

Chairman's Report 2014

During 2014, the Society has continued the work which started in the previous year when our presentations included:

- The early Victorian history of Hoole, Hoole Road and Flookersbrook and the principal landowners.
- The geographical impact of the arrival of the railways.
- The intensive building which took place from Hamilton Street to Lightfoot Street including a decade by decade analysis of the growth from 1841 to 1901.
- The social consequences of the above development in terms of daily life, employment, education, shopping and leisure.
- Ground-breaking research and information on the Royal Agricultural Show held in Hoole in 1893.
- The early years of Chester Football Club when its ground was located on two sites in Hoole.

Your Committee decided to pay particular attention in 2014 to the consequences for Hoole of the outbreak of World War 1 and organised an information gathering day, when members of the public brought in memorabilia, medals and photographs; Dave Rees continued his analysis of the 95 names on the Hoole War Memorial, identifying also 38 names with links to Hoole but not on it, explored the three Nursing Hospitals located here, and researched what was happening locally on the Home Front. Gerry Tighe gave us a picture of what life was like for Cestrians when War broke out and Ged Ellis presented "*A Battlefield Pilgrimage – the Cheshire Regiment and the Battle of Audregnies 24th August 1914*".



*Private Samuel Vincent NUTTALL
5 Battalion Cheshire Regiment
Died 19 August 1917
Address 79 Hoole Road*



*Private James Edward BOWE
7 Battalion South Lancashire Regiment
Died 22 September 1917
Address 77 Faulkner Street*

Our March Meeting was a talk on "The Lost Gardens of Hoole" by Ray Jones - the story of Hoole House and its rock gardens built by Lady Eliza Broughton. Good weather in May and June meant that members were able to enjoy two tours around our district and the large number of records and photographs to which the Society has secured access enabled Linda Webb to project a Virtual Tour of Hoole in September. "*Two Parcels of Land from pre-Tithe Map to the Present Day*" were the subject of our October Meeting; a Third Parcel is programmed for the New Year.



Lady Eliza Broughton lived at Hoole House from 1815 to 1857

A number of enquiries have been answered both through the Society's website and at our Members' Meeting on e.g. The Narrows, Hoole's Coat of Arms, the Yerl family, the Ashley family, Shrublands Nursing Home and the Royal Oak in Hoole Village. During the year, the Society has had access to deeds, documents and photographs such as plans of Westminster Road School, the prescription book of David Dickinson, the first chemist in Faulkner Street, evacuees arriving in Hoole and documents relating to the coming of the railways. It is the Society's aim to build an archive of this material so that future generations will be aware of its existence and location, and welcomes more contributions either as donations or as loans to be copied.



Hoole's Coat of Arms designed in 1864 featured on the Chairman of Hoole U.D.C.'s badge of office



2015 will be the 150th Anniversary of Westminster Road School and Hoole Community Centre building and to commemorate this the Society is organising a Project. We would be glad to hear from anyone wishing to participate in the project.

During the year invitations have been received from other groups to learn about our findings on Victorian Hoole and the Royal Agricultural show held here in 1893. The Society has endeavoured to secure the involvement of the local schools and churches and is co-operating with organisations such as the Bowling Club and the Allotments Association which have their own histories. We welcome the support and interest of local businesses some of whom have already learned of their premises' history.

Funding from the National Heritage Lottery Fund expired during the year and your Committee decided to ask for voluntary contributions at each meeting to defray the cost of hiring the meeting room. As at 18th November 2014, the Society had 24 individual, 29 family, 4 business and 3 group members. As we expand from the original Project's Victorian time-base, the Society seeks to work in partnership with other local organisations and to play a vital part in the community life of Hoole.



The C41 - the bus from Hoole in to Chester