

October 2025 Newsletter

Apologies for the delay in sending out our Newsletter this month.

Our **November** meeting is on **Tues 18th November 2025**

'The Blitz' by Alan Robinson

Doors open at **7pm**

Talk commences at 7:30pm.

Tea and coffee available
Visitors welcome - £5



Our Speaker, **Rob Jones** gave a very interesting talk about the history of Trams in Chester, describing the early models and the traffic crossing the City of Chester from Saltney to the Boughton and Vicars Cross terminuses.

Using some excellent photographs and slides, we were told the story of the purchase of Chester Tram No.4 by the Dibdin family of Broxton, to serve as a summer house. The tram was later taken to a small Welsh museum where it was left to deteriorate before being rescued and taken to Hooton Hangars to be restored by the skilful work of Rob and his friends.

During the evening, it transpired that one of our members, Bill Moulton, had actually trained young Harry Dibdin, the former owner of Tram No.4 as a railway signalman.

Anyone interested in receiving a Newsletter from Rob Jones
please email Rob at rsjtrams@aol.com



Tuesday 21st October

**Chester Trams 1879 to 1930 and the
restoration of Chester Tram No 4
at Hooton Hangars**

Neston Miners' Memorial



(picture taken by Robert Thrift)

A memorial sculpture to remember the coal miners and their families has been unveiled in Ness, Wirral, after a resident was inspired by the book ***“The Neston Collieries, 1759-1855: An Industrial Revolution in Rural Cheshire***, written by local historian and speaker **Anthony Annakin-Smith**.

Ness resident, **Mike Cross**, read Dr Anthony Annakin-Smith’s book about the [Neston Collieries](#) during lockdown and thought that there should be a permanent memorial to remember the local coal miners and their families who lived, worked and in many cases died at the area’s collieries.

Anthony, a local historian and alumnus of the University of Chester, has researched the mines for a number of years. He said: “Many people don’t realise that the Neston area has a long coal mining history. Yet there was local mining for at least three hundred years, probably employing thousands of people over that time.

“Boys as young as age nine were part of the workforce at the colliery Sadly, some of them died underground as did many of the men. We know of at least forty-two deaths in accidents. The memorial commemorates those who died but also celebrates all those who worked there and those who supported them. “This is an important place in the region’s history. It’s where West Cheshire’s Industrial Revolution started.”

Created by artist **Hazel Blundell**, another Ness resident, the sculpture features three metal-cast figures of a miner accompanied by two children. Their attire reflects the garments worn by miners during the height of the local coal trade in the 1780s, offering a poignant glimpse into the region’s industrial past.

The memorial was brought to life through the efforts of the **Burton and Neston History Society**, with generous support from local residents and organisations. Additional funding came via Cheshire West and Chester Council’s Spacehive crowdfunding initiative.

Neston Collieries.

Neston's first colliery opened in **1759** and had its heyday in the **1770s** and **1780s**.

A new colliery opened in **1875** and operated under various owners and names until it officially closed in **1927**.

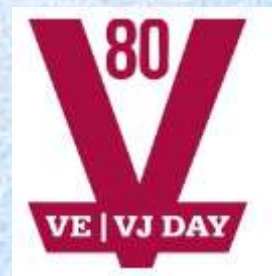
The Neston collieries, which spanned Ness and Little Neston and closed in **1927**, were notable for many reasons. Almost uniquely in Britain they had canals deep underground for carrying coal. There were also extraordinary acts of sabotage between rival mine owners, and very early use of steam engines.

Source: Wirral Globe.



2025

marks the 80th anniversaries
of



VE Day (Victory in Europe Day)
and VJ Day (Victory over Japan Day)

Following the public disappointment at the lack of public celebrations in acknowledgement of these anniversaries in Ellesmere Port, we have learnt that Cheshire West and Chester Council have organised Remembrance Services at the following locations:

(with thanks to Ian Clay, Sea Cadets and EPLFHS Member)

