



Albrighton & District Historical Society



Newsletter – January 2026

A Happy New Year to all our Members and visitors!



Next Up: Our next talk is on Monday January 5th. Pamela Manning will be delivering her 'Wise Woman' talk. The talk centres on a wise woman from the Tudor period and will enlighten us on the foibles of relationships between the sexes during this period. Pamela gets into costume, uses the language of the day and through a series of question cards reveals all about how men and women interacted with each other during the Tudor era. History with a bit of fun attached.

Our **February 2nd** talk is by Ned Williams and he will be discussing 'Garden Cities'. The Garden City movement was developed in 1898 by social reformer, Ebenezer Howard. Ned will be developing our knowledge of this topic and revealing some hitherto forgotten gems.

On **March 2nd** we turn to the rather darker side of life as we gain entry to a Black Country Coroner's Court.



This is indeed

the subject of our March talk by Quintin Watt. Expect some tragic and gruesome tales to emerge. The talk has an interactive element to it where you get to decide the verdict as a coroner's Jury. Don't worry you will not be invited to the Post Mortem!



Talk about talks: Notes from our AGM: 2025 saw the Society continue to grow. We had 111 members and 115 visitors to our talks. In total we had 796 people attend our talks over the year. The

Facebook page continues to grow with 1,100 members. Our development of archaeology continues with committee member Richard Percival making some significant finds over the year, ranging from the later medieval period to the Second World War. Our **November talk** was entitled 'The Crimson Field' and it covered the medical war that was being fought daily on the battle fields of World War One as medical staff from the RAMC struggled to cope with mounting casualties. Some of the stories of heroism in the face of awful conditions were truly inspiring. The **October** talk covered 'The Rise and Fall of Worcestershire's Whitley Court'. Ray Sturdy was able to convey his love of this iconic and atmospheric grand house and grounds.

Our most popular talk of 2025 (98 attended) was 'Joey, Joshers and James: The Birmingham Canal Network' by Phil Clayton.

Our Thanks to: Chris Pitchford for all her hard work as Society Treasurer as she powers down the spreadsheet and leaves the role of treasurer. Thank you so much Chris.



Archive News: We have now finished the first part of our tasks with the Society Archives. If you want to find out about lighting, sewage, playgrounds, street signs, bins and the village relationships with RAF Cosford, the Library is a good place to start. We now need to interpret much of the information.

One of the artefacts from our archive was odd. It was this 1955 England Vs Scotland Football programme.

We are unsure how it got into the archive. It gives a fascinating insight into this era. The stadium is still called: 'Empire Stadium Wembley'. This was of course still an era of Empire although change was very much in the air denoted by Indian independence in 1947. The Labour Government of 1945 to 51 had started decolonisation and Tory Prime Minister, Harold Macmillan, acknowledged this process in a speech to the South African Parliament in 1960. The 'Winds of Change over Africa speech'

Inside, the programme gives a flavour that the War was not long behind us. Indeed rationing had only ended in the UK in 1954 ID cards were abolished only in 1952. The programme of music was very militaristic as shown.



