



ALTRINCHAM HISTORY SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER NO. 9 February 2021.

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Hello, I hope you have been warm and dry during the cold snap. The crocuses seem to be doing well despite the weather, so let's hope for no more severe cold.

With this newsletter is an update to the list of publications, with new and forthcoming items.

WW2 Memories (Volume 1) is now available.

For the e-download or to collect a printed copy from Jill's porch - price is £2. (£2.50 plus postage and packing if the printed copy is ordered via GenFair.) See the list for details.

Award for David Miller

For many years David was secretary of the Society, and a great friend of our founder Don Bayliss. David is recipient of the Don Bayliss Annual Award for Civic Excellence 2020 awarded by Altrincham & Bowdon Civic Society at the AGM (by Zoom) in November. Extract from the minutes: "Chair then introduced Judith Miller and her husband David who is this year's recipient of the Don Bayliss Award for Civic excellence. The Chair remarked 'I don't think I am wrong when I say this year's is the one Don's family thinks is the most appropriate'."

"This year the award goes to Local Historian Mr David Miller, for his extensive research on heritage in Altrincham and Bowdon which meant so much to Don Bayliss, and his subsequent highly commended publications that have contributed to local knowledge and education." As the AGM was being conducted via Zoom, the award was presented to David by his wife Judith on behalf of the Society. David said he was honoured and pleased to receive the award particularly as it was connected to his good friend and close associate Don. "It's been a pleasure to write about Altrincham, I have lived here all my life".

March Events

Zoom Talk on Timperley & Broadheath by Alexatours. **10th March 7pm** to 8.15pm. Costs £5.98. Book online through Eventbrite. They will email the zoom details before event.

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/zoom-in-talks-discover-timperley-broadheath-tickets-139312534541?aff=eemailordconf&utm_campaign=order_confirm&ref=eemailordconf&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eventbrite&utm_term=viewevent

I have booked and will be interested to see what Alexandra Fairclough has to say, she was Conservation Officer for Trafford several years ago.

Winter Hill trespass 125th anniversary.

This year is the 125th anniversary of the Winter Hill Mass Trespass. In September there are plans for a march to Winter Hill. An online Public Meeting will take place on **Friday 12 March at 7.30pm**, with speakers Nick Hayes, author of *The book of trespass*, Guy Shrubsole, author of *Who owns England?* and Paul Salvesson, whose research into the 1896 trespass brought the story to public attention in the 1980s. To register for this free meeting email: chris_chilton@hotmail.com

Check out the website for the John Rylands Library. <https://www.library.manchester.ac.uk/rylands/>
Scroll down to find a Pathe News clip from 1935 of the then Librarian discussing the papyrus fragment of St John Gospel, and other 're-tweets'.

If you haven't got a hard copy of **Nickson's 'Bygone Altrincham'** published 1935, there is a copy online here:

<https://www.altrinchamheritage.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Bygone-Altrincham-Traditions-and-History-Charles-Nickson-1935.pdf>

Photos of Altrincham in 1979. Going through old links on my computer I found this, the result of a query from 2013. <https://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/3728431>

Friends of Bowdon Churchyard website <https://friendsofbowdonchurchyard.org.uk/>

On the 'Home' page, scroll down to the bottom to find the **Record of Burials** database.

Click on the yellow Education panel then in 'Educational Resources' to find the stories of people buried there, and if you scroll down to the bottom there's a circle to click on to show where graves are situated on a **plan of the graveyard**.

"The Astronomicals" often had a stall at Timperley Country Fair - Altrincham & District Astronomical Society formed in 1964 - based in Timperley - read their history here

<https://www.astroadas.space/history?fbclid=IwAR0gymr6wf6uOoO8-YlnG1BzE1Ywifyith5BhqrHRoGT30ZcVgbEsceAiHE>

Was there a Poorhouse in Timperley? And if so, where?

Recent work by Jill Groves on the Manorial Courts, (forthcoming Occasional Paper no. 53) prompted me to see what I could find out. There was reference in 1733 to the Overseers of the Poor for Timperley, or their tenants, being instructed to do certain work.

