



Christleton Local History Group News
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Welcome to the 2022-23 season of Christleton Local History Group.

Barry Dixon Bate 1927- 2022

I have the sad news to report that Barry one of our founder members passed away in June aged 95yrs after a long illness. He was an enthusiastic member of the group and helped write and fund our first attempt at the History of the Village. He was an excellent source of knowledge about the Village and City and had a comprehensive collection of history books which he made available for us to use in research. I sent a card with our sincere condolences to Pauline and the family.

Parish Hall

I'm delighted to say that the Parish Hall where we meet has had a new heating system installed, so we should be more comfortable in the winter months. The fee for using the Hall has gone up like everything else, so we will review our meeting fees at the AGM. We had a very busy season of meetings in 2021-22 despite covid 19 restrictions, and I'm delighted to say that the development of our Christleton4 website which is part of the www.christleton.org.uk website has gone from strength to strength and is proving very popular site and archive. (More later)

I intend that this winter's indoor meetings will be a Season of Talks about **Christleton Parish**. In 1972 I was appointed Headteacher of the Primary School in Christleton, so this year marks the 50th Anniversary of my appointment and the development of the local history group which was formed and met in the Primary School in 1974. Since then we have produced a number of publications, several out of print due to their success, and also created a huge archive of resources. This will be an opportunity for older members to revisit, and new members of the community to find out about this unique parish

Our publications.

Christleton The History of a Cheshire Village 1979

Christleton 2000years of History 2000

Christleton Village DVD In conjunction with Cam3

Christleton Great War Stories in conjunction with The Heritage Lottery Fund

In their Words Life in Christleton 1875-2000

The Role of Women in Christleton during the Great War.

Christleton Pit & The Story of Ponds. Several publications. Latest 2018.

St James Church Christleton. Several editions.

Christleton Walking Trails

The Story of Hockenhull Platts

Our current research project is **Christleton Parish during WWII.**

You can see from this list what we have achieved during the last 50years, so the next season re visits many of these publications, through updated visual presentations. To cater for villagers and friends who can no longer come to evening meetings, the presentations will be repeated at 3.00pm on Sunday afternoon's at St James Church, with the title Talk and Tea. All proceeds to the Parish Hall heating Fund.

Christleton Local History Group

Winter Season 2022-23

All held at 7.30pm in Christleton Parish Hall, Village Road, Christleton CH3 7AS

Dates; Wednesdays at 7.30m

(Repeated at 3.00pm on Sunday afternoon's at St James' Church)

28th September 2022 The Story of the Parish

Christleton Parish has a unique place in the history of the Chester area. Founded as "The place of the Christians" well before 1066, it belonged to many important families. We learn about the shaping of the Parish, the naming of the townships, the Lords of the Manor. The common lands and enclosed fields, together with agricultural use, Christleton mills and milling. The canal era, and boat building. Christleton, a self contained village in Victorian times, and Christleton as a place for education since 1779.

26th October 2022 The Story of the Church in Christleton

A church or place of worship has probably existed here since the 7th C. The present church tower dates from 1470, but the nave and chancel were rebuilt in the 1870's and during the presentation I will talk about the work of William Butterfield and Charles Ermer Kempe, employed by Canon Rev. Lionel Garnett to provide the best for his congregation. We will look at some of the features of the church building, and some items, special to St James' The Tower at St James' has had an excellent reputation for bellringing since 1739, and this part of the talk will be extended to cover the influence of Rector's, organists and music. I will also explore the story of the two Methodist Chapels, The Salvatorian Brothers at Christleton Hall, and Churches Together in Christleton.

30th November 2022. Fetes and Festivals. Village Personalities.

Christleton has always been a great place to celebrate both National and Local events, and this presentation covers many of them. From Beating of the Bounds, to Celebrations of Coronations and Jubilee's, Royal Weddings, and other national events. We also take a look at some of the people & personalities who have influenced life in the parish; Lucy Ann Ince, Jim & Mary Partington, Lt Col. John Dolphin CBE, Thomas Butler, Leonard Cheshire VC, Jaz Storrar DFC & Bar AFC Arthur & Gertrude Wright, Eric Beech, Frank Poston & Poston Family, David Wain OBE, Les George OBE. Dr George Guest CBE & FRCO. William Huggins FRS

25th January 2023 The English Civil War & The Battle of Rowton Moor 1642-46

On September 24th 1645 the Battle of Rowton Moor took place in the parish after months of skirmishes and subterfuge. In this presentation I will outline the story of the war from the declaration of war at Nottingham in 1642, through the battles at Edgehill, Nantwich and Marston Moor, to the battle on Rowton Heath. By 24th September 1645 Christleton village had been largely burned to the ground, and we follow the events of that day, to even darker days in Chester which became under siege from September 1645- to February 1646. This presentation is made almost entirely by using photographs from re enactments, giving the viewer an opportunity to see some authentic armour, costumes and weapons of the period.

