

ALTRINCHAM HISTORY SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER No. 22 June 2022

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Hello everyone,

Here we are again with some bits and pieces and events that might be of interest.

Don't forget we have a visit planned to Norton Priory on Friday 17th June. If you haven't yet booked, there may still be places, so contact Eleanor Rogers. One of our members who can't make the date has already visited and enjoyed the priory and the cafe and walled garden.

Chester Heritage Festival - 17th - 27th June 2022 - Lots of events

Fri 17th June - Chester Racecourse Tour - £5, book ahead

Sun 19th Midsummer Watch Parade

Record Office tour; Book Conservation in Action; 2000 Years of Building walk - several dates;

Mediaeval Architecture Cathedral Tour - several dates; Port of Chester Walk;

Lunchtime Recital at St John the Baptist - one of a series of recitals each Wednesday May to September;

Sat 25th or Sun 26th June - Medieval Times at Chester Castle - free drop-in - re-enactors & musicians.

[Chester Castle is only open for special events or group bookings.]

This year there'll be walks, talks, films, a heritage cruise, fairs, entertainments and more as we tell the story of our city and its people over two millennia.

Details of events and booking: <https://www.chesterheritagefestival.co.uk/events22>

Manchester Festival of Libraries 15th - 19th June - more details here:

<https://www.manchestercityofliterature.com/project/manchester-libraries-festival/>

Exhibition - 'Who built Wythenshawe: The forgotten story of Ernest and Shena Simon and the creation of Manchester's Garden City' **21st May - 2nd July 2022**, at The Forum Library, Wythenshawe.

The exhibition is on the history of Wythenshawe and the fascinating lives of the somewhat forgotten social reformers Ernest and Shena Simon. The Simons played an instrumental part in realising Wythenshawe's development as a garden city to provide better housing for the tens of thousands of families previously forced to live in Manchester's slums. Ernest Simon was a pioneering industrialist, politician and housing reformer whilst Shena Simon was a leading feminist and campaigner for educational reform who served on the education committee of Manchester City Council for over 40 years. The exhibition is richly illustrated with historic photographs, plans and newspaper clippings unearthed from the archives

'Broadheath: the world's first industrial park' - Friday 24th June 7.30pm a talk by Charlotte Starkey at HQ of STAG (South Trafford Archaeology Group) - at rear of Old Hall Hotel, Timperley

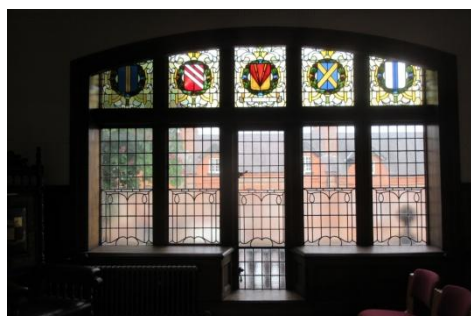
The National Archives has a sale on - 3 for 2 - on Shire Books - lots of topics

https://clicks.econnectmail.com/view_online/view_online.php?token2=hGJHeY3rr8VpimMn1NDtPcL_SqMG0ZjmX0HUSNWgvtD8TVYKYK5iTbaXUpQPvso965Mv_TuVxYeKKVQEZHGG..

Cheshire Record Office - Saturday Opening Returns. The Record Office will be restarting Saturday opening on a trial basis. It will be open from 9am to 4pm on 21st May, 16th July, 17th September and 19th November. Please contact CALS if you would like to reserve a space.

<https://www.cheshirearchives.org.uk/home.aspx>

At the AGM, Judie Collins gave us an update regarding **Altrincham Town Hall**. Trafford Council have it on a list of premises 'for disposal'. Altrincham & Bowdon Civic Society has applied for an Architectural Heritage Grant. This will be for legal advice etc. The children's nursery 'Juice' may be interested in extending into the rest of the town hall, and the Civic Society hope to talk with them about the use of the council chamber, including our meetings.



Have you noticed the windows in the council chamber were all by the same maker - George Wragge of Salford / Manchester. I couldn't get to the high ones, but all the others are by him including the stairs windows, and even the knobs on the stays have his name.



Altrincham Town Hall - more about the architect and design, (link provided by Lis Lewis, Trafford's Conservation Officer.)

