



Tuesday 15th September

Our monthly meetings will resume in September
and the talk will be:

'CAMMELL LAIRDS'

The history of the builder of the world's finest ships,
now one of the few major shipyards remaining in Britain.

by

Derek Arnold.

2026 Members Outing

'A Walking Tour of Eastham Village'



This was a very interesting tour of the village, ending inside St Mary's Church
led by David Allan, Chairman of the Eastham Village Preservation Society.

A Journey into Postcard collecting



Having retired to New Brighton a couple of years ago, my interest in family and local history led me into conversations with various folk about the history of the place. One particular conversation about the Wilkie family who provide amusements to this day led me to research the old Palace theatre site part of which they occupied before WWI. I found that in 1914 the management of the theatre part of that site was taken on by one Ludwig Blättner where he opened the Gaiety Picture House.

With such a distinctive name I was interested to find out more about Ludwig Blättner. I soon realised that his life story was a fascinating one, even richer than the Wikipedia article about him reveals, and I am working (slowly!) on a fuller biography of him.

His greater fame came later in life through theatre and cinema management in Merseyside and Manchester and through having film studios at Elstree. Of particular note is his role in development of the Blättnerphone, an early reel to reel steel tape recording machine which allowed the BBC to broadcast programmes that had been pre-recorded rather than having to be live.

I found that whilst Ludwig Blättner was based at New Brighton he ran a postcard business on the notorious 'Ham and Egg parade' near the pier. From late 1903 into the summer of 1905 he published postcards of Royal Homes, Liverpool, Birkenhead, New Brighton, White Star Line ships, art works, actors and actresses.

I know of postcards sent to France, USA and New Zealand. Intriguingly one sent in 1905 to New Zealand had found its way back to Stockholm and was for sale on the Swedish online auction site 'Tradera' (similar to Ebay, Delcampe, etc). Finding copies of his postcards has led me not only to postcard fairs and online auction sites, but also to archives and many interesting conversations.

As well as the postcards that Ludwig Blättner published I have found later postcards relating to events that he organised and participated in: a Fancy Dress Ball and Bal Masque at New Brighton Tower that he arranged in 1911, and the Liverpool Exhibition of 1913 at which he had a significant role in providing music and the cinema exhibition.

I'm always glad to acquire more of his postcards, and also welcome good quality images of both sides of postcards that others have found but are as yet unwilling to part with. He was also an accomplished musician, composer and conductor – I have located a few copies of his music and would be glad to know of more.

Colin Alsbury (colin.alsbury is my user name at gmail.com)

Forthcoming Events by other Societies

Thursday 17th September 2026	<u>Hoole History& Heritage Society</u> <i>"Slavery compensation and the development of Cheshire infrastructure"</i> by Linda Webb Meeting begins at 7:15pm At The Kingswood Complex, Kingsway, Newton, Chester CH2 2FF
Monday 19th September 2026 9.30am- 1pm	<u>Helsby Community Association</u> 'Helsby Heritage Day' A Heritage Open Day event Jim Lloyd will show new images of bygone Helsby and Alvanley from his collection, with contributions from F&DHS, Helsby Hillside WI and Helsby Library. at Helsby Community Centre, Lower Robin Hood Lane, Helsby. <u>ADMISSION FREE</u>
Sunday 20th September 2026	<u>Antique and Vintage Fair</u> 9.30am – 3pm At Hulme Hall, Port Sunlight 
Wednesday 23rd September 2026	<u>The Heswall Society</u> A WIRRAL LANDSCAPE IN WORDS An evening with Wirral Libraries' Ambassador and Poet-in Residence With Alison J. Schultz at Heswall Hall, 111 Telegraph Rd, Heswall, Wirral CH60 0AF Meeting starts at 8pm Visitors welcome
Thursday 24th September 2026	<u>The Family History Society of Cheshire (Chester Group)</u> 'Cheshire maps and map-makers' by Jonathan Pepler Meeting starts at 7:30pm at the Upton-by-Chester Pavilion, Wealdstone Lane, Chester CH2 1HD Visitors £3