Cheshire West and Chester Council
Ellesmere Port Remembrance Services

FRIDAY 7th NOVEMBER 2025

and

SUNDAY 9th NOVEMBER 2025

CROMWELL ROAD MEMORIAL, REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

FRIDAY 7TH NOVEMBER 2025 – 12 Noon

12 Noon Start of Service

- Service Lead: Revd Ricky Montgomery
- Attendees: Mayor Cllr Katie Kendrick, Justin Madders MP. Chris Williams RBL,
- Off Mark Armitage RAF, Sgt Andy Powell Army Reserves.
- Prayer & Reading by Revd Ricky Montgomery
- Laying of Wreaths Mayor Cllr Kendrick, Justin Madders MP, RBL, Sgt Powell, Mark Armitage to lay wreath.
- Open to all.
- End of Service

WESTMINSTER MEMORIAL, CHRISTCHURCH SERVICE

SUNDAY 9TH NOVEMBER 2025

At Christ Church, Westminster

The Cenotaph, Christ Church, Westminster, Ellesmere Port – 9.30am

Event Name: Remembrance Service, The Cenotaph, Christ Church, Westminster,

- 9.30am Start of Service
- Attendees: Mayor of Ellesmere Port Cllr Katie Kendrick, Justin Madders MP,

- Royal British Legion
- Service Lead: Rev Peter Peters
- Reading by: Rev Peter Peters
- Laying of wreaths Mayor to lay wreath. Open to all
- Last Post: Recorded on Chris Williams Royal British Legion phone
- Exhortation by: Chris Williams from the Royal British Legion
- End of Service

ELLESMERE PORT CIVIC SQUARE CENOTAPH SERVICE

SUNDAY 9TH NOVEMBER 2025

Venue: The Cenotaph, Civic Square, Ellesmere Port

- 10.00am Arrival time for Wreath Layers to be put in correct positions
- 10.45am Start of Service

Service Lead: Reverend Rachel Newall and Reverend Ricky Montgomery

Military Attending:

- ❖ 4 Platoon in Ellesmere Port to attend to represent B Company and 4 MERCIAN
- ❖ 1074 (Ellesmere Port) Squadron, RAF Air Cadets
- ❖ Ellesmere Port Sea Cadets

Parade Commander: Lieutenant (SCC) J. McDermott FDsc, Royal Navy Reserve

- 10.00 Arrival time for Wreath Layers to be put in correct positions
- 10.45 Start of Service
- 10:45 Welcome from Rev Rachel Newell
- 10:50 Laying of Wreaths
- 10:58 Parade brought to attention – Josh McDermott Lieutenant (SCC), Royal Navy Reserve
- 10.59 Last Post Bugler: Sea Cadets –Cadet George Phillips to play the Bugle
- Exhortation read by Chris Williams
- 11:00 2 Minutes Silence – 2 Minutes Silence to be announced
by Josh McDermott
- End of 2 Minute Silence to be announced by Josh McDermott
- 11:02 Reveille – Bugle Call by Cadet George Phillips
- Kohima Epitaph said by Chris Williams
- 11.05 Poem 'In Flanders Field' to be read by WHITBY HIGH SCHOOL

- ELLESMERE PORT COLLEGE
- ELLESMERE PORT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
- 11.10 Prayers by Rev Rachel Newell
- 11.15 National Anthem and Blessing
- National Anthem played by Derek Boseley on the PA system.

There will be an extra 10-minute march after the service, march towards the library onto the access road pass cenotaph towards the civic Hall and halt.

LITTLE SUTTON ROYAL BRITISH LEGION PARADE TO ST PAULS CHURCH

SUNDAY 9TH NOVEMBER 2025– 13.30pm

13.15pm Mayor, Consort, Deputy Mayor and Consort to arrive at Little Sutton to attend the RBL Remembrance Parade to St Paul's Church.

13.30pm Parade to St Paul's Church Starts

- Arrival at Church – Outside Service
- Sentences and Introduction
- Reading
- Wreaths brought forward. Mayor to lay a wreath.

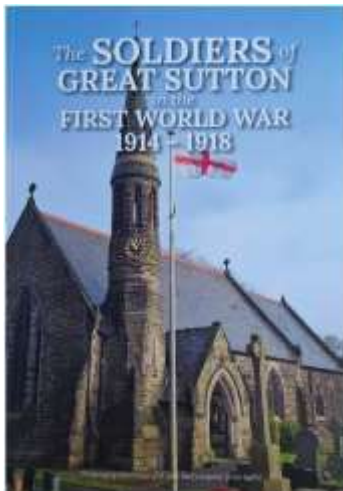
Refreshments - Royal British Legion following the service at St Paul's Church



Our latest book about 'Great Sutton' has now been submitted to the printers.