<https://www.archiseek.com/2014/1898-design-town-hall-altrincham-cheshire/>

Cheshire Archives and Local Studies' are publishing their most recent [Railways blog](#). *Making the Crossing: The Chester to Holyhead Railway* continues the story of Cheshire's railways with one of its most important lines, and covers one of Britain's earliest rail tragedies. The blog is

at <http://cheshirero.blogspot.com/2022/05/making-crossing-chester-to-holyhead.html>

Part 1 of the blog, **All Change at Crewe**, is still available at <http://cheshirero.blogspot.com/2022/04/all-change-at-crewe.html>.

Trafford Local Studies is one of nine archives to receive funds from the National Archives Archive Testbed Fund, to help us celebrate **Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee!**

'The Trafford Local Studies Centre is thrilled to receive funding from the Archives Testbed Fund. The awarded funding will go towards a project that aims to drastically extend our archive display programme, by placing Jubilee and Coronation-themed archive displays in each of Trafford's libraries, as well as within Trafford's residential neighbourhoods. We hope that this project will enable us to reach new audiences, test new ways of engaging with our communities, and maximise the visibility of our service. This project is a new and exciting way for us to bring our archives to life. Each local library will receive a selection of original archive material pertaining to a historic coronation or jubilee celebration to go on display. Trafford's neighbourhoods will also benefit with historic images from Jubilee street party celebrations being displayed on lamppost banners in the neighbourhoods where they were taken. QR codes will link these banners back to our department website, where a full Jubilee exhibition and contemporary collecting programme will encourage residents to learn more and get involved in the programme. We're excited to see the impact this project will have, and the meaningful connections we'll make with our residents!' – Meghan MacGabhann, Local Studies and Archives Manager

[Cheshire History Scapes](#) Some interesting stories on this website: Kermincham Deer Park, Macclesfield Street Names, and lots more. Posted by Claire Moore, local history researcher.

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

'Rare old Stingo'

I've been sorting through some notes and came across this reference from a book by Fletcher Moss 'Pilgrimages (to old homes) in Cheshire & Shropshire', published in 1901. He was offered "... some good old Cheshire cheese, rare old stingo that was with difficulty kept on a deep dish". He mentioned a fire-eating Tory who was offered this for supper and "turned pale and retreated, for all the fight oozed out of him at the sight and smell of the luscious cheese."

Grisly tales behind the Peak District's highest pub - The Cat and Fiddle

<https://www.derbytelegraph.co.uk/news/local-news/grisly-tales-behind-peak-districts-6419231>

Landscape History - Why does that field look like it does? Why does that road have a funny kink? Find out more about the history of the landscape - with Chester Society for Landscape History - a couple of the latest Newsletters are available online.

<http://www.chesterlandscapehistory.org.uk/default.html>

The Battle of Bosworth - Another recent *History Hits* video on YouTube. Look for "These incredible archaeological finds have relocated Bosworth Battlefield." 30 minutes long. (It might be worth reading up a bit of background, if you are keen to work out the geography, and the 'dramatis personae'.)

Celebrating **Charles Tunnicliffe**, Cheshire born artist - an article from Cheshire Record Office.

<http://cheshirero.blogspot.com/2022/05/spring-has-sprung-with-tunnicliffe.html>

A couple of contrasting churches to look at if you are out and about in North Wales. Not far from Corwen and not far off the A5, you will need to check the times for **Llangar Old Parish Church**, only open one weekend a month May to October. Not far off the A5, but you have to park in a lay-by and walk about 300 yards down a lane - tarmac, then stones, then grass. Llangar has ancient wall paintings including a 'doom' (the skeleton with a scythe) facing the entrance, and the first thing you see !

<https://cadw.gov.wales/visit/places-to-visit/llangar-old-parish-church>



As a contrast 17th century **Rug Chapel** was built as a private chapel, and escaped the Victorian restorers. It has detailed timberwork, painting and tiles. Both are CADW properties, and Rug charges entrance. Check out opening times for both.

<https://cadw.gov.wales/visit/places-to-visit/rug-chapel>
Rug Chapel has a car park. And Rug Farm Shop is nearby.

It's a few years since I visited Llangar on a showery October day, wasn't sure I was going down the correct lane, but got there, with the sound of the River Dee rushing just below. No-one else there, just me (and the skeleton.)

