



ALTRINCHAM HISTORY SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER No. 48 March 2026

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Hello everyone,

Please note - change of speaker – our speaker for **14th April** on the Battle of Nantwich has had to cancel, but we have found an alternative speaker - Paul Wright who will talk about The Battle of Winwick in 1648.

Here are reminders of some exhibitions and events that you might be interested in, some articles online and bits of local history.

Talking of articles – we are looking for articles for the AHS Journal next issue in August. Have you been following up an interest, or come across some fascinating detail? Articles can be longer or short or very short. Also do you have any projects or research that could be printed as an occasional paper? Contact Jill Groves for a chat about getting your work published by the society.

We are currently booking speakers for next season, and if you have any suggestions, please let us know.

What's On

Fri 13th & Sat 14th March 'Roman Finds and Research from Wales & The West' – 2 day conference at Grosvenor Museum Chester, Friday afternoon and all day Saturday. Cost for non-members of the Roman Finds Group (RFG) is £32. Includes a reception on Friday 5pm-7pm and tour of the latest exhibition at Grosvenor Museum, and one year's membership of RFG. If you are interested, check out this link for details of the programme of speakers and how to book. <https://romanfindsgroup.org.uk/event/rfg-spring-conference-2026-recent-roman-finds-and-research-from-wales-and-the-west/>

Thursday 26th March 2026 Friends of Bowdon Churchyard Open evening and AGM from 7.30pm to 9pm at Bowdon Parish Centre (near the church). Includes talks on researching the background and history of the people buried there, and refreshments.

Looking ahead

Cheshire Local History Association 2026 Programme

Monday 20 April 2pm in Chester

'Delving in Delamere Forest: a Medieval Glassworking Site at Risk'

Talk by Stewart Ainsworth, Landscape Investigator (of Time Team)

At the Blue Coat School, Chester, 2pm to be followed by the AGM

Exhibitions

National Strike 1926 - 100th Anniversary – Exhibition at The Working Class Museum Library opens in May.
<https://wcml.org.uk/news/general-strike-100-national-partnership-and-exhibition/>

Exhibition Reminders

14th February to 12th July 2026 at The Grosvenor Museum, Chester

'Chester Amphitheatre: an 8000 year story' finds from the dig in 2000s.

More exhibitions, and children's activities and events and lots more information on the website

<https://westcheshiremuseums.co.uk/> Includes The Saltworks and Weaver Hall.

Spies, Lies and Deception- exhibition at IWM North – Nov 2025 **until August 2026** – free, family friendly exhibition about deception and espionage from WW1 to the present day. See the stories of spies including Noor Inayat Khan and Eddie Chapman, and the tools of their trade. Details here:

<https://www.iwm.org.uk/events/spies-lies-and-deception-iwm-north>

Local Heritage Listing

If you can remember back HP and a few other members were involved in compiling the list of local heritage assets for Trafford. It's been four years and public consultation has now closed, but you can check out the Draft List here, scroll down to 'Related'.

<https://trafford.citizenspace.com/place/list-of-local-heritage-assets/>

There is already a short list of additions, that were identified after the closing date, these can be added later.

The Barrington Hotel – May have been originally a farmhouse – the 2 storey part.



Historic England Listed Buildings newly listed in 2025. This link takes you to 199 new listings and a selected 19 structures, including the Renolds Building at UMIST, a smockmill, a wreck from 1903 and Three cast iron road signposts in Ashley.

https://historicengland.org.uk/whats-new/news/19-remarkable-places-granted-protection-in-2025/?gad_source=0&gad_campaignid=23362331686&gclid=Cj0KCQiA6Y7KBhCkARIsAOxhqtNTsvqG3mFPrMlvBBcDcS5zgfLNRfB6xeuDtzxEse5ODpfWvyKwLUaAsbFEALw_wcB

From North Wales –

19th century lead mines under Llandudno, tunnels and shafts of Ty Gwyn mine.

<https://www.dailypost.co.uk/whats-on/whats-on-news/lost-world-hidden-tunnels-lead-33002847> An interesting article. Keep scrolling down past other stories.

Poor Law Records for Cheshire My sister has been doing the family history again and came up with a query for me. In the Cheshire Quarter Sessions poor law files from the 1740s there was mentioned that someone was sent to another parish by “double horse”- anyone got any idea what this means?