We are hoping that it will be available for sale in time for Christmas.

WATCH THIS SPACE!



'The Soldiers of Great Sutton in the First World War (1914-1918)'

Produced in collaboration with the Merseyside Branch of The Western Front Association (WFA), the Church has recently published a history of the 'Fallen' and the 'Survivors' of individual soldiers from Great Sutton in The Great War.

An excellent book for those interested in the WW1 connections with Great Sutton Village.

If you wish to buy a copy @£10, please get in touch with JANET DAVIES at the next monthly meeting.



This item was posted on Facebook this week about the life of Ellesmere Port Man, Roy Albert Blackburne.

I have just had a book published, "*An RAF Time Capsule*".

It is about my father **Roy Albert Blackburne born 1918, a local lad from Ellesmere Port.**

It was when sorting out the Little Sutton family home of 55 years prior to sale that we found my father's RAF kitbag secreted in a dark corner of the loft.

He proudly served with the 610 (County of Chester) Squadron during the Battle of Britain, his connection with the Squadron continued up until his death in 2005.

The book tells of the many interesting finds in the kitbag, uniform, propaganda material, numerous documents and original photographs of aircraft and fellow ground crew, some also local lads. Of great interest in the kitbag was his handwritten notebook written whilst he was on a Junior N.C.O officers course in Ambala, India.

In this rare book there are details of how to retrieve crashed aircraft, petrol rationing, workshop procedures etc etc.

I have donated a copy of the book to Ellesmere Port Library which will be available in the coming weeks. It is also for sale on Amazon.

I would just like to add that our generation the Baby Boomers are the last link with those that fought in WWII, therefore everyone of our generation should have a family historian and record what our relatives went through during the war. Doesn't matter how much or how little you know as long as that is passed down to the next generation down the line. Service records can be applied for and you would be amazed at what they did and where they went.

It took me a long time to research and put together this book for publication, in fact it took longer than the war itself but I am so glad I did.

Please, put pen to paper,

Kind Regards,

Sandra Hemsworth, Perth, Australia

The 'Press Clippers' are still meeting every Wednesday!

Do you need help with your Family History?

Are you interested in the History of Ellesmere Port?

Bring along your **photographs, postcards, newspaper cuttings, Church Programmes etc** and help us with our research

We meet every **Wednesday morning**
at **Ellesmere Port Library** from **10am -12.30pm.**

**Come along and join us for a chat
and a cup of tea (and toast) from the Library Café!!**






Tuesday 16th December
'Members Christmas Evening'

