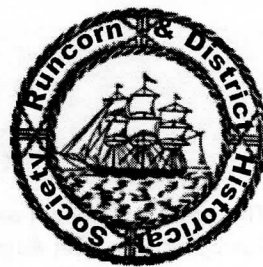


RUNCORN & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER No. 16—MAY 2011



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.

3rd June 2011

"Joseph Priestley, a man of many parts"

Bob Roach

1st July 2011

"The History of the RNIB"

Philip Jeffs

13th August 2011

Annual outing to :

Much Wenlock

Tickets £13.00, on sale from May onwards

2nd September 2011

"1918 : The Aftermath"

Joy Bratherton

7th October 2011

"Chester Silver"

Dr Sandy Campbell

4th November 2011

"The Cheshires in the Great War"

Major John Ellis

2nd December 2011

Christmas Social Evening

"Golden Age of Comedy Part 1"

Brian Hallowell

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

The past winter quarter has been quite a sombrely eventful one in the life of our Society. The sad news that our Vice President, Bill Leathwood had passed away, and that our other Vice President, Bert Starkey, was back in hospital was soon to be followed by news of the death of Ray Miller's wife Mary. Lets hope the next quarter will be more joyous.

On the subject of Bert Starkey, I took it upon myself to send him a note on our behalf just to let him know he remains in our thoughts and to express our hopes that he will soon be well. In fact, his wife advises me, that although he had been

quite poorly recently necessitating a return to Warrington Hospital, he is now well enough to transfer to Halton Hospital's rehabilitation ward with a view to a return home. So that sounds very encouraging.

Our new round of Society talks seems to have got off to a good start in April with Margaret Fellowes' gruesomely engaging but harrowing story of Ellen Heesom's committal to prison in the 19th century proving to be widely enjoyed. I am sure the high standard she has set will be maintained over the coming months.

David Sterry
Chairman

ARCHIVIST REPORT

In conjunction with Widnes Historical Society and Catalyst Museum we are putting on at The Brindley, from 9th July to 6th August, a major exhibition to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the opening of the present Jubilee Road Bridge and the closure of the Transporter Bridge.

The postcard project is coming on well, as between the Society's own and web collection, and those of some members of the Society, we now have almost 300 different postcards of Runcorn from the 1880s to the present day.

Donations or loan of postcards for this project would be much appreciated. Please have a word with our Archivist. Many of the cards will be on display at Heath Methodist Church on 17th September or at St. Edwards on 7th & 8th October. At both venues we will be mounting exhibitions - details in the next newsletter.

We have also had a variety of items for the archive and are outgrowing our space at the Library. The move from Egerton Street seems to be definite but we are assured that there will be space in the new set up for our archive. It is not clear what is to become of the Carnegie Library building after it is vacated....

Alex Cowan
Archivist

NEW COMMITTEE

At the Annual General Meeting in March, our Chairman expressed heartfelt thanks for the invaluable support we have enjoyed over the years from our retiring committee member, Ray Miller, who decided not to stand for re-election. Ray is one of the 'Founding Fathers' of our Society, and will continue to attend our monthly meetings. We also extend a warm welcome to a new face on our committee, Richard Andrews and are all looking forward to working with him. Richard has researched his own family history extensively, and is already actively involved in some of our own Society projects.

Diane Stanley

SUMMER OUTING 2011

MUCH WENLOCK - Saturday 13th August

This year our annual summer outing is being organised for Saturday 13th August, when we will be visiting the delightful town of Much Wenlock in Shropshire. Tickets are at the bargain price of £13.00 each, which includes your return coach fare, entrance to Much Wenlock Priory, and the drivers tip.

On arrival at Much Wenlock we shall be visiting the Priory ruins. The medieval Cluniac priory was built by the Normans on the site of an earlier Saxon nunnery, founded around 680AD and run by the abbess Milburge. It is a beautiful site and its grounds provide a tranquil setting for the visitors. Once everyone has been booked in at the Priory you can please yourself how long you stay there before going on to explore the rest of Much Wenlock.

Attractions include numerous medieval black and white buildings and grander Georgian and Victorian architecture. There are small independent shops where you can spend all your pocket money, and a good selection of wonderful hostelrys and delightful eateries where you will be able to take a leisurely lunch break.

Much Wenlock is also strongly connected to the Olympic games through a Victorian son of Wenlock, Dr William Penny Brookes, who campaigned internationally for the revival of the ancient Greek Games. For the more active of you there is even an Olympian Trail that you can follow.

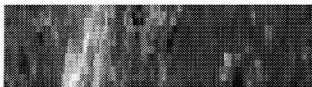
After an afternoon of exploration we will meet back at the coach to be driven back home along the scenic route back to Runcorn, with everyone getting the chance to win one of the prizes in our usual raffle.

The coach will be collecting people at the usual pick-up points, and full information will be given on your ticket. Please bring your ticket with you on the day. When on the coach there will be a free information pack on Much Wenlock given to everyone. This will help you to plan your day and decide what you would like to see.

Dianne Jackson

TICKETS : £13.00

Available at Society meetings from May



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.archives.cheshire.gov.uk

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

Cheshire Local History Association website :
www.cheshirehistory.org.uk

RESEARCH PROJECT

Did your Father or Grandfather work for the MSC Company at the Sprinch Boatyard in Victoria Road? If they did, can you help with Richard Andrews' research ?

If your relatives worked at the Sprinch Boatyard like Richard's grandfather and great-grandfather, do you have any memories, photograph's or documents that would help Richard record the short working life of the shipyard, which only operated between 1890 and 1950.

Richard is collating what little information has survived in various publications, researching other areas, and is keen to record any memories, similar to the only published record we have from Keith Holt in the 1970's.

Richard can be contacted either at our monthly meeting, by telephone 01928 739504 or email randrews40@btinternet.com, or via any Committee member of the Society.

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 :
Chairman

Mike Hodgkinson :
Vice Chairman

Ross Bullock :
Secretary & Web Master

Alex Cowan :
Archivist

Diane Stanley :
Treasurer

Jackie Cawte :
Meetings Secretary

Dianne Jackson :
Membership

Richard Andrews
Cllr Peter Blackmore
Peggy Thorniley

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