Time Table and Programme of Music		
1.30 pm to 2.20 pm	THE COMBINED BANDS OF THE GRENADEIR GUARDS AND THE SCOTS GUARDS By kind permission of the Lieutenant-Colonels commanding	
1. March Medley "Marial Moments" arr. Winter
2. Selection "The Rose" arr. Middleton
3. Excerpts from "Can Can" Porter
4. Valse "The Grenadiers" Waldenfel
5. March "Knightsbridge" from "London Suite" Coates
6. Selection "Savoy English Medley" arr. D. Somers
7. Finale "The Thistle" arr. Middleton
2.20 pm to 2.50 pm	COMMUNITY SINGING (Arranged by the Daily Express) Conductor: ARTHUR CAIGER, D.C.M. Accompanied by THE BAND OF THE IRISH GUARDS	
2.55 pm	THE NATIONAL ANTHEM PRESENTATION OF THE TEAMS TO H.R.H. THE DUKE OF GLOUCESTER, K.G.	
3.0 pm	Kick-off	
3.45 pm	Half-Time	
	MARCHING DISPLAY BY THE MASSED BANDS OF THE GRENADEIR, SCOTS AND IRISH GUARDS By kind permission of the Lieutenant-Colonels Commanding	
	THE GRENADEIR GUARDS Director of Music: Major F. J. Harris, M.B.E., A.R.C.M., p.s.m.	
	THE SCOTS GUARDS Director of Music: Lieut.-Colonel S. Rhodes, M.B.E., Mus.Bac., A.R.C.M., p.s.m. Senior Director of Music, Brigade of Guards	
	THE IRISH GUARDS Director of Music: Captain C. H. Jaeger, Mus.Bac., L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M., p.s.m.	
4.40 pm	End of Match THE NATIONAL ANTHEM (Cover photograph by courtesy of "Fox Photos")	

had it so good' is exemplified by the advert for a TV:

The game against Scotland in April 1955 came less than two years after England had been humbled by Hungary in November 1953. England lost 3-6 at Wembley and 7-1 in Budapest in 1957. The match was also played 18 months before the disastrous Suez Crisis in October 1956.

We were no longer a force to be reckoned with in football and terms of empire or indeed as an independent military force in a world which was now split between two superpowers (USA and USSR). So in many ways this programme is an archive which you could read as one of a decline. However it was an era of full employment, consumer goods, HP credit, our own space programme and nuclear power with the nuclear bomb and a seat on the UN Security Council.

When you can't look on look in ...

The "His Master's Voice" Highlight Television range gives you a wonderful choice of models, all of which have the new Enoscope aluminium flat-faced tube for daylight viewing. You can have 14" or 17" tube, table or console cabinets and the assurance that your H.M.V. 'Highlight' will give the best picture obtainable in your area.

Ask your local H.M.V. dealer for a demonstration and full particulars.

THE FULL H.M.V. 'HIGHLIGHT' 2-BAND TELEVISION RANGE	
14" Table Model 1424A	65 GNS.
14" Console Model 1424A	77 GNS.
17" Table Model 1724A	81 GNS.
17" Console Model 1724A	82 GNS.
17" Console Model 1724A (with full length chassis)	105 GNS.