These files are found on GENUKI - <https://www.genuki.org.uk/big/eng/CHS/poorlaw>. There are 163 pages of extracts from the Quarter Session files. It is stressed they are free to look at, and you can quote them, but must also use the reference e.g. [QJF 159/1/12]. Lots of bastardy records, for example no 26 on the list, or no. 156. You can use 'Find' to search for places as well as names. Interesting cases about Settlement (where a person was settled to receive poor relief) e.g. no. 869. Also apprenticeships, see no.1519.

No.1519 APPRENTICESHIP dated 22 April 1745. Notice of intent to vacate and set aside an indenture of apprenticeship binding Jane Hardey otherwise Egerton a bastard child daughter of John Hardey of Altrincham clockmaker and Mary Egerton now wife of the said John Hardey to Benjamin Downs of Baguley yeoman. Notice given by William Barlow surviving overseer of the poor of the township of Baguley. Proved 23 April 1745. [QJF 173/1/76] More on settlement – vagrants returned to ‘their’ place of settlement, and here are the ‘double horses’ - No. 842 VAGRANTS passed away from the House of Correction at Nantwich since the 15 July 1740 by John Wicksted master of the said house: 31st July: Margt Alcock and three children from the burrough of Newbury in Berkshire to Warrington in Lancashire sent to Manchester, two double horses; William Macdenold wife and daughter from Suffolk to the parish of Clune in Ireland sent to Chester, one double horse; Charles Slade and his brother John Slade from Hertford to Chester a double horse.

Here's the effect of the fighting in 1745 - No. 1735 SETTLEMENT EXAMINATION dated 10 March 1745/6. Mary Morgan widow. She was married to William Morgan a soldier in the Honourable Colonel Legouier's [?Ligonier] Regiment of Horse and that about three months ago her said husband Willm Morgan died at Birmingham on his march for Scotland And this deponent further says that she frequently heard her said late husband William Morgan declare that his settlement was in the parish or township of Poole in Dorsetshire. Mary X Morgan. VAGRANCY PASS dated 10 March 1745/6. Mary Morgan widow Henry and Dorothy her children were apprehended in the township of Boughton wandering and begging there, to be conveyed to the parish of Poole. [QJF 174/1/155&156]

No. 1075 example of a Wife of a soldier conveyed from House of Correction to House of Correction from Carlisle to Middlewich. [QJF 169/4/103&104]

News

Baguley Hall was on the BBC News.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cdjmn4r8740> “Baguley Hall in Wythenshawe, which was built in the 14th Century, was sold by Historic England to charity, Heritage Trust North West, in November [2025]. Michael Guy, the charity's chief executive, said: "They needed somebody to help open it up to the community, to reuse it, bring it back to life, and that's where we came in."

It is hoped the charity will be able to start hosting pre-booked behind-the-scenes tours later this year, with the house to be open to the general public next year.'



On YouTube

“Britain’s Most Unfortunate Railway Line”. This one is really local – from West Timperley Station site to Skelton Junction, deaths, derailments and suicide in under a mile. 20 minute video by ‘Ringway Manchester’ and ‘Bee Here Now’, with aerial views and old photos, and reports of inquests. Very good.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K_lw_yfRWes

“The 89 year old Canal Breach – Will this ever be fixed?” Video by Martin Zero 23 minutes. A breach in 1936 on the Manchester, Bolton & Bury Canal. With old photos and current situation. With boats hanging over the breach, compare it with the recent breach near Whitchurch. . [Keep going past the sandwiches.]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mCbkM3Fhffw>

“Whitchurch Breach – The Disaster unfolds” an overview of the canal breach on the Llangollen Canal at Christmas 2025. 26 minutes, by ‘Court above the Cut’, dates from 30 Jan 2026. Includes graphic film of boats sinking into the breach. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1dzWHlHPhXQ>

“Lost Manchester- Exchange Station” by Martin Zero, 22 minutes. Nostalgia meets industrial archaeology, exploring Manchester’s lost station. Good photos and maps. [Memories of running up the station approach to get the Holyhead Mail to Anglesey.] <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4JVv2vd1H78>

“Finding the Last Traces of England’s Lost River”. 16 minute video by Bee Here Now, tracing the surviving bit of the River Irwell, then the Mersey through to Warburton and Thelwall. His usual good maps and photos. Bits of river, ox-bow lakes etc. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cdXZjcvv9aE>