Thursday 1st October 2026 at 2pm	Wirral Postcard Club We meet first Thursday of the month. at Thornton Hough Village Hall, Wirral Meeting opens at 2pm with half an hour for buying, selling and socialising before the talk which begins at 2.30pm 
Thursday 1st October 2026 at 2pm	<u>Handbridge History Group</u> <i>"Welsh Copper Mines"</i> by Rob Toomey The meetings commence at 2pm with registration and a cup of coffee or tea with the talk starting at about 2.30pm and finishing about 3.45pm after questions. At the St Mary's Centre behind St Mary's Church, Overleigh Road, Handbridge, CH4 7HL. There is ample parking at the Centre behind the church. All are welcome and Entrance Fee is £4 each for Members and £6 for visitors.
Friday 2nd October 2026	<u>Merseyside Branch of the Western Front Association (WFA)</u> <i>"10th Cheshires "</i> by Stephen Benson. At Trinity and Palm Grove United Reformed and Methodist Church, Alton Road, Oxton, Birkenhead, Wirral, CH43 1UZ. £2 for members and £4 for visitors which includes coffee or tea at the end of the meeting. https://wfa-merseyside.weebly.com/
Monday 5th October 2026	<u>Frodsham and District History Society</u> <i>'Hiking through history'</i> by Josephine Gosling This meeting will be held in the Main Street Community Church, Frodsham Members £2 Visitors £4. Please arrive from 7.15pm for a 7.45pm start. https://frodshamhistory.org.uk/

Wednesday 7th October 2026	<u>Backford, Mollington & District Local History Society</u> <i>"Airmen of the Great War"</i> by Judith Beastall Meeting starts at 7:30pm at The Five Villages Hall, Station Road, Backford, CH1 6NT
Sunday 11th October 2026	<u>Wirral Postcard and Local History Fair</u> Thornton Hough Village Hall (10am – 3.30pm) Admission £1 
Monday 12th October 2026	<u>Hargrave & Huxley Historical Group</u> <i>'What did the Wirral do in World War II'</i> by Phil Pritchard at Hargrave Church Hall, Church Lane, CH3 7RN <u>BOOKING ESSENTIAL</u> Meeting starts at 7.30pm Non-members £3.00 per meeting <u>https://sites.google.com/site/cheshirelha/member-societies/hargrave-huxley-historical-group</u>
Wednesday 14th October 2026 At 2pm	<u>Ellesmere Port and Chester Postcard Club</u> In the Entrance Hall, Hope Farm Church, Ellesmere Port. If the inner door is locked, please ring the bell on your left marked "Circuit Office". £2 to include tea/coffee and biscuits - or £1.50 without refreshments. 
Sunday 18th October 2026	<u>Antique and Vintage Fair</u> 9.30am – 3pm At Hulme Hall, Port Sunlight 

Monday 19th October 2026 starting at 2.15pm	<u>Ellesmere Port Philatelic Society</u> AUCTION  • viewing from 1.30 pm • auction starts at 2.15 pm to be held at Hope Farm Methodist Church Hall, Bridge Meadow, (off Hope Farm Road) Great Sutton, Ellesmere Port, CH66 2LF
Friday 30th October 2026	<u>Friends of Wirral Archives</u> <i>'Churchyard and Cemeteries. Burials practices from the Middle Ages to the present'</i> by William Meredith Wirral Archives present these FREE local history workshops 2pm in the Wirral Archives Search Room Lower Ground Floor, Cheshire Lines Building Canning Street, Birkenhead, Wirral CH41 1ND

Calendar of Events for EPLFHS (as at 7th June 2026)	
Tues 15th Sept	'CAMMELL LAIRDS' - The history of the builder of the World's finest ships, now one of the few major shipyards remaining in Britain. by Derek Arnold
Saturday 10th Oct	Cheshire Local History Association History Day <i>'Cheshire Towns and the March of Time'</i> Tarporey Community Centre, High St, Tarporey
<u>Sunday</u> 11th Oct	<u>Wirral Postcard Fair</u> at Thornton Hough
Tues 20th October	'THE EARLY TRACKWAYS AND ROADS' A look at possible ancient travelling routes from 3500 years ago through Roman roads, drover's roads and bridge building through the centuries linking communities'. By Mike Blackburn
Tues 17th Nov	'A new look at The Gallipoli Campaign in 1915' by Alan Robinson
Tues 15th Dec	CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR MEMBERS

Other Local Events this Autumn

Wirral Archives

This year Wirral Archives is extending its Heritage Open Days 'Behind the Scenes' tours to two days, **Thursday 17th and Friday 18th December**, with **two tours on each day, at 2 p.m. and 3 p.m.**

Each tour will feature an introductory talk about Wirral Archives in the Search Room, and then a guided tour of the Strong Room, where the historical records of the Wirral are stored.

The first tour on Thursday 17th at 2 p.m. is **FULL**, but there are still places available on the others. Call Wirral Archives on 0151 606 2929 or email archives@wirral.gov.uk to book your place.