Luckily I had previously looked at the 18th century leases from the Dunham Massey estate for premises in Timperley, and found the Overseers of the Poor, holding 'Timperley Tenement' no.13. The leases don't often mention the names (or location) of smaller holdings, unless they include named fields, which may then (if the names haven't changed) be followed through time to the Tithe Award which lists fields and their occupiers and shows where they were on the map. Otherwise, you can try tracing the occupiers through to the Tithe award, in 1838 for Timperley.

Valuations show that Tenement No. 13 was leased to the Overseers of the Poor from at least 1780 to 1792. Before and after those dates the tenants were individuals. The tenement was described as a house of two bays (basically two rooms) 'in two dwellings' with a garden, and another house of two bays (one dwelling), and a croft - less than quarter of an acre. The first house had 'timber walls, nogged with brick' (brick filling between the timber framing) and both were thatched and 'old, low buildings'. A valuation in 1791 described the second house having 'brick timber and daub walls, old building in bad repair' and thatched. The three cottages were occupied by Esther Bailey, Joseph Smith and Elizabeth Berry in 1780, and three different people in 1791.

By 1824 the lessee was 'Irlam' Burgess by which time the cottages were 'brick and slated' An unusual name and this matches up with the Tithe Award in 1838, when Ellam Burgess leased from the Earl of Stamford three cottages and gardens - Plot numbers 295, 296 and 267, and a field Plot no. 77. So, I checked the Tithe map and located the plots.

Curse the railways! If you go from Timperley village traffic lights along Park Road towards Timperley Station, first you go over a railway bridge near Dudley Road. That, and the later smoothing out of the bend over the bridge have wiped out the site of the cottages, and all that's left of a garden plot is under the playground by the Scout hut. As for Plot no. 77 - a field on Timperley Moss - that is under Skelton Junction, at the rear of St Hugh's RC School, about where Black Bridge crosses the railway lines.

And the Poorhouse? Were the cottages used to accommodate poor people, or were the rents used to provide an income for the Overseers to spend? Further evidence still needed.

A member recently passed on a copy of the Altrincham Guardian for 21 July 1916.

Amongst the reports about the war and casualties of the Somme offensive, here's part of a report about a meeting of Hale Urban District Council. Roads, Libraries and Flooding, sounds familiar.

And if you need a greenhouse boiler . . .

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BROADHEATH **M**ETAL AND
MACHINERY **Y**ARD
(Behind Broadheath Goods Station).
Office: 24, DAVENPORT-ROAD.
Best Prices given for Scrap of any description—
Old Boilers, Engines, Machinery, &c.
A quantity of Second-hand Greenhouse Piping
and Boilers always on stock; Lawn Mowers,
Rollers, &c.
Proprietor, J. F. PARKER. Tel. No. 27, Alt'm.
(ad)

TAR-SPRAYING.

At a meeting of the Highways Committee on the 7th inst. the Surveyor reported the receipt of a letter from the County Surveyor in reply to the application made to him for a grant towards the cost of tar-spraying in the district, informing him that they had granted the Council £26 towards an expenditure of £379 19s. 8d. This was small, but was the first contribution the Council had had.

THE LIBRARY.

The Librarian reported to the Free Library Committee that 21 cards had been issued to new borrowers. There had been no withdrawals, and the total number of borrowers now on the register was 673. One thousand six hundred and seventy-one books had been issued, as compared with 1,229 for the corresponding month last year. The average daily issue was 79, against 53 in June, 1915, and the classification of the issues was: Fiction, 1,577; other works, 94.

STORM WATER FLOODING.

The SURVEYOR reported to the Highways Committee that he had prepared a scheme, the cost of which would only be £75, whereby the flooding of Upper Stamford Park-road and Moss-lane could be remedied.

Lancashire & Cheshire Antiquarian Society

Good stuff available to buy on the website, and access to older Transactions. This is the home page <http://www.landcas.org.uk/index.html> then check out New Publications and Transactions.

April Event [National Archives](#) - Free online Talk on **Weds 14 April at 7.30pm:**

Meet the Author - Alison Weir- **Katheryn Howard: the Tainted Queen.** Alison Weir in discussion with records specialists. Free but you need to book.

