

# RUNCORN & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER No. 11 SEPTEMBER 2009



## Current Meetings Programme

Meetings are held at St John's Church Hall in Weston Village on the first Friday of every month at 7.30pm prompt.

### 2nd October 2009

"Charles Darwin"

*Simon La Frenais*

### 6th November 2009

"Unlocking the Secrets of the Japanese Garden"

*Sam Youd*

### 4th December 2009

"Social Evening"

Please see report in this newsletter for further details

### 8th January 2010

"Members Evening"

Details of the evening will be announced nearer the event

### 5th February 2010

"The Story of Jodrell Bank"

*Ian Morrison*

### 5th March 2010

## Annual General Meeting

Visitors (non-members) are very welcome to come along to any of our meetings for just £1.00 per visit

The programme of speakers for our meetings is put together by Meetings Secretary, Jackie Cawte, who can be contacted on :  
01928 561942

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I must apologise to our publishers for the late submission of my quarterly report although, having said that, its lateness enables me to re-iterate it, my congratulations to Diane Stanley, Dianne Jackson and Les Brown on their well conceived, planned and executed outing which was thoroughly enjoyed by all who went on it. I also thank Peter Vardy for bringing such wonderful weather along with him. May he, and all of you, go again next year. Meanwhile, our programme for the year has progressed smoothly enough and we now know more about 'Saltmaking at Nantwich', the 'Jacobite Rebellion' and 'Chester Uncovered'. The coming quarter's

programme continues to reflect the diversity of subjects which has become synonymous with our society so I enthusiastically recommend it to you all and hope we have great 'turn outs', particularly for our own Simon La Frenais on 2nd October 2009. So I look forward to seeing you all on the first Fridays during the autumn quarter. Finally, can I encourage anyone who might have items of interest they, or someone else, could present on our Members Evening in January 2010, to speak to Jackie Cawte or any of the officers.

*David Sterry  
Chairman*

## BRIDGNORTH

The Society Annual Summer Trip this year was on Saturday 8th August, when we were once again smiled upon by the weather gods. We set off from sunny Runcorn, bright and early, for our first port of call, Bridgnorth in Shropshire. We had plenty of time to enjoy the variety of delights on offer in this charming little historic town, with some of us choosing to explore the many streets on our own, whilst others took the 'Guided Tour' to get the potted history and behind-the-scenes visits to some of the more spectacular architectural gems. It was also a novelty to ride on the 'Funicular' down to the lower part of the town, alongside the river, then back up again, avoiding the very steep climb!

The round off the day, we all met up again later in the afternoon to take a trip through the magnificent Severn Valley scenery on the Steam Railway, all the way down the line to Kidderminster. As always, once we were all settled back on our coach, the customary free raffle was drawn, and our thanks for this go to Les Brown.

If you have any suggestions for next year's trip, please let us know, just tell Les Brown, or any of our committee members.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**Your society needs you!** The committee would be very grateful if anyone would like to volunteer, during the dark winter nights, to transcribe onto disc the manuscripts of the Runcorn Vestry and Improvement Commissioners Minutes and Reports. Anyone who is willing to lend a hand with this should contact Alex Cowan, who will explain exactly what is required.

## CHESHIRE HISTORY DAY

**Saturday 31st October 2009**

9.30am to 4.30 pm

Memorial Hall, Northwich

Tickets are £10.00 per person, and can be obtained from Cheshire Local History Association, Cheshire & Chester Archives & Local Studies, Duke Street, Chester, CH1 1RL.

Having missed out on an Archaeological Day this year, due to the re-organisation of Cheshire County Council, it is good to know that Cheshire History Day will be going ahead as normal. The programme for the day, listed for information, looks to be very interesting :

### "CHESHIRE'S WORKING RIVERS"

"Widely as the Mersey Flows"

*Hugh Beggs*

"The Dee and the Port of Chester"

*Dr Jane Laughton*

"Cotton Mills of the Bollin and Dane Rivers:"

*Dr Mike Nevall*

"The River Weaver and its Links with the Salt Industry"

*Colin Edmondson*

## ARCHIVIST REPORT

An e-mail contact from Leicester (ex-Weston Point apparently) is supplying me with newspaper extracts from all over the country and has been particularly helpful to Peter Vardy with information on Hazlehurst chapels foundation stones / openings, etc, and also with further information on where Runcorn stone has been used. (This is additional to Peter Blackmore's researching for other things and coming across various other references.

*Alex Cowan  
Archivist*

## MEMBER'S SOCIAL EVENING

Well, it's that time of year again folks, Christmas is approaching at a great rate of knots. As usual, the society December meeting will take the form of a social evening for members. There will be a guest speaker, who will give a light-hearted short talk, which will be followed by our usual splendid buffet and a glass of wine, or fruit juice. However, because of ever increasing costs, it has been decided that this year there will be a charge of £5.00 per person to help cover the cost of the buffet and wine. Bookings for the social evening will open at the September meeting and any member can book their place by speaking to either Diane Stanley or Dianne Jackson.

### USEFUL LINKS

**Runcorn and District Historical Society** website :  
[www.runcornhistsoc.org.uk](http://www.runcornhistsoc.org.uk)

**Runcorn Locks Restoration Society** website :  
[www.runcornlocks.org.uk](http://www.runcornlocks.org.uk)

**Norton Priory Museum and Gardens** website :  
[www.nortonpriory.org.uk](http://www.nortonpriory.org.uk)

**Halton Castle** website :  
[www.haltoncastle.org](http://www.haltoncastle.org)

**Ross Bullock** website :  
[www.rossbullock.co.uk](http://www.rossbullock.co.uk)

**Cheshire Records Office** website :  
[www.cheshire.gov.uk/recoff](http://www.cheshire.gov.uk/recoff)

**Family History Society of Cheshire** website :  
[www.fhsc.org.uk](http://www.fhsc.org.uk)

## Society Membership & Committee

Anyone wishing to join the Society can do so either by following the instructions found on the Society Website, or by writing to Dianne Jackson, 22 Balfour Street, Runcorn, Cheshire WA7 4PH, or by attending one of the monthly meetings and joining on the night. Subscriptions are £7.00 per person for per year (usually renewed at the Annual General Meeting in March). Visitors are welcome to join us at any of the meetings for just a £1.00 per visit.

**David Sterry :**  
*Chair*

**Mike Hodgkinson :**  
*Vice Chairman*

**Ross Bullock :**  
*Secretary & Web Master*

**Diane Stanley :**  
*Treasurer*

**Alex Cowan :**  
*Archivist*

**Jackie Cawte :**  
*Meetings Secretary*

**Dianne Jackson :**  
*Membership*

**Ray Miller**

**Cllr Peter Blackmore  
Peggy Thorniley**

*If anyone is interested in becoming a committee member, please do contact anyone on the committee.*