Ships Captured from the French - National Archives project.

Court records revealing the details of 1,500 ships captured during the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic wars are now searchable online for the first time. Uploaded as part of our Prize Papers project, the digital copies of 55 case books relate to ships seized by the British between 1793 and 1815. Teams have been working to catalogue the contents of 4,088 boxes, including 160,000 undelivered letters, logbooks, ships papers and bills, poems, drawings, fabrics and playing cards, confiscated from 35,000 ships during 14 wars between 1652 and 1817. More details and start searching the papers here: <https://www.prizepapers.de/>

Remarkable old Welsh house (Can't remember if I have already mentioned this.)

<https://rcahmw.gov.uk/yma-o-hyd-still-here-celebrating-on-st-davids-day-500-years-of-a-remarkable-welsh-house/> More technical details here and extra photos: <https://coflein.gov.uk/en/site/29163/>

Timperley Dealer Fined - An Irish Cattle Incident

At Altrincham Sessions, before T.W. Killick (presiding), Mr. R.F. Riddick, Mr W.G. Taylor, Mrs Brogden Carter and the Earl of Stamford - John Riley of Wash Lane, Timperley was summoned for removing six Irish cattle from Salford Imported Cattle Market to the Pelican Field, Timperley, and failing to produce or send to the police the licence granted for such movement at Timperley, between July 17th and 24th.

Defendent's man forgot to take the licence to the sergeant at the police station. The licence was sent six or seven days after it should have been received. Provisions of the Order made it necessary for the police to supervise the cattle for six days after their arrival and so this could not be done. Defendent was fined 20/-. [newspaper cutting dated 17th August 1923].

Notes: Riley's farm was on Park Road, Timperley where St Hugh's R.C. School is now. At that time there was Foot and Mouth disease in Ireland, hence the precautions.

A bit of a Shock? I came across a note I made back in 1975, turned it over to see what scrap paper I had used and found it was part of a form for a fancy dress competition for children. It said: 'Please Help Support Your Local Spastics Centre'. It struck me how things have changed. I think it was for The Rowans on Navigation Road.

War, Crops and Inflation - nothing new. Records from the 1790s at the National Archives show the effect of war with France on the supply of grain.

https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/war-crops-and-inflation-nothing-new/?utm_source=emailmarketing&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20_weekly_mailer_26_may_22&utm_content=2022-05-30

Remember Rackham's shop in Altrincham, now closed. The House of Fraser Archive is housed at Glasgow University, and now a website has got outline stories of the companies involved, and you can browse a list of products from a range of catalogues and adverts mainly those from Army & Navy Stores. Mind you, this is a catalogue not the actual records. <https://housefraserarchive.ac.uk/>

Do you use Facebook? How about other 'social media'? I use Facebook to keep in touch with family, and I joined a local 'Memories' group. There is some interesting information about the 1950s, 60s, and even the 1940s, from people's memories. How reliable the details are is another matter, but often someone else will comment and give alternative stories. Sometimes there are rare one-off photos. All this would count as a future source for social history. Letters and diaries have always been sources for history, but fewer people are communicating that way now. Do people save any photos or information from 'social media'? I can't remember when I last wrote a (social) letter other than at Christmas, but I always print out most of my digital photos.

Her Majesty the Queen's Jubilee

To commemorate Queen Victoria's *Diamond* Jubilee, Timperley Parish Council had limited powers, but appointed a sub-committee to consider acquiring a Recreation Ground by gift or subscription. The site had to be at least two acres. The intention was 'to leave the land in a state of nature and not to lay it out.'

Individual subscribers provided over £600, and in 1898 the money was used to buy a site from Thomas Brooks. Costs included iron fencing and gates, and garden seats. Later more seats were donated, swings added and trees planted. The land became the Jubilee Recreation Ground, known locally as 'The Rec'. It is now occupied by the sports field and running track of the Altrincham Athletics Club, and the children's play area now known as the 'helicopter park' (from the climbing frame there), next to the Scout HQ opposite Dudley Road.

I don't suppose we will be buying another field for Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee, so maybe I'll just take a picnic to the helicopter park. Whatever you are doing, enjoy this once-in-a-very-long-time event, maybe take some photos, and *print them out*.

Best wishes, Hazel