



ALTRINCHAM HISTORY SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER NO. 10 March 2021

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Hello again, and welcome to some new members. Here's the next batch of news and bits and pieces that may be of interest.

Firstly, we managed to have a committee meeting by Zoom, an interesting experience, with all six of us managing to communicate, in different ways. We discussed the practicalities of offering talks to members via Zoom, but with the possibility of maybe having actual meetings from the autumn, this was put on hold for now. Our secretary Eleanor and I attended a 'webinar' last week on 'Using Zoom for Local History' by the BALH (British Assoc for Local History), which showed us how it could be done, lots to think about. We decided to postpone the AGM from May until at least September, to be reviewed of course. We hope for a 'face to face in the garden' committee meeting in mid-April.

Chris Hill has pointed out that 2023 is the **700th anniversary of Altrincham's second Charter**, and wondered whether it would be fitting to mark this in 2 years' time by resurrecting Altrincham's 'Sanjam Fair'. Chris was involved in the 700th celebration of the 1290 Charter, which involved mounted knights from Camelot theme park in an opening parade in January 1990 and a jousting display on the Devisdale in the June. Other societies would need to be involved, and events and venues sorted out.

Events in April:

Wills and will-making in medieval England: insights on daily life.

Saturday 17th April 2021 10.00am - 11.30am with a 10 minute break - **on Zoom**

Tutor: Dr John Hunt, BA, PhD, FSA, FRHistS, PGCE

In normal times Portcullis History runs one-day courses, mainly on Medieval History in Warwickshire.

"In a series of three online sessions (the first of which will be free of charge) we will explore the character of medieval wills and their value as historical sources, as well as the process of will-making in medieval England. The first session will provide an overview of the development of will-making, including the evidence of Anglo-Saxon wills. Subsequent sessions will be focussed on case studies dealing with a rare example of a thirteenth century peasant's will, and with various later medieval wills made by members of the aristocracy, gentry, churchmen and others."

If you would like to take part, please notify Karen by email (portcullishistory@gmail.com) **not later than Mon April 5th** so that she can make the arrangements and ensure that you are able to participate.

Check website www.portcullishistory.com For more information and events.

Talks by the Gardens Trust starting Tuesday 6th April - £5 each or £20 for the series of five

<https://thegardenstrust.org/events-archive/page/2/?events=gardenstrust>

The Gardens Trust are running a series of online talks exploring garden archaeology. Discover what garden archaeology is and how it is done, looking at various sites such as the water gardens at Packwood House, Seaton Delaval and Beningbrough Halls and some lost wonders in Oxfordshire.

Join us for this series of 5 online talks which starts on **Tuesday April 6th** at 10.

The talks will all be recorded and available for a week, so that you can listen again at your leisure. The Trust also has talks on Gardens in Wales.

Online Talk: Below Stairs: Servants at Elizabeth Gaskell's House

Wed 7th April 7-8pm Tickets £4

Victorian households had a strict class hierarchy but was it really all like Downton Abbey? What did servants do on a daily basis and what was a life 'in service' like? The middle classes often complained

of the 'Servant Problem' but how were relations between the Gaskell family and their servants at 84 Plymouth Grove? Find out more in this revealing talk by Anthony Burton.

The talk will be approx 45 mins long, with time for a short question session afterwards

<https://elizabethgaskellhouse.co.uk/events/online-talk-below-stairs-servants-at-elizabeth-gaskells-house/> Lynda Jackson, Events Coordinator, 0161 273 2215

Festival of Bowland talks on Zoom include:

SAWLEY ABBEY: THE BUILDINGS AND PEOPLE OF A MEDIEVAL MONASTERY

Wednesday 21st April, 6.30 - 8pm

Dr Michael Carter, Senior Properties Historian at English Heritage, examines the insights the abbey's ruined buildings provide into the evolution of the monk's way of life over 400 years.

For more information and to book a place please email: sandra_silk@lancashire.gov.uk

Not sure about the cost.

Wythenshawe Hall Restoration wins Civic Trust Award, March 2021.

The fire in 2016 damaged the oldest, most significant parts of the building including the roof-space and bell-tower as well as the decoratively panelled ground and 1st floor rooms. The ornate plasterwork, leaded windows and wall paintings were also damaged and had to be replaced/ repaired. Watch a video virtual tour,

<https://buttress.net/wythenshawe-hall-wins-national-civic-trust-aabc-conservation-award/> About 14 minutes long, with sub-titles.