22nd February Conservation in the Parish.

Christleton is also a unique parish for conservation. In 1972 a study was made of all the wildlife habitats in the Parish. This included the recording of all the marl pit's and the plants and creatures that lived in them. The Pit at Littleheath is the best example of a marl pit, and its conservation since 1974/5 by children from the Primary School, and then the Christleton Pit Group, achieved national status for the conservation work done, and was a potential Millennium demonstration Pond for the North of England. The Cheshire Wildlife Trust Reserve at Hockenhull Platts also lies within the parish boundary and has a

fascinating history. I will tell its story and of the changes in both habitat and wildlife recorded at the site over 50years.

29th March Researching WWI. The Parish during 1914-18

The Christleton Great War Stories - Remembering our Fallen Heroes project, has been a defining point of the Local History Group's recording of history over the past 50years. With the help and support of the Village Community, we obtained a Heritage Lottery Grant for almost £10,000 to study and research this dark time in the history of the parish. The Project commemorates the lives of the soldiers from Christleton, and the sacrifice that they and their families made in the Great War. We discovered some amazing stories and details about their courage and bravery. Judy Smith also researched and highlighted the work of the women and children during this period, and together with research by students at Christleton High School and members we produced a unique book, and several pamphlets about this period. Since the completion of the project in 2018, material of interest continues to be sent to us, mainly by family members or researchers from overseas who have seen the project on our website; www.christleton.org.uk / Great War Stories. The latest in July 2022 from a researcher in Newfoundland, trying to find out information about Percy Dobie, from Littleton who had been a prisoner of war in Germany. Percy had befriended a young man from Newfoundland, Hubert Vokey who was dying in the bed next to him, and promised to send the bible he had been carrying to his fiancé at home in Canada. It took 59years, but the bible eventually was returned to the lady concerned.



Percy Dobie



Walter Handley



Edward Radcliffe Porrit

!!!!!!!!!!!!!!ARE YOU AWARE OF OUR VILLAGE WEBSITE !!!!!!!!!!!

**Christleton Village Website www.christleton.org.uk
Administrator; Richard Nicholson**

David Cummings, Phil Hirst and Richard Nicholson have been collaborating and developing the local history interest in this amazing Village Resource. From storing the original Christleton website & St James Church material including the Parish Magazines to Christleton3 and now Christleton4. the site has grown over the past twenty years and Christleton4 is now dedicated to the Local History & Wildlife Watch news.

Since 2021 The Christleton4 pages have been made into three monthly sections.

- 1. The History File**
- 2. Christleton in the Past (Archive History)**
- 3. Wildlife Watch**

In addition, all the files relating to Christleton during the Great War including research material have their own special place on the website.

[www. Christleton.org.uk](http://www.Christleton.org.uk). Christleton Great War Stories

Archive Resources for Village Use from Christleton4

All are written and fully illustrated by David Cummings with archive material and photographs from our village collection. Material that is available free to copy and use by all inhabitants.

2021

2022

	<u>The History File</u>	<u>Christleton in the Past</u>	<u>The History File</u>	<u>Christleton in the Past</u>
Jan.	Working Horses	Arthur Heywood	Christingle	Memories of Frank Poston 3
Feb	Boat Building	Flooding	Farming Pt 1	Memories of Eric Beech 1
Mar	Narrow Boats	Lt Col John Dolphin	Farming Pt 2	Memories of Eric Beech Pt2
Apr	Village Shops	Cliff Boddy	Reminiscences Pt1	Christleton Marl Pits
May	Education Pt 1	Dr George Guest	Reminiscences Pt2	Parish in Spring
June	Education Pt2	Leonard Cheshire VC	Beating the Bounds	Beating the Bounds
July	Maypole Dancing	Ladakh Girls	Village Fete	Christleton Fete 2008
Aug	Early Fete	The Forgotten Army	Village Show	The Parish Council
Sept	Rose Queens	A Hole in the Road		
Oct	Harvest Festivals	The Church Choir		
Nov	Remembrance	Memories of Frank Poston 1		
Dec	Christmas	Memories of Frank Poston 2		