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/meet-the-author-alison-weir-katheryn-howard-the-tainted-queen-tickets-140965231803?aff=email&utm_source=emailmarketing&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=weekly_mailer_11_february_2021&utm_content=2021-02-12

News from Cheshire Archives

"Since 2016, we have been working with a small and skilled team of volunteers collaborating online to interpret Latin documents. Latin skills are becoming increasingly rare and having a simplified version of what a document contains in English can speed up a researcher's work immensely.

This project focuses on medieval deeds in our collections. These documents are handwritten and it can be difficult to read what the words say, even before the word can be translated. Therefore, strong palaeography skills are required to interpret them.

During the last few months, we have focused on uploading the completed work to date, to Cheshire Archives & Local Studies catalogue. To see them all in one place you can go to our Trello page. Gaps show work-in-progress and these will be filled as the project progresses. Please note that Google Chrome is the recommended browser for displaying these pages.

Feel free to test your knowledge using these completed deeds and if you think you have what it takes, please get in touch as we would love to have extra help for the project."

(Lots more in the Cheshire Archives Newsletter.)

Time Team - a couple of local episodes now on YouTube, uploaded recently:

"Rubble at Mill, Manchester" S13 Ep3 with Dr Mike Nevell.

"The Abbey Habit (Poulton Cheshire)" S14 Ep12

Elizabethan garden layout found on route of HS2

I've recently been getting posts on Facebook from the Smithsonian Magazine. All very interesting, and I don't have time to read them, but here's one that interested me.

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/remains-elaborate-elizabethan-garden-found-180976873/?fbclid=IwAR1g-xP6zy19imgwWeFPIIbumVO-JONNfwPj7XxUmZYSDqk0FitQN2-Uk0o#.YBQkokGtaxQ.facebook>

Zoom Talks on Archaeology

Information from STAG - "Through Eventbrite I have discovered some free Zoom talks to be given at **5pm on Thursdays** through lockdown that might interest members. They are by James Wright an experienced buildings archaeologist and engaging speaker. I watched the first one on 'Castles for Beginners' yesterday with over 250 others, several from the US and 1 from Brazil! He will decide from week to week what his talk will be but another is on Medieval Stonemasons."

To try one of his talks, search TRISKELE HERITAGE to find his company webpage. Scroll down and click on the 'Broadcasting' header and scroll down to 'Behind the Trowel' - you can view the '*15th Century Medieval Castles*' video. And there's another about the National Trust and archaeology.

His Zoom talks are free but need to be booked. The easiest way to do this is on the 'Recent Posts' panel on the webpage. Clicking on the talk title will take you to a page with a description of the talk and a link to Eventbrite, to book. Once bookings are registered James Wright will send an e-mail with a link to the talk.

The Dig

Recent film 'The Dig' is about the finding and excavating of the Sutton Hoo ship burial. I watched it on Netflix with my neighbour (in our bubble). Then found something to complement it on YouTube entitled "Sutton Hoo Maarer" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6NTfxpre-J8>

After a brief introduction it is a 1965 film including interviews with the people involved then including Basil Brown. It's about 50 minutes long (ignore what it says on the YouTube time, it repeats.) If you have access to Netflix, I would suggest watching 'The Dig' first, then the 1965 film.



Another American connection.

After last Month's piece about the Bishop of the Yukon, here's my latest from Timperley. Looking at the fungi last October - I found a stone I had not noticed before.

In Loving memory of
Mary Margaretta
widow of
The Rev. B. R. Gifford
of Wood's Holl., Mass. USA.
Born Sept 14th 1826
Died Oct 4th 1894.

An internet search for Wood's Holl., came up with Wood's Hole, Massachusetts, and a museum there with a collection of records relating to the Gifford family, and there are Gifford relations still living in Wood's Hole. But a puzzle as to why Mary is buried at Timperley. Born in Somerset, she married at Taunton in 1873. Not on the 1881 Census in England, so presumably living in USA, and returned when widowed? In 1891 she was a visitor at The Rectory in Chipstable, Somerset, and may have been staying with the Timperley vicar when she died.

Keep warm, keep well, and maybe, *maybe* we'll be allowed to see each other in warmer days.
Fingers crossed. Best wishes, Hazel.