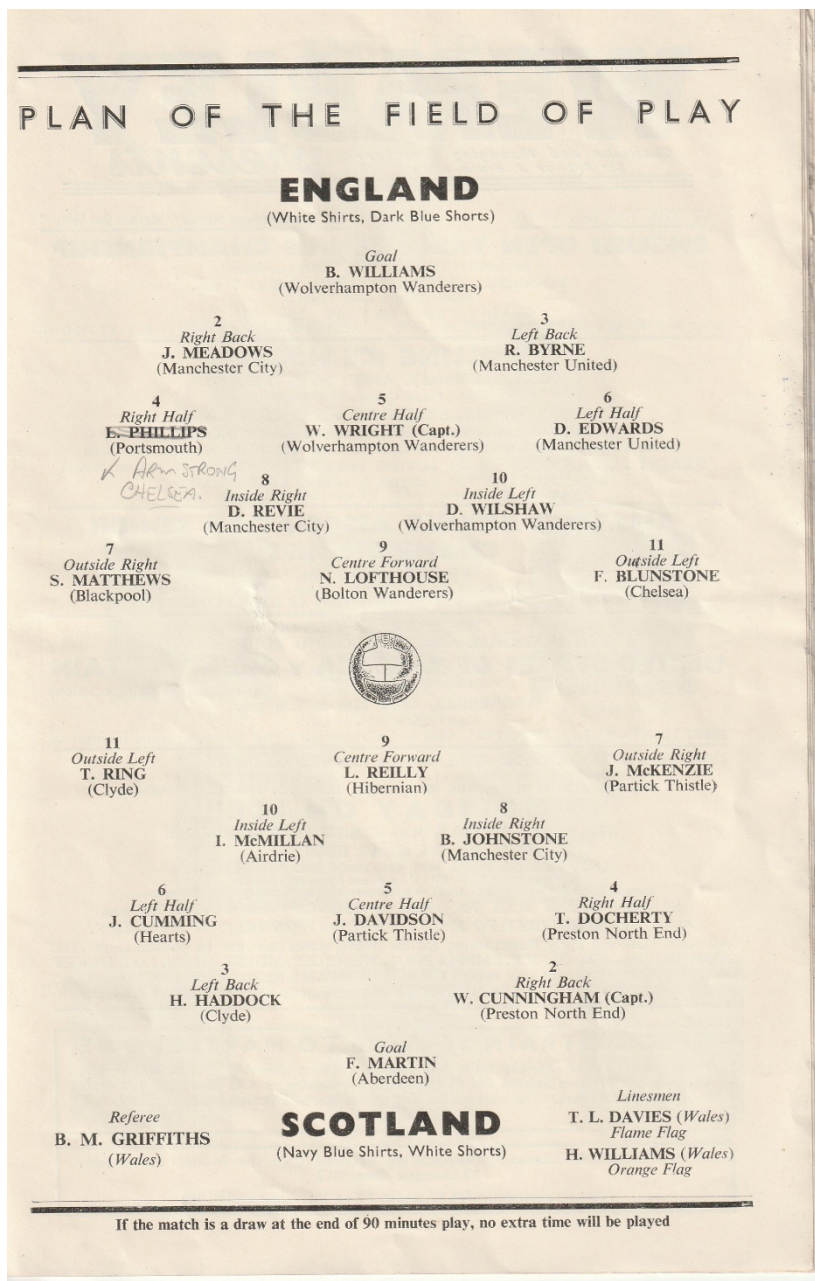
£40 Price Tax Paid. All models obtainable on instalment terms.

"HIS MASTER'S VOICE" 'HIGHLIGHT' TELEVISION

The Sound of Quality
THE GRAMOPHON COMPANY LIMITED, BAILEY, NINGBORE

The programme also shows an optimism in football as we had a programme of internationals in between October 1955 and November 1957 against Denmark, Spain, Brazil Sweden Finland, West Germany, Yugoslavia, France and the USSR. England won 9 of the games against the above teams including standout games against Brazil and West Germany. In all 13 wins, 4 draws and 6 losses. Maybe we talked the old nation down too much?

For the football fans amongst the readers we should post the two teams, some names will be familiar.



So what was the score?

England 7- 2 Scotland

Goal Scorers:

England: Denis Wilshaw 4, Nat Lofthouse 2, Don Revie 1

Scotland: Laurie Reilly 1, Tommy Docherty 1

Programme for 2026

January 5th: Pamela Manning

'The Wise Woman'

February 2nd: Ned Williams

'Garden Cities'

March 2nd: Quintin Watt

'The Black Country Coroner'

April 13th: Alison Utting

'Aggie"- The Life and Times of Dame Agnes Hunt'

May 4th: Mary Bodfish

'Cavalier Dogs and Roundhead Rogues'

June: Date & Topic TBC

September 7th: Bernie Jones

'The Restoration of Wappenshall Wharf'

October 5th: Olivia Beards

'Beneath the Pitch: A History of Molineux Pleasure Grounds'

November 2nd: Richard Percival

'The Submarine that Died Twice'

December 7th: Society AGM With guest speaker

Membership is just £12 per annum or £3 per visit

Join at any of the above meetings.



Please pass this newsletter on to
a friend



[Albrighton and District
historical Society](#) or on the
internet

albrightonhistory.wix.com/adhs

Come and Join us!

The winter of 1947 was one of the coldest on record. Seen here Miss Jordan by Boningale Cottages