There is a wide range of Heritage Open Day events on the Wirral, more details can be found here: <https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/whats-on/printable-area-lists/wirral.html>

PROGRAMME

TIME	TITLE	DETAILS
10:00	ARRIVAL	Doors Open and Registration
10:20	WELCOME	Introduction and Housekeeping <i>Roy Forshaw, MAS Chair</i>
10:30	TALK	The History of Merseyside Archaeological Society <i>Dave Roberts, MAS Treasurer</i>
11:00	TALK	Excavation of Birkenhead Smalt Works <i>Ian Miller, University of Salford</i>
11:30	TALK	Recent Work on Hilbre Island's Historic Buildings <i>Dominic Wilkinson</i>
12:00	LUNCH	Bring Your Own Lunch or Use the Museum Café Near-by Establishment <i>Speakers, tables & much much more</i>
13:00	TALK	Coasts in Mind <i>Kelly Griffiths, MOLA</i>
13:30	TALK	Excavation at Carnatic Halls <i>Steven Tamburello, Civic Archaeology</i>
14:00	TALK	Geophysical survey and excavation at Speke Hall <i>Mark Adams, MAS Events Organiser</i>
14:30	BREAK	Refreshments Provided
15:00	TALK	Excavation at Little Crosby Hall <i>Harold Mytum, University of Liverpool</i>
15:30	TALK	The Battle of Winwick, Understanding the Evidence <i>Andrew Abram, Battle of Winwick Society</i>
16:00	CLOSE	Summary and Close <i>Roy Forshaw, MAS Chair</i>

Merseyside Archaeological Society (MAS)

Saturday

3rd October

2026

10 am - 4:30 pm

At the Museum of Liverpool

'From Trenches to Tomorrows:

50 Years of Merseyside

Archaeological Society,

Recent Research and Excavation'

2026 marks the 50th anniversary of the (MAS), the Merseyside Archaeological Society which was established as a result of the South Castle Street excavation which took place in 1976 in advance of the construction of the law courts which now occupy the site.

Since then, MAS has played a significant role in archaeological research and fieldwork on Merseyside.



Wirral Archaeology Conference 2026

Viking and Anglo-Saxon Wirral

The Hunt for Brunanburh

RESEARCH BY:

Dr. Robert Philpott
'Title of Paper TBC'
Paul Sherman
'The Search for Brunanburh'
Dr. Paul Cavill
'Finding Brunanburh I: History &
Place Name Evidence'
Prof. Steve Harding
'Finding Brunanburh II: 'Dingeunew',
Isotopes & DNA'
Jim Glenister
'Geophysical Survey at
Basingwerk Abbey'
Dave Capener
'Warriors and Weapons of the
Viking Age'
Peter Jenkins
'Brunanburh - Where is the
Dingeunew?'
Prof. Howard Williams
'Quizzing Wirral's Early Medieval Stones'

Wirral Archaeology CIC Welcomes you to
join us at our first research conference.
We are a community of amateur historians
who are dedicated to discovering Wirral's
forgotten past. Come and discover our
Viking and Anglo-Saxon history. Joining us
on the day are our own Wirral Vikings.

St Andrews Church, Bebington
Wirral, CH63 3DE
Saturday 14th November 2026

A hot lunch, and drinks will be provided on
the day. The event will run from 09.30-16.30



Tickets will be available at £30
from Eventbrite from the 1st
September 2026
More information available
from our website:
www.wirralarchaeology.org

Display of local finds and more



**Saturday
14th November
2026**

You Gotta Get A Gimmick: The Paul O'Grady Story



From
Friday 11th December 2026
To
Friday 31st December 2027

**Tickets available to book
from Friday 4th September**

This major exhibition will delve into
the private archive of **Paul O'Grady**,
revealing his life in front of and
behind the cameras.

It will give a first glimpse into the
extensive archive of Paul,
contextualising him as an LGBTQIA+
icon, an award-winning broadcaster,
passionate activist and someone who
gave a voice to the voiceless,
particularly those with four paws.

From Tranmere to the Royal Vauxhall
Tavern, the "blonde bombsite of
Birkenhead" to Battersea Dog's
Home, the exhibition will present
Paul O'Grady is one of Britain's most
cherished, and significant cultural
figures.

Tickets up to 31st March will be
available to book, further dates will
be available in due course.

EPL&FHS

Ellesmere Port Local and Family History Society

**If you would like to become a member
of our Society,**

Annual subscription - £16

We have 9 Monthly Speakers, an Annual outing
and a one month Summer break.

We also distribute a Monthly Newsletter!

Just pay at the front desk at the next meeting.

We can accept **cash**, **credit cards** using our
SUMUP machine or **Bank Transfers**.

Thank you for reading this newsletter.

Why not come along to our Autumn Meetings?

