

Christleton Local History Group

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All meetings 7.30pm at the Parish Hall Christleton CH3 7AB

Programme for 2018-19 season



Memorable Memorials & their stories
Captain Noel Godfrey Chavasse VC & Bar, MC

Wednesday September 26th. A short AGM, followed by Speaker Ben Williams **Memories of Christleton & Making Clocks & Boxes.**

Ben reflects on his early memories of Christleton, the village he first visited when about 9 years old. Ben is a skilled craftsman and has entered and won classes at many craft shows, including those at Christleton and Nantwich. Tonight he talks about many of the excellent clocks, and decorated boxes he has designed and made from a variety of timbers. He demonstrates his unique skills using photographs of the collection of clocks and boxes he has made for his family and friends. Ben has been a member of Christleton Local History Group for many years and an active member of the church and village community. He has also kindly donated many of his precious clocks and boxes to raise funds for charity, particularly The Hospice of the Good Shepherd.

Wednesday October 31st. Speaker Bernard Dennis **Sir Thomas Egerton ‘Keeper of the Queen’s Conscience’**

Sir Thomas Egerton 1540-1617 was born the illegitimate son of Sir Richard Egerton of Ridley, Cheshire and became one of the most powerful men during the latter reign of Queen Elizabeth I and the early years of the reign of King James I (James VI of Scotland). Thomas was born in Cheshire, died in London and chose to be buried at St Mary’s Church, Dodleston alongside his first wife Elizabeth and eldest son Thomas who died at the age of 25.

Bernard Dennis from Dodleston visited Christleton last season to give his presentation on The History of the English Longbow and Cheshire & Flintshire Bowmen. He is a member of the British Longbow Society. Bernard has many other presentations and donates all his fees to Claire House Hospice. He has raised over £10,000 through his fascinating and captivating talks.

Saturday November 10th 2018. 7.00pm at Christleton High School. **A Special Commemorative Evening to remember the fallen of WWI.**

Christleton Local History “Great War Voices” & Students & Staff from Christleton High School combine to present a sound and visual commemoration of the Village of Christleton during WWI, with stories of the men and women who fought and fell in the Great War.

1914-18. This event will bring the Great War Voices Project to a conclusion as we commemorate the centenary of the end of the War to end all Wars. It will be a ticketed event, and details will be circulated in September at the AGM, and in the Parish Magazine.

Wednesday November 28th Professor Emeritus Rhiannon Evans & Sian Bailey
Joyce's War, a forgotten voice from WWII.

Professor Emeritus Rhiannon Evans MBE is former Pro-Vice Chancellor at Edge Hill University. She will tell the story through her mothers' forgotten war journals to the publication of her book in 2015. Joyce Ffoulkes Parry was a Queen Alexandra Nurse in India, Egypt and the Middle East in the Second World War. She will illustrate te talk with her mother's original photographs and raise issues and questions about; editing and publishing family diaries, the role of women in the war and the impact of the war on their subsequent lives. Her sister Sian Bailey, Joyce's second daughter, is an artist and professional illustrator of numerous children's books, will provide insight into the process of illustration and how the journals inspired the drawings she provided for the book.

Wednesday January 30th 2019 **Speaker Gavin Hunter**
Lady Lever

Gavin Hunter is the Honorary archivist and historian to the Leverhulme Family, a local historian, lecturer and broadcaster on Wirral History. He has written and produced many films and presentations about the family, about Wirral and Liverpool. Gavin spoke to the CLHG about the Dockers Umbrella last season and we look forward to his return in 2019.

Wednesday February 27th 2019 **Speaker Katherine Seddon.**
Women's Suffrage & Music. Hope Squire and Frank Merrick.

Hope Squire (1878-1936) was a concert pianist, composer and teacher. She was also a suffragist, pacifist and vegetarian. After her marriage to fellow concert pianist, composer and teacher Frank Merrick, they moved to Manchester where Frank had been appointed as professor of piano at the Royal Manchester College of Music. Their shared artistic life is mirrored by a shared socially and politically radical life in which they were active participants. In 1917 Frank was sent to prison for his conscientious objection, fully supported by Hope. Their extensive correspondence between October 1917 and April 1919 together with other letters, newspapers, archives from RNCM and the Imperial war Museum reveal much about their separate lives. It offers an insight into life in Manchester during the final year of the war and six months of peace.

Katherine has been part of the editing & publishing team of Christleton Local History Group since 1999, using her editing skills to our advantage when working on both Christleton 2000years of History and Christleton Great War Stories books. She was a researcher on the Royal Northern College of Music's project Making Music in Manchester during World War I, when she uncovered Hope and Frank's fascinating story. She has given talks to the Halle Concert Society, The Women's History Network, and at the University of Bristol and Storyhouse at Chester.

Wednesday March 27th. 2019
Memorable Memorials & their stories. Speaker; David Cummings

Whilst re-researching the stories of 6 Commando Sgt. Joe Bowers Croix de Guerre, Quartermaster Sergeant Arthur Wright and other men from Christleton & the UK, I have visited many memorial sites of special interest, including the poignant National Memorial

Arboretum at Alrewas near Litchfield, & The Royal Scots Greys Museum in Edinburgh. I've also found several Memorials to Capt Noel Chavasse VC & Bar in Liverpool and visited the memorials to many significant men & women, including Commonwealth Graves sites in Belgium, France and Egypt. There are hundreds of beautifully crafted and maintained memorials to be seen, and during this presentation I will use some of them to tell the special stories they represent, including those of Sgt. Joe Bowers Combined Operation Commando (1940-46) former resident of Christleton, who died in February 2018 and is buried in the churchyard at St James' Christleton age 99yrs.