

The Sunlit Uplands

No. 1

Life after Corvid



Editorial

We thought that it might be helpful to keep everyone in touch if we could produce a news sheet that could carry conservation-related stories in these unusual circumstances. Something like the 'Wipers Times' of WWI.

To help with this could you please let me have a paragraph or two from your area or describing your interests, your concerns and any juicy gossip! It can be anything. Something of the history of your area, what you are doing to keep fit and to keep your hand in.

Meanwhile this is a first attempt not to let Conservation be obliterated by Coronavirus.

Where does our masthead come from? Churchill's 'Finest Hour' speech :-

"all Europe may be free and the life of the world may move forward into broad, sunlit uplands."

We thought it appropriate.

Eastham

Forgive me starting off with Eastham, but I know a bit about it as I live there!

The timeless springtime scene in the photo above is of Eastham Parish Church of St Mary's. The church was established in 1150. In 1152 it was given to the monks of St Werburgh's Abbey in Chester.

The oldest inscription in the churchyard is 1629 and is carved into the church wall to remember one John Angilizer who couldn't afford a headstone

The churchyard contains the oldest tree in Wirral, an 1800 year old yew that was planted at the times the Roman legions were occupying Chester. Some years ago a sword was found hidden in the top branches and is now on display in the church.

Please send me stories about your area, your interests, photos, anecdotes - anything!

David

Contact details below

Battle of Brunanburh

Yes, I know you are fed up with hearing me bang on about it. But if it can be proven that Wirral is indeed the site of this pivotal battle in English history then it will be a big boost for Heritage tourism and will push Conservation Areas and Historic sites further up the agenda.

To remind you this battle defined the boundaries of England, boundaries that still exist, more or less today.

In addition it steered the future of this country and hence western civilisation towards the freedoms and democratic responsibilities that continue to guide and define our culture today.

The site of the battlefield is still disputed but Wirral Council have employed an outside team from Liverpool Museums to assess the 3000 battlefield finds that have been made in the area.



Green Belt

May I put forward a solution that will solve Wirral's Housing problem and the apparent need to build on the Green Belt, at a stroke?

Our permitted walk for exercise takes us along the Dee Marshes at Burton. Any eagle-eyed developer will have noticed the several square miles, not to mention hectares, of available land that stretches almost to Wales. (See pic above).

This could accommodate all of the 12,000 houses that Wirral apparently needs to take care of the mythical immigration influx that Wirral Council and the Office for National Statistics (ONS) are expecting.

Of course there are one or two snags that an inventive architect would need to overcome. The occasional high tide might be responsible for just a little flooding. One solution might be house boats such as you find in Hong Kong or those houses built on stilts in the Philippines. Another possibility is to adopt the iron-age Scottish Crannogs, built in the lochs and reached by a planked walk way.

One further problem that might not be so easy to overcome is that the whole site is used as an Army firing range. If the ONS would like to visit we could perhaps arrange for a demonstration!

Blue Plaques

Everyone wants one! The Blue Plaques initiative has proved to be more successful than we could ever have imagined. Wirral has gained substantial positive publicity from the



scheme which is a great return for a very modest outlay. The following contenders are under consideration for the 20/21 financial year:-

a) The Old House, this is the oldest house in Wallasey built in 1697 and restored 2016.

b) Lottie Dodd was an English sports woman and won the Wimbledon ladies single championships five times. Lived in Higher Bebington.

c) General Sir Miles Dempsey, a distinguished first world war hero. Born in New Brighton.

d) The Right Honourable Selwyn Lloyd, British Politician, became Foreign Secretary under Anthony Eden from 1955. Lived in Heswall.

History & Heritage Fair

The CAW stand at the History and Heritage Fair on the 7th March was busy all day. In spite of the virus alert, which hadn't then reached today's scale, the footfall was only slightly down on the previous year.

Alan's 4ft panoramic images attracted favourable comments with one couple excitedly recognising their own house in the Magazines Conservation Area image.

We were delighted with the enthusiastic response to our conservation efforts with many more names added to our email lists. In particular the Heritage Trail provoked many questions with people wanting to know how to access it. More publicity needed here!

