



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 battlefields 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

Time Table and Programme of Music										
1.30 pm to 2.20 pm THE COMBINED BANDS OF THE GRENADIER GUARDS AND THE SCOTS GUARDS										
By kind permission of the Lieutenant-Colonels commanding										
1. March Medley	"Marital Moments"	arr. Winter						
2. Selection	"The Rose"	arr. Myddleton						
3. Excerpts from "The Can Can"	"The Can Can"	Perera						
4. Volte	"The Grenadier"	Waldersorf						
5. March	"Knightsbridge" from "London Suite"	Coates						
6. Selection	"Savoy English Medley"	arr. D. Somervell						
7. Finale	"The Thistle"	arr. Myddleton						
2.20 pm to 2.50 pm COMMUNITY SINGING										
(Arranged by the <i>Daily Express</i>)										
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 GRENADIER, SCOTS AND IRISH GUARDS										
By kind permission of the Lieutenant-Colonels Commanding										
THE GRENADIER 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.										
4.49 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 in 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 Eimicope aluminized 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	65ENS.
• 14" Console Model	77ENS.
• 17" Table Model	81ENS.
• 17" Console Model	92ENS.
• 17" Console Model 15.27" & 19.30" full 18.25" & 21.25" table	105ENS.

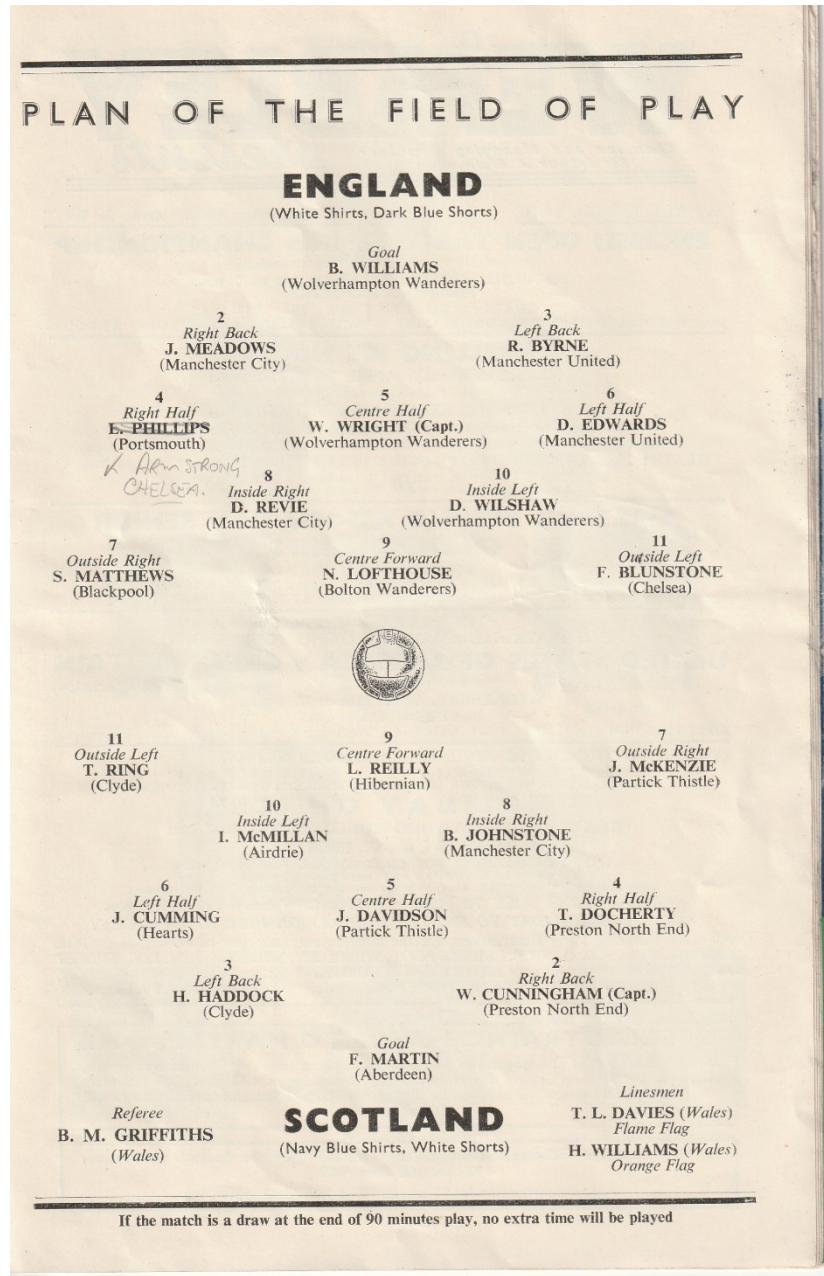
14" Price Test Party
All models obtainable on
interstate and intra.

"HIS MASTER'S VOICE"
"HIGHLIGHT" TELEVISION

The Hallmark of Quality
THE GRAMOPHONE COMPANY LIMITED, BAYLEY, MIDDLESEX

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



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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