



# Cheshire Local History Association

We have arranged a **day visit to Stockport on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

The visit is restricted to personal paid-up members of CLHA, and people from paid-up member societies.

The visit will take in both The Hatworks, Hat Museum on Wellington Road South in the morning and the Stockport Air Raid Shelters on Chestergate in the afternoon. Both are close to the centre of Stockport, a short walk from the bus interchange, and the railway station. SEE **Directions** over the page.

The maximum number for both tours is **30**, so booking is essential, by 12<sup>th</sup> June.

The cost will be **£16.00** per person to cover both tours, and refreshments on arrival.

**10am – 11am Assemble** in the ARC Cafe (opens at 10 am), on the entry level floor of the Hat Museum. Tea/coffee is **included**. Cafe also serves toast etc, very reasonable prices. Toilets here.

**11am - We have booked a tour at the Hat Museum for 11am.**

We will tour the factory floor where you can learn about Stockport's hat trade, and see the machines involved in production. Stockport's hat collection comes from around the world and from fashion to functional. The group will be split into two for a tour of the factory floor and swop over for a look round the display gallery (& vice versa). This should take about one hour. There are stairs between floors, or a lift, and toilets and a shop, plus the ARC Cafe.



**Lunch – see over the page for options.**

**2pm - After lunch we will visit the Air Raid Shelters starting at 2pm.**

At 65, Chestergate - close to Stockport Plaza and bus station (about 5 min. walk). The Air Raid Shelters are a system of almost 1 mile of underground tunnels dug into the sandstone during World War II. Not all the tunnels are open. They probably started as small storage areas for the premises on the road, perhaps mediaeval. There is a shop, but no toilets (public toilets nearby in Merseyway Shopping centre across the road).



(Four steps down to introductory audio-visual presentation in darkened area at start of tour. Disabled access available if necessary). Remainder of tour is in the tunnels, a little uneven in places - if you worry about your footing perhaps take a stick &/or small torch. Don't forget it will be cool in the tunnels. Visit should take about one hour.

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If you wish to join us, **please complete the separate booking form and return it by 12<sup>th</sup> June**.  
If you need more details please contact

**Hazel Pryor, email: [pryorhazel@gmail.com](mailto:pryorhazel@gmail.com)**

11 Thorley Lane, Timperley, Altrincham WA15 7BJ  
Phone 0161 980 5464. Mobile 07581 675 878

**Lunch – you may wish to take lunch at The Plaza Cafe.** The Art Deco Plaza Cinema/Theatre is convenient, between both visit sites. **You will need to book with the Plaza Cafe.** For reservations for two or more call the Booking Team on **0161 480 3818** or email [boxoffice@stockportplaza.co.uk](mailto:boxoffice@stockportplaza.co.uk)



The Cafe is on 1<sup>st</sup> floor. Lift and toilets, but no "free" access to look around the theatre. Prices reasonable £3.50 for pot of tea, and £3.50 for a ginger scone & butter. Light lunch about £12

Alternatively, you could eat at the ARC Cafe, or there are coffee shops in Merseyway shopping centre, or bring a packed lunch. There is a park with seating - Viaduct Park - above the bus interchange.

### Directions

Walking route from Stockport Bus Station/ Interchange. Take either of the lifts up to the park area above the bus station. Turn left to the road and then right uphill to entrance to Hatworks.

Walking route from Stockport Railway Station (exit the station for 'Town Centre'), walk down slope past bus stops, through to the A6 (towards McDonald's). Turn left and it takes you down to the Hatworks entrance. About 5 minutes walk. **Or alternative** – when you can see McDonald's turn left (past the short-stay car park) down smooth sloping walkway (follow sign for HATWORKS). This takes you to the park above the Bus Station. Keep right through the park and then right. More pleasant and easier under foot.

For access to The Plaza - use either lift from the park down, turn left from lift, and out through Bus station.

Route to the Air Raid Shelters. Pass the front of the Plaza and continue along the level road - Chestergate, not up the hill. The Air Raid Shelters entrance is on the right. **Or** through Merseyway shops - past Primark there is a walk-way on the right, to Toilets and to Air Raid Shelters. Also, here is lift to rooftop parking.

**Car parking.** NCP at Merseyway and at Redrocks look the best option, the Merseyway one is rooftop parking <https://www.ncp.co.uk/find-a-car-park/car-parks/stockport-merseyway/>  
5 to 6 hours £5.40; 6 to 7 hours £6.30; 7 to 8 hours £7.20. This is Cash or RingGo. Pay and display on entry.

NCP Stockport Exchange Station multi-storey near railway station (geared up for people catching the London train). **£16.95** for over 4 hours, or £13.95 if you use NCP App. You can Book ahead. Check website: <https://www.ncp.co.uk/find-a-car-park/car-parks/stockport-exchange-station/>

If you don't mind a longer walk, you could park at the Peel Retail Park (SK1 2HH). Use Junction 27 from M60 then Great Portwood St (A560). Walk back past Asda, through Merseyway shops, then cross to bus station and use the lift. Might take 25 minutes walk. Charges: 4-6 hours £4, 6-8 hours £8. Pay on exit, multipay system, can use Applepay etc. (NB Take cash as well as card or smartphone pay.)

There is a Park and Ride on the A6 at Macclesfield Road, Hazel Grove, on the 192 bus route down Wellington Road South, stops near the Hatworks.





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Visit to Stockport - Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

**Please return this booking form by 12<sup>th</sup> June**

I / We wish to book ..... place/s on the visit to **Stockport on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2025.**

I/We are personal members of CLHA

I/We are members of .....

Payment:

By Cheque - I enclose cheque for **£16 per person.** Total £ .....

(Cheques payable to *Cheshire Local History Association*)

**Or - By BACS**

Please tick here  if you wish to pay by **BACS**,

BACS payments should be made to:

Account Name: Cheshire Local History Association.

Nat West Bank: Sort Code: 60 08 30:

Account: 24084514.

Please use surname and initial as reference.

Name/s .....

Address: .....

Contact phone number: .....

Email address, to acknowledge receipt: .....

Please return the form and cheques to:

**Hazel Pryor, 11 Thorley Lane, Timperley, Altrincham WA15 7BJ**

Email: [pryorhazel@gmail.com](mailto:pryorhazel@gmail.com)

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