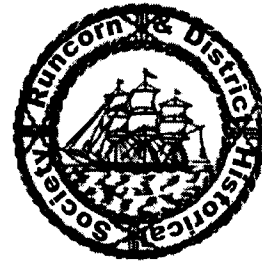


# RUNCORN & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER No. 8—SEPTEMBER 2008



### WEBMASTER'S REPORT

#### 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 October 2008  
"The Daniel Adamson — A Great Survivor"

*Tony Hirst*

7th November 2008  
"The Viking Kingdom of the Wirral"

*Gordon Roxby*

12th December 2008  
Xmas Social & Buffet —  
"Memories of a Superannuated Santa"

*Peter Johnson*

2nd January 2009  
Members Evening —  
delivered by Society members — details to be announced

6th February 2009  
"The IRA and Liverpool"  
*Ian McKeane*

6th March 2009  
Annual General Meeting

3rd April 2009  
"Ethelfreda"  
*Mike Hodgkinson*

1st May 2009  
"Salt Making at Nantwich"  
*Mike Neville*

5th June 2009  
"Cheshire in 1745"  
*Tony Barratt*

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

Details of some of the district's churches have been added to the website. A "Timeline" of Runcorn history has also been added, and if you have any comments, amendments, or additions, please contact the Webmaster.

In July we had over 4,450 visitors to our website, the best month ever! Sales of the CD of Runcorn history have gone very well. At present we are engaged in digitising Canon Barclay's "Letters to the parishoners of Runcorn". So far 1860 and 1861 have been completed,. But there are many more to do!

We have had several requests for information, which have included :

1. A council officer wanted information on a stone lion which has been given to the council. This was originally in the

Festival of Britain gardens in Delph Bridge.

2. Details of the Alms Houses in the Holloway.

3. Some details of the paddle steamer "Prince Regent" (Runcorn built), which sank off Stanlow Point in a great storm on December 5th / 6th in 1822. This request came from the great-great-great grandson of the captain, who drowned along with many others in this incident.

4. We still need help on the date when the Cottage Hospital closed (as a hospital), And has anyone any photographs of the Balfour Road school girls in the 1950s?

*Ross Bullock*

*Secretary and Web Master*

### Forthcoming Society Publications

As this is our last newsletter of 2008, we would like to take the opportunity to let everyone know that the next edition of our Society journal, 'Runcova Volume II' is currently well on the way to being finished, and will be going on sale in good time for Christmas.

Following the successful launch last year of Runcova, the Society publications sub-committee members have all been working hard on the next issue. The format will remain the same, with a mixture of articles old and new, some of a serious nature, others on a more light-hearted note, with a

goodly smattering of illustrations throughout. We hope Volume II will prove as popular as Volume I, which sold well to our members, and also to the public through several local outlets—Curiosity Bookshop alone have had at least three deliveries from us, and stocks of our first issue are now running low. Never happy unless we are bringing you something new, we also have a RDHS Calendar 2009 in preparation! We hope you will like what we have chosen—the Society has quite a collection of images within it's archives, so we have made a selection of

not-so-well-known pictures of Runcorn in times past, and in addition, each month will also have our Society meetings noted for you and will include several little 'snippets' of local historical interest or note.

If anyone has any articles they would like to submit for future issues of Runcova, or if you have any unusual pictures of Old Runcorn we can use for our journal or calendar, please let any of our Society committee members know.

*Diane Stanley*  
*Treasurer &*

*Publications sub-committee*

## OUTING

### Crich Tramway Museum and Matlock Bath

On 16th August, a motley bunch of society members climbed aboard our 'chara', left the banks of the Mersey behind and set off into the wilds of the Peak District. Despite one of the worst weather forecasts you could imagine, the RDHS gods really looked after us well, and our day was DRY, warm and quite sunny!

First port of call was the Crich Tramway Museum, where a very talented group of dedicated enthusiasts have spent much time and effort in acquiring and lovingly restoring a variety of trams, many of which are run on the re-laid tram lines, through the recreated old-fashioned 'village', and on up through the surrounding old quarry site, with spectacular views of the Derwent Valley. Our members spent a thoroughly pleasant morning riding on the trams, and exploring many more on display throughout the site, followed by a well

earned lunch break back in the 'village' before spending their pocket money on souvenirs and sweets which took us straight back to our childhood days.

In the afternoon, we continued our outing in Matlock Bath, where some folk explored the town centre and its many colourful shops, or walked along the river bank, with the opportunity to take afternoon tea, whilst others ventured 'up in the air', taking the cable car to the Heights of Abraham, with stunning views overlooking the whole of the valley below.

The day was rounded off as usual by our free raffle before departing for home, with three lucky passengers winning prizes.

If anyone has any suggestions for next year's trip, please let Les Brown, Dianne Jackson, or Diane Stanley know where you would like to visit.

*Diane Stanley*

*Treasurer*

## Christmas Social

Yes folks, time marches on and it will soon be time for our annual Christmas Social Evening for members. This year's social will be in the usual format of an entertaining talk from Peter Johnson on "Memories of a Superannuated Santa", followed by a really good buffet and glass of wine (or juice for those of us who are driving).

*Dianne Jackson*  
*Membership Secretary*

## Blue Plaque Project

### 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)

At the Society's meeting in October 2008 Iain Bissett, Tourism Manager at Halton Borough Council will be joining us for a brief 10 minutes talk giving details on the Blue Plaque scheme for Halton.

He will be interested in any ideas or views members may have on which buildings in the borough should be considered for a Blue Plaque. If you miss him at the meeting you can contact him through the main Halton Borough Council telephone number—0151 424 2031.

## 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.

*Chair : Vacant*

**Peter Johnson :**  
*Vice Chairman*

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

**Diane Stanley :**  
*Treasurer*

**Alex Cowan :**  
*Archivist*

**Jackie Cawte :**  
*Meetings Secretary*

**Dianne Jackson :**  
*Membership*

**Ray Miller**

**Cllr Pete Blackmore**

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