

ALTRINCHAM HISTORY SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER No 7 Christmas 2020.

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A brief, seasonal newsletter.

Instead of the usual Christmas party, here are some quizzes including an extended photo quiz, (answers in January). You'll have to decide your own prize !

As far as news of meetings goes, we have cancelled the talks planned for January and February 2021, and will have to wait to see if we can have any face to face meetings later in the year.

'Cast-iron cosiness' National Archives Newsletter, with details about roaring fires.

https://clicks.econnectmail.com/view_online/view_online.php?token2= hGJHeY3rr8VpimMn1NDtPcL_SqMG0ZjmX0HUSNWgvsTojM2XI7vwZyxuNBuVTfssHaitn7poZVz0_ledWLPNA..

Trafford Local Studies Interested in researching your family tree from home?

Due to the current circumstances, Trafford Libraries members can access Ancestry and Find My Past from home for free.

Find out how here: <https://exploringtraffordsheritage.omeka.net/guide-access...>

Altrincham in Parliament!

In WW2, Ricia Kovach's father was a Major in the Home Guard and she has copies of photos of the Altrincham Home Guard including a large one of all the officers. She has sent a copy to MP Graham Brady and she's had a Christmas Card from him to say he's got it on the wall at the House of Commons.

BBC Archive have a recording of a Titanic survivor:

1979: Frank Prentice, an assistant purser on the Titanic, dramatically described how he survived the sinking of the ship. For more archive on the Titanic, you can visit -

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/.../survivors-of-the-titanic/z4t28xs>

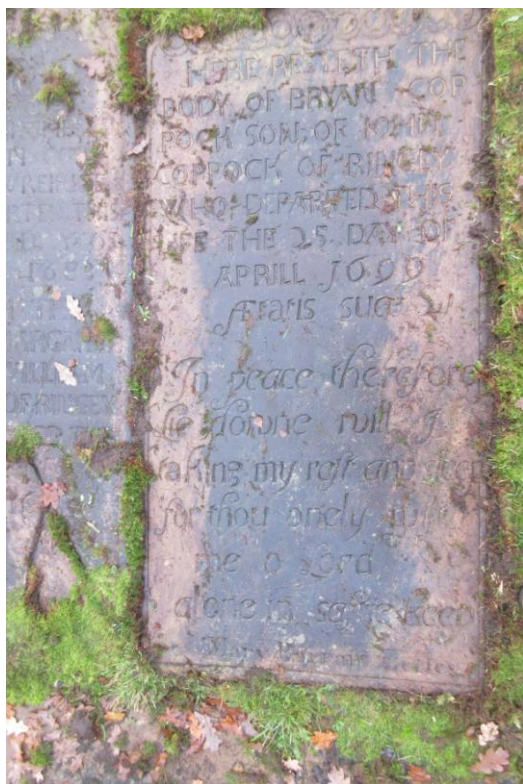
Interesting film on YouTube - "[Mick Aston's Time Traveller Visits Low Ham, Somerset](#)". In this 25 minutes film, Mick uses archaeology, documents and memories of locals to locate a series of houses.

Winter dining with neighbours !

I've been reading the diary of a vicar in Somerset between 1799 and 1818. He was born in 1746 in North Wales and this entry dates from 1809 so he was in his early 60s, and had various ailments.

"Thursday November 30. Dressed myself, and Margaret [daughter] and I went to dinner at the Allen's. . . . We were very long before dinner came in and when it came everything was cold. Mrs Allen manages very well and is a genteel woman but she has got at present a set of Potatoe Headed Zomerzeshire servants and everything was badly dressed, but the provisions were great and elegant. I took some Rhubarb, Magnesia and Ginger before dinner for the pains in my face but after dinner I worked me off very inconveniently. Add to this it rained most terribly and I was obliged to march off with a candle and lantern to find the House in the Garden, through lanes and wet bushes that it was quite unpleasant. At last I found it with some difficulty and while there my candle went almost quite out which alarmed me to a great degree so that I hastened back and with great poring and groping, and running now and then into a wet bush I did find my way back at last, and upon my word if my candle had gone out I know not how I should have got out of the Garden. I was obliged to undertake the same Expedition once or twice and to leave the company for that purpose, which made it quite disagreeable for me tho indeed I was in other respects very well and hope it will do me good. . . . We had a large party but all evening the rain came down in torrents. We supped there and when late I mounted the great horse double coated and Margaret well cloaked and muffled up mounted behind and Sancho [?servant] with a lantern and candle before, we sallied forth. Before we got to bed it was one o'clock."

[Source: Paupers & Pig Killers: the diary of William Holland a Somerset parson 1799-1818; edited by Jack Ayres. Alan Sutton, 1984.]



From the last newsletter - that gravestone at Bowdon has been cleared. You can see where the grass and moss kept it clean, and now we have the whole text:

HERE RESTETH THE
BODY OF BRYAN COP
POCK SON OF IOHN
COPPOCK OF RINGEY
WHO DEPARTED THIS
LIFE THE 25 DAY OF
APRILL 1699
AETATIS SVAE 21

*In peace therefore
lie downe will I
taking my rest and sleep
for thou onely will
me o Lord
alone in saftie keep.*

Best wishes for a peaceful Christmas and a healthy year ahead.