Trafford Local Studies - Heritage Trails for Children - Altrincham

https://exploringtraffordsheritage.omeka.net/items/show/2849?fbclid=IwAR000EeVmS1FoGsjr5_rUrrvFa6m4yOQAUyZCOBg55PMj9IJK1bMPEi1BN4

Basic and brief - I expect you to know all of this. Try some of the other trails that may not be as familiar. I'm going to do the one for Ashton-on-Mersey.

Regional Heritage Centre Newsletter.

<https://www.alumni.lancs.ac.uk/emailviewonwebpage.aspx?erid=7397317&trid=c11978bd-81b3-4007-9104-d3f60f7a4f50> The Heritage Centre is based at Lancaster University, so emphasis is on Lancashire, but always interesting. The University runs a distance learning Certificate in Regional and Local History, if anyone feels like learning more. I did my Certificate in Local History at Manchester Uni by evening class back in the 1970s. Well worth the effort.

The Wheatsheaf pub, Church St. Altrincham.

A Planning application was placed in December for conversion of the pub into apartments. I made some comments about the plans, and following on from that and a discussion with Trafford's Conservation Officer, a condition was placed that a Building Survey should be done before work started. Myself and Dr Mike Nevell and Jane Darwin from STAG visited and partly explored inside, with difficulty, as the windows were all boarded up and the electricity turned off. (Also Mike wouldn't let me past the part where the floor was missing!) Interesting thoughts followed as to the development of the building, and currently a report is in progress; and I'm waiting to get back into John Rylands Library to check in the Dunham Massey Papers. The application number is 100021/FUL/20. The Heritage Statement with the planning documents is interesting. Go to <https://publicaccess.trafford.gov.uk/online-applications/> and where it says: Enter a keyword, ref no, etc. put in 100021 and Search. Then click on 'Documents (94)' and scroll right down to 'Heritage Statement', then click on the symbol on the right to view it. You can skip all the policy stuff, and look at the good maps and photos.

Deserted cottages of Snowdonia - an article about abandoned dwellings in the landscape

<https://www.dailypost.co.uk/news/north-wales-news/lost-cottages-snowdonia-conwy-ales-19347885?fbclid=IwAR0tqylzMDu3MFsMEwuXck0ZWkBRPAG48FYaK3SNWj3YXY83UUL6-t8SMvQ>

'The Story of Welsh Art' on BBC4 - look on BBC iplayer for this 3 part series. In the first part there's an aerial shot of the Anglesey coastline about 3 minutes in, followed by a look inside Barclodiad y Gawres burial chamber with 5,000-year-old rock art. Part 3 has 20th & 21st century artists. I found the series really interesting, being familiar with some of the places, but not with Welsh art and artists.

Historic Ink ! National Archives newsletter from British Science Week 11 March '21.

https://clicks.econnectmail.com/view_online/view_online.php?token2= hGJHeY3rr8VpimMn1NDtPcL_SqMG0ZjmX0HUSNWgvsElbgdu3awVEcR5XeL_W7noVUdeXWrqxbq3Q5Y9YZEA..

"**Iron gall ink** was first mentioned by Pliny the Elder in AD23 and was the most common ink for writing and drawing in Europe from the 5th to the 19th century. We have millions of historical papers and parchment documents written in iron gall ink, including famous documents such as Domesday Book, Shakespeare's Will and the confession of Guy Fawkes. Discover how we preserve and treat these fragile documents in our collection in our blog."

1911 Census Occupations - 'Stamper of letters and pictures on balloons' at Rubber Works.

As a by-product from family history work, my sister found two families in Orchard Place, Timperley village (houses no longer there), which had members working in the 'Rubber Works'. A 17 year old girl was the 'Stamper' and her 20 year old sister's occupation was 'Fixing [something?] to balloons and other toys'.

Another family had two daughters at the Rubber Works, one age 24 - a 'Packer in Store Room', the other, 21, a 'Rubber Spreader'. Now I'm curious about the Rubber Works -

Slater's Directory 1910 classified list has Rubber Manufacturers - Joseph Harris & Son, Viaduct Rd, Broadheath. Then in the Alphabetical section it has Joseph Harris & Son, Advertising Balloon Company, Broadheath Rubber works, Viaduct Rd. The 1910 OS map shows 'Rubber Works' in the triangle where Halfords is, between Viaduct Road and the canal in the narrow angle the end.

Latest National Archives Newsletter - All about the **Census**

https://clicks.econnectmail.com/view_online/view_online.php?token2= hGJHeY3rr8VpimMn1NDtPcL_SqMG0ZjmX0HUSNWgqv3m5As3eLvT-rzbQ7b4F5H8V4EvKUufRmkCVSeJ7B2Fw..

