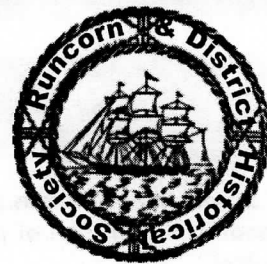


RUNCORN & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER No. 15 – JANUARY 2011



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.

7th January 2011

Members Contributions
This will be a selection of small talks given by various members of our Society.

4th February

"Cheshire Knights and their Ladies"

Tony Bostock

5th March

Annual General Meeting
Speaker to be announced nearer the date

1st April

"Mary Heesom, a Murder Story"

Margaret Fellows

6th May

"100 Years of Halton Transport, Widnes & the Transporter Bridge"

Ron Phillips

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

If anyone can recommend a good speaker please contact Jackie, or any member of the committee.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Last quarter I discussed the idea of developing our own research group in the hope that members, working together, could produce : information packs for lodging in the society's archives, articles for *Runcorn* or small presentations for members evenings. As you know, we held our first meeting in October when four of us got together at Halton Lea Library. Richard Andrews expressed great interest in the history of the Sprinch boatyard and subsequently appealed to members for help with relevant information, documents or photographs. So I would remind folk to get in touch with him if you unearth anything of interest to him.

Looking ahead, I would like to think that during the coming year more of you might join us. If afternoon meetings are difficult for anyone who still has work commitments please let us know so that we can look at accommodating you, after all, our group is still very embryonic in nature

and has yet to develop any clear ethos or character and, I believe, we will be dependent on more of you joining us if progress is to be made. So, if anyone would like to take a closer look at historical research we would be very pleased to have you join us. If you do wish to be involved please let Alex or myself know.

I would now like to thank Ray Miller for all the support he has given the Society during his participation on your executive committee from which he has recently stepped down for personal reasons. Although he finds he can no longer support the committee in person at meetings he remains committed to the Society and will continue to attend our monthly meetings and cover them and all the society's activities in his "Weekly News" column.

Happy New Year Everyone

*David Sterry
Chairman*

ARCHIVIST'S REPORT

A not so happy start to our New Year! St. John's Hall has had a major flood resulting from a cold water joint coming apart in the kitchen and, per the Vicar who discovered it, 2" of water through the entire Hall. The wood block floor has lifted over considerable areas and the Hall will be out of use for many weeks (including our February meeting).

The other bad news, not related to the flood, is that the Society's projector has stopped working and according to Psfix any repair would not be worth the cost as they would have to send it away and it would probably cost in the region of £400 to test it and look at it!!

*Alex Cowan
Archivist*

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

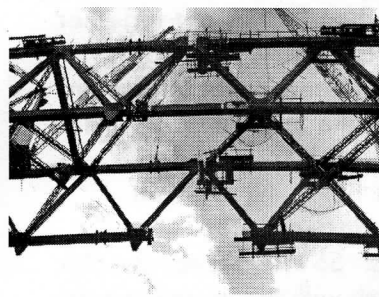
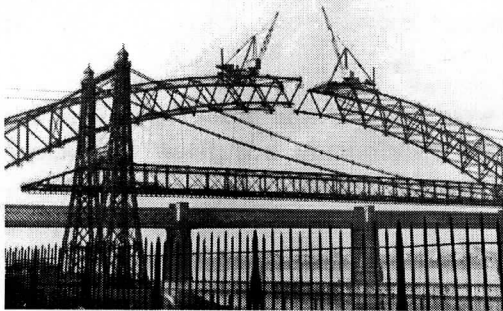
As usual, the Christmas social was as enjoyable as in previous years. It was just a shame that the adverse weather conditions kept a lot of people at home and they missed hearing the speaker, Richard Baker, as well as the excellent buffet.

The speaker regaled us with the life story of the Victorian millionaire, Henry Yates Thompson (1838 - 1928), by dressing and acting as the Victorian gentleman, telling us his life story, and what he achieved during his lifetime.

We switched suppliers for the buffet this year, with Monks Delicatessen taking over the role of providing the food. Richard did us proud and provided an excellent choice of items to tempt us with.

Dianne Jackson
Membership Secretary

FIFTY YEARS AGO



I'm sure many of you will remember as clearly as I do watching those two cranes slowly creep towards each other as our 'New Bridge' was being built. Being just 8 years old I was also rather scared at the prospect of crossing over the top of that magnificent but very lofty arch! Oh what relief it was to see the cars travelling along the suspended carriageway underneath as I stood on the approach road, together with all my classmates from Mill Brow, waving my little Union Jack flag to welcome Princess Alexandra for the grand opening.....

Our archivist, Alex Cowan is currently putting together an exhibition to commemorate the Golden Jubilee anniversary of our bridge, so watch this space for further details.

Diane Stanley
Treasurer

USEFUL LINKS

Runcorn and District Historical Society website :
www.runcornhistsoc.org.uk

Runcorn Locks Restoration Society website :
www.runcornlocks.org.uk

Norton Priory Museum and Gardens website :
www.nortonpriory.org.uk

Halton Castle website :
www.haltoncastle.org

Ross Bullock website :
www.rossbullock.co.uk

Cheshire Records Office website :
www.cheshire.gov.uk/recoff

Family History Society of Cheshire website :
www.fhsc.org.uk

Society 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 join 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

Alex Cowan :
Archivist

Diane Stanley :
Treasurer

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.