10am	Welsh Research with Gill Thomas
8/12	Tue	10am	"Don't miss the clues" - Case Studies - Overcoming brick walls and Unexpected Journeys
9/12	Wed	10am	Military Records – Service Women
15/12	Tue	10am	How to draw a pedigree using PowerPoint – Advanced Demonstration
15/12	Tue	2pm	Military Records – Service Women

They will last approx 1 to 2 hours, but you need to allow longer to include joining and discussions. Bookings can be made through the online shop. Numbers are limited so please book soon. Tutorials that are over subscribed will be re-scheduled for future date. Book via <https://shop.ihgs.ac.uk/courses/online-tutorials-and-workshops>  
If you have any questions, contact [registrar@ihgs.ac.uk](mailto:registrar@ihgs.ac.uk)

### Recent Queries and Information

Thank you to one of our members who has provided some memories of WW2. His first notes then prompted more memories. With his permission these will appear with others in an Occasional Paper next year. Anyone else have memories of the War?

In response to my suggestions about history of houses, another member has come up with information about 'The Refreshment House' at the corner of Ash Lane and Grove Lane, Hale. A stopping place for walkers and cyclists, it acted as site office for the estate builders in the 1960s.

Last time I asked if anyone had come across a family called Klug. I bought a postcard on Ebay of a house called 'Westerwald' in Timperley - from Klug and family to a Mrs Kocks of 'Aldyne' Leys Lane, Timperley. Well one of our members has replied having done some looking online. The 1901 Census shows William Klug, wife and two children and 2 servants, a cotton goods merchant, born in Germany, and I had missed him in Slater's Directory of Altrincham for 1905. There's no Kocks listed, nor is Leys Lane there in 1905, but the 1910 edition shows Mrs Emily Cox at 'Aldyne', Leys Road. More checking between the directories and the census leads to locating 'Westerwald' at the corner of Park Road and Leys Road, and the house MAY still be there. Needs a personal look to see if it matches the old postcard.

### "Free to good home" - PRINTER INK

Has anyone got an Epson printer that takes the ink with the White Daisy on the pack? My Epson XP312 got knocked and I had to get a new one, and of course the inks are not compatible. I stocked up the last time I bought direct from Epson, so I have a full pack of four cartridges and two extra - yellow and black. Would hate to see them go to waste. Let me know if you can use them. HP



### OH CHRISTMAS !

Well we'll have to have a virtual party, so you'll need to get your own mince pies and food and drinks, but there will still be the Quizzes, although the winners will have to make do with virtual applause (buy your own sweets for prizes).

I'll send out the Questions just before the festive day, and the answers in the New Year.

I saw a text in a charity shop, it said: "*Blessed are the curious, for they shall have adventures.*"

Keep warm, keep well, and stay curious.

Best wishes, Hazel.