



## HOOLE HISTORY & HERITAGE SOCIETY

# *IN TOUCH*

17th June 2020

### ***HOOLE AND NEWTON WAR MEMORIALS***

When it was formed in 2012, because the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War was imminent, our Society undertook to pay particular attention to the impact of the War on the locality. A number of talks were given and the articles on our website under "Wartime Hoole" give some indication of the research which has been undertaken.

Eight years later we are now commemorating the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ending of the Second World War. The article on VE Day in Hoole and Newton was referred to last time, but Members may not be aware that Dave Rees has been researching the 44 names on the Second World War Memorial Stone located behind the "Cross" on Hoole Road. He has also found details of 28 other casualties who had some kind of connection with the area.

Dave's work has added to the information he found out about local First World War casualties, and following the Society's recent response to a request from the Imperial War Museum, when we extended the list of War Memorials local to us, a complete revamp of our War Memorials website pages has taken place. Many thanks to Peter Addison for his time spent doing this.

A browse of the names and addresses of the fallen brings home the proximity of where they lived, what they did and in many cases the young age at which they lost their lives – why not take a look at ...

<http://hoolehistsoc.btck.co.uk/WartimeHoole/LocalWarMemorialsanddetailsofCasualties>

### ***HOOLE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL'S VICTORY & PEACE MEDAL***



In 1945 at the end of the Second World War, Hoole UDC commissioned a Victory & Peace Medal, the examples shown being in the possession of Dave Rees.

No information has yet been found on the intended recipients, and because the Cheshire Record Office is closed there is no access to the Council's Minutes of that time. We know that a Coronation Medal issued in 1937 and also a chocolate tin from the 1911 Coronation were distributed to children in the District.

Members are asked if they, their relatives or neighbours are able to throw any light on the Victory & Peace Medal.

### ***ROWTON MOOR BY MOONLIGHT***

Members who attended the engaging talk by Bob Burgess in February when he suggested that the Battle of Rowton Moor actually took place further down Whitchurch Road at the crossing of Golborne Brook, will remember that there was some discussion as to whether the night before the Battle, 23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> September 1645, would have been clear. Peter Elliot has done some research and it turns out that there would have been bright moonlight until a while

before dawn, locally around 6 a.m. This seems to be confirmed by the equinox which would have been a fortnight before, bringing by refraction "civil twilight" enough to carry out most normal activities starting about 5.45 a.m. We know the day was clear later because the contemporary account of Col. Parsons refers to the Royalists having "wind and sun" on their side in the late afternoon.

## IMAGE FROM OUR WEBSITE TO APPEAR IN A BOOK



This photograph of a class at Westminster Road School in the early 1920's is to be included in a book containing a chapter on the use of rocking horses in British classrooms. Prof. Catherine Burke, who has been doing the research for an academic book on public history, found the image on our website. A detailed history of the School was compiled following the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its opening in 1865, and the features of the classroom including the fireplace can still be seen today in the nursery at the Community Centre. There are two other photographs from the same era also showing rocking horses. These can be seen on our webpage...

<http://hoolehistrsyc.btck.co.uk/HooleEducation>.

## HOOLE PARKS - UPDATE

### Coronation Playing Field: Planning Application REF. 19/04327/FUL

When the lock down started, it appeared that this application, to build a new pavilion on Coronation Playing Field, was not proceeding. It has been reported that, despite short notice, this application will be considered at the smaller, reconstituted and virtual Planning Committee in July. The information on the Planning Website is not a complete record of this application and the responses to date, but one can submit comments if a previous submission has been missed, or add something new.

### Alexandra Park: Planning Application REF: 19/03934/FUL

You need the reference number to find this application on the planning website. It is submitted by the Local Authority on behalf of the company to which the contract was let before getting planning permission from the Council. The company has not yet met planning conditions imposed.

## DID YOUR ROAD OR STREET COMMEMORATE/ CELEBRATE ON FRIDAY 8th MAY?

If so, why not write a short report and send it in so that we can include it in a future newsletter? If you have a photo to accompany it, so much the better. (Make sure that you have permission from anyone identifiable in the photo first for data protection compliance). It was beautiful weather for such an event.

In Queensway, Newton, a good proportion of the households participated from front gardens and pavements with drinks in hand or full-blown picnics whilst enjoying socially-distanced conversations. Creative families produced drawings and bunting to decorate garden hedges, walls and houses.

At intervals down the road, radios and TVs were set on maximum volume to hear Churchill's speech followed by big band music. The 40s' atmosphere was enhanced by those wearing contemporary clothing and the two households displaying WW2 artefacts, medals and photos of parents' war service were of great interest to those strolling by.

Later, in the evening some joined in a communal singing of "We'll meet again" and other war-time songs.



## LOCKDOWN 2020

Have you any stories of "lockdown" in Hoole or Newton that you would like to share?

How different has life been for you during this period? We would love to know.

Please send them to the Secretary using the address on the email sending this newsletter.