Cheshire County Memorial Project, includes roll of honour, war memorials, some details of those killed. County Memorial Roll 22,531 People listed under WW1. 6,534 From WW2. 13 From the Boer War. Other conflicts 28 and 932 Civilians. In total 30,038 are listed in The Cheshire Roll Of Honour.

www.cheshireroll.co.uk

For our area much of this information is covered and expanded in the Trafford War Dead website, but if you have war dead from elsewhere in the (old) county have a look, and perhaps contribute.

Using British Newspaper Archive digitised online

I'm still searching for anything about Clibrans, the nurserymen, but often the scanning will read letters incorrectly, so now I have to search for Gilbran and Olibran as well. Here are a couple of recent search results from 1895, they are relevant, as I can identify garbled versions of - 'Wm Clibran & Son, Oldfield Nurseries, Altrincham':

.. Uiouaaod. Oatalogor. Poraat Traaa aad Bncuba. Oraata-aUI Rrergcrca. Rh dodradroer. Hardy OUaMeg Plaeu, Gamai't, Mdllae WM. **OLIBRAN** & SON OLDPI KUO BCRBRMtRB, ALTRISCBiH, 810 WORTH .-DOR AX! for D'IRAX, Magba! Vaablag wdar. aad Claara Um bardaat waUr. Tha ...

And this one:

PLANTING BBABON [?PLANTING SEASON]

... «MMOTAUUATHt» nUTBT. to., to.. lto lto. M. pu ioo. EOkm, Mtoli* pl.toiof. to to. p«*- eookßßMiin. ccbbakt*. PIMto ky WM. **OLIBRAN** A 808 OLDPIELD VCUHlinB. ADTHUCB**.

I found some other strange ones but think they were actually in Irish Gaelic, from The Cork Daily Herald, and you get some in Welsh. But both these examples are from *The Northwich Guardian*. I presume the print is very poor on the original paper, so without paying for the full copy, and trying to decipher it, I don't know what they were about!

Chetham's Library - has informative blogs online, check out "Another one bites the dust"

<https://thetollerrhall.chethams.com/5BNR-BWAA-700D50288EEC55481TCFQX4181C3F81B65E3BA/cr.aspx>

Lancashire & Cheshire Antiquarian Society is looking for articles for the next edition of its journal no.113.

Click the link below to see entries in no 112 for guidance if you should like to contribute.

<http://www.landcas.org.uk/newpublications.html>

New Book by Geoff Scargill who gave us a talk on 'Edward Watkin: The Railway King' in 2018 and led a visit to Rosehill in Northenden. His book, 'Victoria's Railway King', which has just been published by Pen&Sword is available through all good booksellers and online through Amazon, Hive Books and the publishers, at special introductory offers. Website: www.pen-and-sword.co.uk There is a Facebook page ('Victoria's Railway King') and a video on YouTube with the same title. ISBN: 9781526792778 | HARDBACK | 216 PAGES | £19.99

Use code AUTH30 for 30% discount off the RRP.

A recent enquiry passed on via STAG, led to thoughts of our **local utilities!**

"There is what looks like an old gas lamp post on the edge of the football fields on Grove Lane, Timperley, opposite the chip shop. It seems to be in a very poor state, with holes appearing in the metal work. If it has some historical significance, it would be a pity to let it just rot away."

I put a query on Facebook group 'Memories of Timperley' and got the answer from several members of the group.

It is what is known as a '**stink pipe**' - a sewer vent to reduce gas pressure in the sewerage system. Someone mentioned another one near Pickering Lodge park. And then on one of my walks I spotted one on Moss Lane opposite Wellington School. They were made by Adams Ltd. of York.

Timperley had sewers laid from about 1860 onwards, so I don't know how old they are, or about the 'historical significance'. Anyone got more information? Keep your eyes open for others around the area.



It's amazing what you think of just before going to sleep. Songs from childhood. Anyone else remember these or want to add any? Sung in the car going to Anglesey - an all day journey in the 1950s.

When the red, red robin goes bob bob bobbing along. My Bonnie lies over the ocean.

Bobby Shafto. There was an old lady who swallowed a fly.

Hi diddle um come tarum tantrum through the town of Ramsey (The Tailor & the Mouse).

Go tell Aunt Rhody. And of course, Old MacDonald.

Looking forward to warmer days, longer walks and work in the garden.

Enjoy the sunshine and keep reading and watching history.

Best wishes, Hazel.