



CLHA News

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Welcome to the first edition of CLHA News which contains information about up and coming CLHA events alongside bits and pieces of other local history related information. With autumn rapidly approaching most of our member societies will be embarking upon their autumn/winter programmes. Many of their programmes can be accessed from the CLHA website, so why not take a few moments to see what other local history organisations are offering. I'm sure you will receive a warm welcome.

Time to buy your tickets!

Next month sees the return of our ever-popular **History Day**. For the second year running, this event is being held at the Community Centre in Tarporley. Our theme for the Day is: **Cheshire Towns and the March of Time**. We have secured five speakers with a unique and diverse knowledge of our county towns, with talks on Medieval Nantwich, the development of Macclesfield, the rise of Birkenhead, Runcorn new town and recent developments in Chester. If you have not already done so, please make a note of the date – **Saturday 10 October** – it promises to be an interesting day. Further details can be found on the CLHA website and tickets can be purchased on Eventbrite (<https://tinyurl.com/HistoryDay2026>) or via the CLHA Treasurer (please see below).

Please do remember that if you buy your ticket direct from the Treasurer, rather than through Eventbrite, all monies will go directly to CLHA and be used towards planning future events.

As always, we would be grateful if our member societies and organisations would promote the event amongst their members at their September meetings. Please remember to get in touch with our Secretary, Jean Fortune, at the email address above, if your society would like a table at History Day.

Cheshire History

History Day sees the launch of the latest edition of *Cheshire History*. Volume 66 contains several articles written by authors who will be new to our readers, alongside more familiar names. Wide-ranging as ever, topics include: coalmining in north east Cheshire, Eastham Pleasure Gardens, the Fulleshursts of Crewe Hall and a surprise discovery of a cremation dating to the Middle Bronze Age.

As usual, journals can be collected in person at History Day or can be sent by post. If you are unable to collect your copy in person, we are happy for you to nominate a fellow member to collect your copy of the journal on your behalf. However, if you wish to receive your journal by post, please contact our Secretary directly to secure your copy. Due to rising postage costs, CLHA have unfortunately decided that they will have to make a charge of £2.50 towards the cost of postage and packing. This can be paid via cheque or BACS. The details are given below:

Make cheques payable to: **Cheshire Local History Association** and send to:

Cheshire Local History Association,
c/o The Treasurer,
31 Pearl Lane,
Vicars Cross,
Chester CH3 5NU.

BACS payments should be made to:

Account Name: Cheshire Local History Association

Sort Code: 60-08-30

Account Number: 24084514

Please use your surname and initials as the reference.

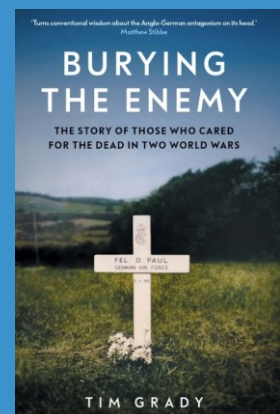
Member societies are similarly welcome to collect their journals at History Day.

In future years, members and society representatives will additionally be able to collect their copies of the journal from one of the new Archive Centres located in Chester or Crewe. Details will be available once the new centres are up and running.

Future CLHA event

Saturday 7 November
Caring for the Enemy: the German War Dead in North West England
Prof. Tim Grady (University of Chester)
2pm via Zoom

If you would like to secure your place, please email Sharon at
clhachair@outlook.com

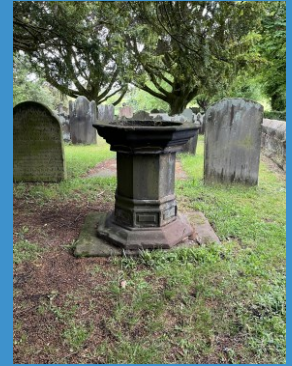


From little acorns ... large oak trees grow!

2026 saw the introduction of our first CLHA field visit to Stockport where members visited The Hat Works and the Second World War Air Raid Shelters. Although the numbers attending were small, it was a really interesting day. This year CLHA have visited Daresbury and Hooton Hangars on the Wirral.



We were delighted that in excess of 25 members joined us in May to visit Daresbury Church, the Lewis Carroll Centre and embark upon a local walk. The weather was kind and a good time was had by all.



We were then amazed in July to welcome over 40 members to Hooton Hangars. Members were given a guided tour of the exhibits with the additional opportunity to tour the site. This enabled us to appreciate aspects of the former WW2 landscape and the fragments that survive today.



Useful/interesting web links

Members are probably aware that many texts are now available to consult online, but just in case you are unfamiliar at researching online, you may find the following links of interest:

- Hathi Trust: <https://www.hathitrust.org/> (digitized volumes include Daniel King, Ormerod, William Smith)
- Internet Archive: <https://archive.org/>
 - Victoria History of the County of Cheshire (1980)
 - Vol II <https://archive.org/details/historyofcountyo0002unse>
 - Vol III <https://archive.org/details/historyofcountyo0003unse>

Another very useful website:

Historic England: <https://historicengland.org.uk/whats-new/stay-up-to-date/>

An interesting link which reminds us of the importance of aerial photographs in our local history research is:

Changing landscapes: The photography of OGS Crawford (Archaeology)

<https://www.archaeologyuk.org/resource/changing-landscapes-the-photography-of-ogs-crawford.html>

Most of us will be familiar with the work of Thomas Telford, but this is an interesting article none the less, written by John Craven of 'Newsround' fame. The contains a number of other interesting pieces. Telford, the 'Colossus of Roads': The genius you've never heard of – and how he shaped the Britain of today

<https://www.countryfile.com/people/historical-figures/thomas-telford>

A slightly different perspective on the Bayeux tapestry.

What three female figures in the Bayeux tapestry reveal about medieval women

<https://theconversation.com/what-three-female-figures-in-the-bayeux-tapestry-reveal-about-medieval-women-289344>

Well worth a visit

If you haven't already been to The Riverside Museum in Chester, it is well worth a visit. Located in the Wheeler building on Castle Drive, the museum houses a host of curiosities from the world of medicine, nursing, midwifery and social care. The museum is staffed by volunteers and is open from 1:00 – 4:00pm on the first Wednesday of each month. An added bonus from October to December and March to June are the series of free talks held at 4:30pm. All are welcome and tea/coffee and home-made cakes are available.

Should you decide to visit, make sure to see the four remaining stained-glass windows from the Chester Royal Infirmary. These are located in prime position on the first-floor landing opposite the old council chamber. See *Cheshire History*, Vol. 64, pp. 63-92.

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And finally, a little snippet from Bob - The Charles Dickens Connection

Dickens's grandfather was Steward at Crewe Hall, and, following his death, Lord Crewe retained his widow as Housekeeper, also arranging the education of her two sons.

Charles loved his Grandma, and immortalised her as the amiable, wise, Mrs. Rouncewell in *Bleak House*. Dickens was known to have visited Winsford, where he heard of the bride of Stanthorne Grange, jilted by her fiancée of Stanthorne Hall, on her wedding day. It was local knowledge that her family had closed up the room where the wedding breakfast was laid out, and the room remained sealed until after her death, so the sorrowing Miss Joule became the inspiration for Miss Havisham.

If you come across any snippets of local history which you think others might enjoy, please let us know – we'll include it in the next newsletter.