

December 2025 Newsletter



The Committee would like to wish you all
A Merry Christmas
and

A Happy New Year!



Tuesday 16th December
'Members Christmas Evening'

WEAR YOUR PARTY HAT !!



Don't forget to bring some food for the Party Table!

How about something different - Indian snacks, Cheese Straws?



Tuesday
25th November
'The Blitz'
by Alan Robinson

Our November meeting eventually took place a week late due to staffing issues at the Boat Museum and despite the awful weather.

Alan told some entertaining stories about the Blitz around London and Liverpool.

Thank you to everyone who picked up the messages about the change of date!



British photographer Martin Parr dies aged 73

The documentary photographer rose to prominence in the mid 1980s, with 'The Last Resort', his study of working class people on holiday in New Brighton in Merseyside. The shots he took in New Brighton were meant to be about capturing a moment in time and challenging people's perceptions of social classes.

The collection showcased the best - and worst - days at the seaside, with pictures of day trippers enjoying picnics among the litter and rundown amenities which characterised the Wirral town at the time.

But those famous seaside shots became very controversial - *"People from London and the South East, they really didn't know what places in the North looked like,"* said Parr, who was born in Epsom, Surrey. *"The litter was quite terrible, but they just weren't used to it, so it was almost like it was my fault that the place looked so scruffy."*

(Source - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c4gdx7r4w02o>)



When Martin Parr's *The Last Resort* was first published and exhibited in 1986 it divided both critics and audiences alike. Some saw it as the 'finest achievement to date' of colour photography in Britain whilst others viewed it as 'an aberration'. With the benefit of hindsight there is little doubt that it transformed documentary photography in Britain and placed Parr amongst the world's leading photographers. The book is now recognised as a 'classic' and copies of the first edition are highly sought after by collectors worldwide.

Steering a perilous course between objectivity and voyeurism, Parr viewed the decaying holiday resort of New Brighton and its holidaymakers in a way that was new, unique and deeply disturbing. And he did so in colour, something which at the time was seen as revolutionary for documentary work. For some his camera seemed cold and cruel as it followed the working classes desperately pursuing their holiday dreams surrounded by dereliction and decay and wading through the apparently endless detritus of a pollution-ridden consumer society. Others felt it showed an affectionate, humorous and humanistic response from Parr. However it was viewed, it was undoubtedly a sharp, bitter satire of the Britain of the Thatcher years.

(Source - [dewi lewis publishing](#))



Forthcoming Talks by other History Societies	
<p>Wednesday 7th January 2026</p>	<p><u>Lache and Westminster Park History Group</u></p> <p><i>'What's in a Name?'</i> <i>(The Story behind Some of our Street Names)</i> by Linda Shuttleworth at The Venue (Lache Community Centre) Hawthorn Road, Chester CH4 8HX</p> <p>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>Thursday 8th January 2026</p>	<p><u>Burton and Neston History Society</u></p> <p><i>"The Chester Puppet Show disaster"</i> by Martin Webb at the Parkgate and Neston United Reformed Church, Moorside Lane, Parkgate CH64 4UZ</p> <p>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>Friday 9th January 2026</p>	<p><u>Merseyside Branch of the Western Front Association (WFA)</u></p> <p><i>'Nursing in Salonica'</i> by Judith Beastall At Trinity and Palm Grove United Reformed and Methodist Church, Alton Road, Oxton, Birkenhead, Wirral, CH43 1UZ.</p>
<p>Monday 12th January 2026</p>	<p><u>Hargrave & Huxley Historical Group</u></p> <p><i>'History of Tarporley High Street'</i> by Pat Symms</p> <p>At Hargrave Church Hall, Church Lane, CH3 7RN</p> <p>Meeting starts at 7.30 pm <u>BOOKING ESSENTIAL</u> Non-members £3.00 per meeting https://sites.google.com/site/cheshirelha/member-societies/hargrave--huxley-historical-group</p>

<p>Wednesday 21st January 2026</p>	<p><u>The Heswall Society</u></p> <p><i>'Flaybrick Tragedies – Stories of murders and untimely death'</i> by Robert Dolphin at Heswall Hall 111 Telegraph Rd, Heswall, Wirral CH60 0AF</p> <p>Meeting starts at 8pm Visitors welcome <u>https://www.theheswallsociety.org.uk/events.html</u></p>
<p>Wednesday 26th January 2026</p>	<p><u>Christleton Local History Group</u></p> <p><i>'Taylors' A Boatbuilding Family from Tipton to Tower Wharf in Chester'</i> by Geoff Taylor</p> <p>Geoff is a member of the Taylor Family who were the most influential of boat builders along the Chester Canal, based at Tower Wharf. He will link the work in Chester with elements of Chester's maritime and Canal history.</p> <p>All meetings start at 7.30pm, in the Parish Hall</p>
<p>Thursday 29th January 2026</p>	<p><u>The Family History Society of Cheshire (Chester Group)</u></p> <p><i>'The New Archives Centre in Chester and opportunities for volunteers'</i> by Paul Newman (Cheshire Archives) and Margaret Roberts (Chair, FHSC)</p> <p>Meeting starts at 7:30pm at the Upton-by-Chester Pavilion in Wealdstone Lane, Chester CH2 1HD</p>
<p>Saturday 31st January 2026 at 2pm</p>	<p><u>Chester Society for Landscape History</u></p> <p><i>'Mold's Motte and Bailey Castle: Recent Discoveries'</i> By Sally Fish at 2pm St Columba's Church Hall, Plas Newton Lane, Chester, CH2 1SA Admission: Members free, Visitors £4, Student Visitors £2 <u>https://www.chesterlandscapehistory.org.uk/</u></p>

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!!