**Don't forget to put the date
in your diary!**



Forthcoming Talks by other History Societies	
<p>Thursday 30th October 2025</p>	<p><u>The Family History Society of Cheshire</u> <u>(Chester Group)</u></p> <p><i>"Clockmakers of Chester"</i></p> <p>By Darlah Thomas at the Upton-by-Chester Pavilion in Wealdstone Lane, Chester CH2 1HD Meeting starts at 7.30 pm</p> <p>There is an entry charge of £2.00 for members and £3.00 for visitors. Tea, coffee and biscuits are available free of charge at the end of the meeting.</p>
<p>Monday 3rd November 2025</p>	<p><u>Frodsham and District History Society</u></p> <p><i>"Cheshire's Roll of Honour"</i></p> <p>By Stephen Benson</p> <p>This meeting will be held in the Main Street Community Church Members £2.00 Visitors £3.00. Please arrive from 7.15pm for a 7.45pm start.</p>
<p>Wednesday 5th November 2025</p>	<p><u>Backford, Mollington & District Local History</u> <u>Society</u></p> <p><i>(this event was swapped with the October mtg)</i></p> <p><i>"The submarine RESURGAM"</i></p> <p>By Chris Holden at The Five Villages Hall, Station Road, Backford, CH1 6NT Meeting starts at 7:30pm</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Thursday 6th November 2025</p> <p>FREE Local History Workshop held in the Wirral Archives Search Room BOOKING ESSENTIAL</p> <p>To book a place on any of these workshops, please contact the Archivist, William Meredith, on 0151 606 2922, or email: archives@wirral.gov.uk</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Wirral Archives</u></p> <p><i>"Maritime Stories in relation to interesting graves in Bebington Cemetery and local interest"</i> by Angela Branch (Friends of Bebington Cemetery)</p> <p>Wirral Archives, Lower Ground Floor, Cheshire Lines Building, Canning Street, Birkenhead, CH41 1ND Access to Wirral Archives is via Shore Road, Birkenhead.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday 12th November 2025</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Lache and Westminster Park History Group</u> <i>'Randolph Caldecott'</i> by Jessie Petheram at The Venue (Lache Community Centre) Hawthorn Road, Chester CH4 8HX Meeting starts at 7.30pm All welcome, no need to book - £2 per person on the door. Refreshments will be available as usual for a small charge.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Thursday 13th November 2025</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Burton and Neston History Society</u> <i>"My journey into photography"</i> By Roger Ellison at the Parkgate and Neston United Reformed Church, Moorside Lane, Parkgate CH64 4UZ Meeting starts at 8pm Non-members/guests are welcome free of charge on the first occasion. Tea, coffee and biscuits are served afterwards.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday 19th November 2025</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>The Heswall Society</u> <i>"A History of Wirral Hospitals"</i> By Gavin Hunter at <i>Heswall Hall</i> 111 Telegraph Rd, Heswall, Wirral CH60 0AF Meeting starts at 8pm Visitors welcome https://www.theheswallsociety.org.uk/events.html</p>

<p>Thursday 20th November 2025</p>	<p>Hoole History and Heritage Society</p> <p><i>"The Origins of Hoole, revisiting what, where and when"</i></p> <p>by Linda Webb at The Kingswood Complex, Kingsway, Newton, Chester, CH2 2FF</p> <p>Meetings start at 7pm</p>
<p>Flintshire Historical Society 2025 / 2026</p> <p>https://www.flintshirehistoricalsociety.org.uk/</p>	<div data-bbox="810 510 1348 1288">  <p>Flintshire Historical Society Lecture Programme 2025-2026</p> <p>27th September 2025, Talacre Belgian Refugee Monks at Talacre during the First World War Toni Vitti, Manager Rhyl Tourist Information Centre</p> <p>25th October 2025, Mold Wales in World War Two Dr Quentin Deakin, Author</p> <p>22nd November 2025, Talacre The North Wales Hospital at Denbigh Clwyd Wynne, North Wales Hospital Historical Society</p> <p>24th January 2026, Mold Trade Unions in the North Wales Coalfields Dr Bethan Atkinson, Retired Lecturer</p> <p>28th February 2026, Talacre The Witches of North Wales Morgan Ditchburn, History Lecturer, Tour Guide at Conwy History</p> <p>28th March 2026, Mold Recent Excavations at Basingwerk Chris Matthews, Senior Project Archaeologist, Heneb</p> <p>25th April 2026, Talacre Community Centre. Brymbo's 300 Million Year History, including the Fossil Forest Dr. Tom Hughes, Volunteer Coordinator, Stori Brymbo</p> <p>All meetings at 2.30pm Talacre meetings at Talacre Community Centre, Gamfa Wen, CH8 9RT Mold meetings at: Ebenezer Baptist Church, Glanrafon Road, Mold, CH7 1PA. Non-members welcome</p> </div>



Have you seen our new Facebook Site yet?

'Official Ellesmere Port Local & Family History Society'
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ellesmereportlocalandfamilyhistorysociety/>

Have you seen our other EPL&FHS sites?

Watch our FREE 'Ellesmere Port Animated History Video on:

- ❖ We now have our own website, which is being developed over the next few months.

<https://eplfhs.org/>

- ❖ We also have our own YouTube Channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qU5y62MyzDg&t=634>



Do you have any unwanted History Books?

Maps?

History magazines?

We are always grateful for any donations that we can sell on our table at the Postcard and History Fairs.

***Please contact us or bring them along to
Either the next meeting
Or
Ellesmere Port Library on Wednesday mornings.***