“1965 Moving House Slowly” – a 1965 film from the BBC Archive of a timber-framed house in Hereford being relocated. Shows the timberwork with wattle in-fill. 7 Minutes black & white.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4n4uT5E0RnY>

And something totally different but very interesting:

“Travel and Turning: a Wood Turner’s Dream Trip to England”. This 39 minute video is of an American’s trip and museum visits, taking in timber preparation, steel tool making, wood turning craft, and an exhibition at Plasterers’ Hall, London. Presented by ‘Turn a Wood Bowl’. Scroll down the page for links to places visited. [I really enjoyed this, demonstrations of old skills you forget about.]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oZ2M0bOJNNw>

Concluding the Neville Cardus connection – [carried on from the last Newsletter.]



Information from the Lancashire County Cricket Club archivist was the first clue to Neville Cardus having stayed in Timperley, with Eliahoo Joseph, in about 1901-02, after his family had broken up.

‘Cardus mentions this period in his Autobiography. “My mother lived with him in a house outside the city, and I went to stay there from time to time” ... “In 1902, I was staying with my mother for a few weeks ...and on June 26th I set out from a suburban place called Timperley to go to Old Trafford ...” ‘

The 1901 Census showed Elihoo Joseph in Park Avenue, Timperley, then aged 45 and in his household - Ada Joseph, his wife aged 29 and his sister-in-law Beatrice Cardus single, aged 21, with a servant aged 18, all these three listed as born in Manchester. Presumably Ada was also a Cardus before marriage.



Park Avenue numbers 3, 5, 7 etc

Next step was trying to find Beatrice in the 1891 Census – she was in Rusholme with her parents Robert and Anne and family. Father Robert was aged 55, a porter and born in Yorkshire. His wife Anne and all the family were listed as born Manchester, actually births registered in Chorlton. Beatrice was there aged 11 with three other daughters and a son. One daughter was Ada Newsham, married aged 20, and a grandson Frederick Newsham aged 3. In 1911 Beatrice Cardus was living in Didsbury, head of the household, aged 31 and single, but with a son Cecil aged 7, and her sister Ada Cardus aged 40 listed as ‘single’. The occupation for both was ‘Laundress’, (note that laundress was a term sometimes used instead of admitting ‘prostitute’.) Names all very confusing, so the next step was to try and find births and marriages on FreeBMD website. Beatrice was born in 1879 and her sister Ada’s birth was registered in 1870. In 1888 Ada Cardus married John Frederick Newsham at Chorlton, she was 18 and may have already been pregnant. So where is her son Frederick? There is no birth registered around 1888 as Frederick Newsham, but there’s a John Frederick Cardus registered in Chorlton. What about Mr Newsham? There’s a death registered of a John Newsham in 1894 in Chorlton, he was aged 52, so this could have been Neville’s father, who died when he was 5 or 6.

An online web search brought up an entry from the Australia National Biography Online which gives more information and clears up the name. <https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/cardus-sir-john-frederick-neville-9689> Here’s the first paragraph:

Sir John Frederick Neville Cardus (1888-1975), writer and critic, was born on 3 April 1888 at Rusholme, Lancashire, England, son of Ada Cardus (1870-1954). He never knew his father who may have been a violinist. Fred lived with his unmarried mother and aunts in the home of his maternal grandparents. His grandfather was a retired policeman and the family took in washing. By night Ada and her sisters worked as genteel prostitutes, frequenting Manchester's theatres and music-halls.

He started calling himself Neville, and wrote under that name.
So here is Neville Cardus, or should that be Fred Newsham?

There is much more in the Wikipedia entry on Neville – very thorough, with photos, sources & references. I could have saved myself a lot of work – but still, it doesn’t mention the Timperley connection. I can’t identify which house he stayed at, although the name ‘Glencoe’ was mentioned. I’ve looked in Slater’s Directory for 1905, and been to look at gateposts in Park Avenue; some house names are there, some are covered in ivy and some have been removed. It was one of the odd numbers, possibly number 11.



HP went to the Museum of Liverpool for the exhibition on Treasure Hoards from the Northwest and North Wales - It closes on 29th March. Well worth a visit. Entry is £5. [NB Museum Cafe serves Lobbed Scouse – very good.]

This is the Mold Cape, Bronze age - usually in the British Museum (with reflection.)

*See you around,
Hazel*