

NEWSLETTER

Redditch
History
Society

January 2021

Volume 2 / Issue 6

New Year General Updates

Introduction

First let me wish you a Happy New Year.....

As 2021 begins we have received several notices and questions from various organisations and individuals which members may find interesting and could give some input...

Normally, these are items which our Chairman, Don, would announce at the beginning of our monthly meetings. However, as these are not happening soon, I thought I would put these together a quick Newsletter to keep you informed.

Obviously, at this stage, will still have no idea how this year will pan out, but we will keep you fully informed when there is some clarity concerning this year's activities.

We plan to have a more elaborate Newsletter in early Spring and hopefully, as an optimist, I am always hopeful that in that edition things will be becoming a bit clearer.

Meanwhile take care knowing, at the very least, the days a getting longer and we can be looking forward to the spring and better weather.

Anthony Green, Society Secretary; January 2021

Alcester History Newsletter

The January 2021 edition of the monthly newsletter from the Alcester & District Local History Society is now available.

They will have no meetings at their Alcester venue, St Benedict's, for the first quarter of 2021, after which meetings will be dependent upon Government guidance on holding large meetings and social distancing.

The Society will keep members up to date with developments in forthcoming newsletters.

The items covered in the January newsletter are :

- From the Chairman
- Last Months Meeting on Zoom
- Oversley Bridge
- The Green Dragon at Sambourne
- Programme of Meeting (Zoom) January - April
- How to obtain the latest edition of 'Local Past'

Unfortunately, the Society has not updated their website newsletter downloads <http://www.alcesterhistory.org.uk/pages/newsletters.html> since the beginning of the pandemic in February 2020.

I have therefore made this newsletter available on our website at:

<http://www.redditchhistorysociety.org.uk/download/ADLHS%20JANUARY%2021NL.pdf>



ALCESTER & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
JANUARY 2021
www.alcesterhistory.org.uk
Facebook

Among the gentry, Loss Accounts submitted included: Thomas Radcliff, gentleman of Wood Sevington; Lady Dorothy Clarke of Bloom Court, whose submission included 22 horses valued at £100; and Edward Green of Great Alce. Parish constables were responsible for collecting taxes and for paying out parish funds as necessary. Among those listed in the Loss Accounts were Henry I farm of Salford Priory and Mr Field of Alcester. The Salford Priory Loss account also mentioned the vicar, Richard Eades and Elizabeth Eades, who listed among other things the cost of feeding 20 Scottish soldiers. Margaret Sheldon of Grafton Court in Temple Grafton submitted an account for £256 for bed which included £400 for household goods. In Alcester a number of ordinary folk were included in the Loss Accounts, especially regarding the costs incurred in supplying the Scots army: Henry King, William Balesmore, John Hunt and Richard Yamell (apothecary), George Tongue (baker), Anthony Cheahin (chandler) and Richard Johnson (gunsmith).

This was a fascinating talk with a truly local flavour and especially interesting as I came from so much original research by Martin and Wendy. The thirty-eight members taking part in the Zoom meeting were very appreciative of the illuminating and detailed lecture by our speakers.

Alan Godfrey

OVERSLEY BRIDGE
Alcester was well served, and still is, with its crossings over the River Arrow. Gunning's Bridge was noted in the last issue and was seen to derive from the 13th century at least and to have been the concern of the manor of Alcester. Dunsley Bridge, by the 17th century, was regarded as a 'county bridge' by Quarter Sessions and thus the concern of all county ratepayers. Our first documentary evidence comes from the mid-16th century but how much older than that it was we do not know. Originally, the 'Salt Way', or Roman road from Stratford through Alcester, would have crossed the Arrow at this point - or a few yards away - by means of a ford. This stone bridge connected the parishes and

FROM THE CHAIRMAN
Although the COVID pandemic is far from over, indeed Alcester has now been moved into Tier 4, however the news of another vaccine getting the green light is very welcome and we hope that things may get back closer to normal by the summer. Once again, the Society is holding a virtual meeting using Zoom and I hope as many of you as possible will join this talk on Wednesday 13th January. Details are shown at the end of the newsletter. Using this software is very easy and if you would like to know more about how to connect to a Zoom meeting, please email me. I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe, healthy and happy New Year in 2021.

Alan Godfrey

LAST MONTH'S MEETING ON ZOOM
Donovan's illustrated talk was entitled 'Life and Loss in Alcester & District during the English Civil War' and the speaker was Dr Martin Proppert and Wendy Sheldrick. They first explained that they had been recruited as part of a team of volunteers to transcribe the 200 or so Warwickshire 'Loss Accounts', which were produced during the First English Civil War. The project, managed by our member Dr Maureen Harris, secured Heritage Lottery Funding was launched to give the volunteers the opportunity to learn about 17th century paleography and about the English Civil Wars. The intention is that the completed transcripts will be published by the county's Dugdale Society. The first task for our speakers was to learn how to decipher the secretary hand used to write the Loss Accounts. Although written in English the alphabet used was significantly different to the modern day. For example 'p' is used in place of 'b'. In addition, spelling was often variable and numerals shown in Arabic script, but sometimes in Roman numerals. The Loss Accounts vividly record the human cost of the English Civil War and through them the despair, anguish and fear of the civilian population in war-torn Warwickshire. The accounts were produced by a variety of individuals: gentry, parish constables, clergymen and local tradespeople.



Digital Access to the historical census 1861-1911

I received this communication earlier this month. I have downloaded and had a brief look at the publication and it looks interesting.

Dear Secretary,

I am contacting you because I believe local and family history societies deserve better access to the historical census ie those of 1861-1911, and of course 1921 in due course. This digitised resource, funded by The National Archives out of taxation, has been limited in its utility by the paywall which is operated by Ancestry.com and others.

I have written an article explaining why this arrangement impairs local historical studies, and why it should be amended. The location of the data I have used to illustrate this argument has little to do with your area, but the principle is the same: making the public pay twice to see public records is no longer acceptable.

Here is the link to the paper. There are no copyright limitations by agreement with the publisher, Edinburgh University Press. So please distribute the paper to your members as you see fit.

Just click on the link.

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/345503693_Making_the_Census_Count_Revealing_Edinburgh_1760-1900

Yours sincerely,

Richard Rodger, FRHS, FAcSS

Professor Emeritus, University of Edinburgh

Questions..Questions...

From time to time I am contacted with questions concerning the history of the town. In some cases I can answer them, others, I know someone who can, and others neither of these work.

Below are two questions for you to look at. If you know the answer, or know where the answer can be found, could you contact me. I can either give you the e-mail address of the questioner so that you can contact them directly, or pass the answer to them, whichever you prefer.

Question 1

Lodge Cottage, Lodge Road.

Hi & hello,

I wonder if you put me in touch with someone in your history society who could help me with a bit of a family history puzzle.

I have been passed archive letters written from the address of 'Lodge Cottage' by my Grandfather and another even an older member of the family but the contents of the letter give no indication as to why they are there.

What I hope to find out somehow is whether this address was a domestic residence, or if it was a medical establishment of some kind.

From what I understand so far is that although the road is still there, Lodge Cottage has now disappeared.

Many thanks for your help in advance,

Best regards, Anthony Fielding

Question 2

Hi there,

We live on Other Road in Redditch and recently found 2 membership cards of a local Druid group.

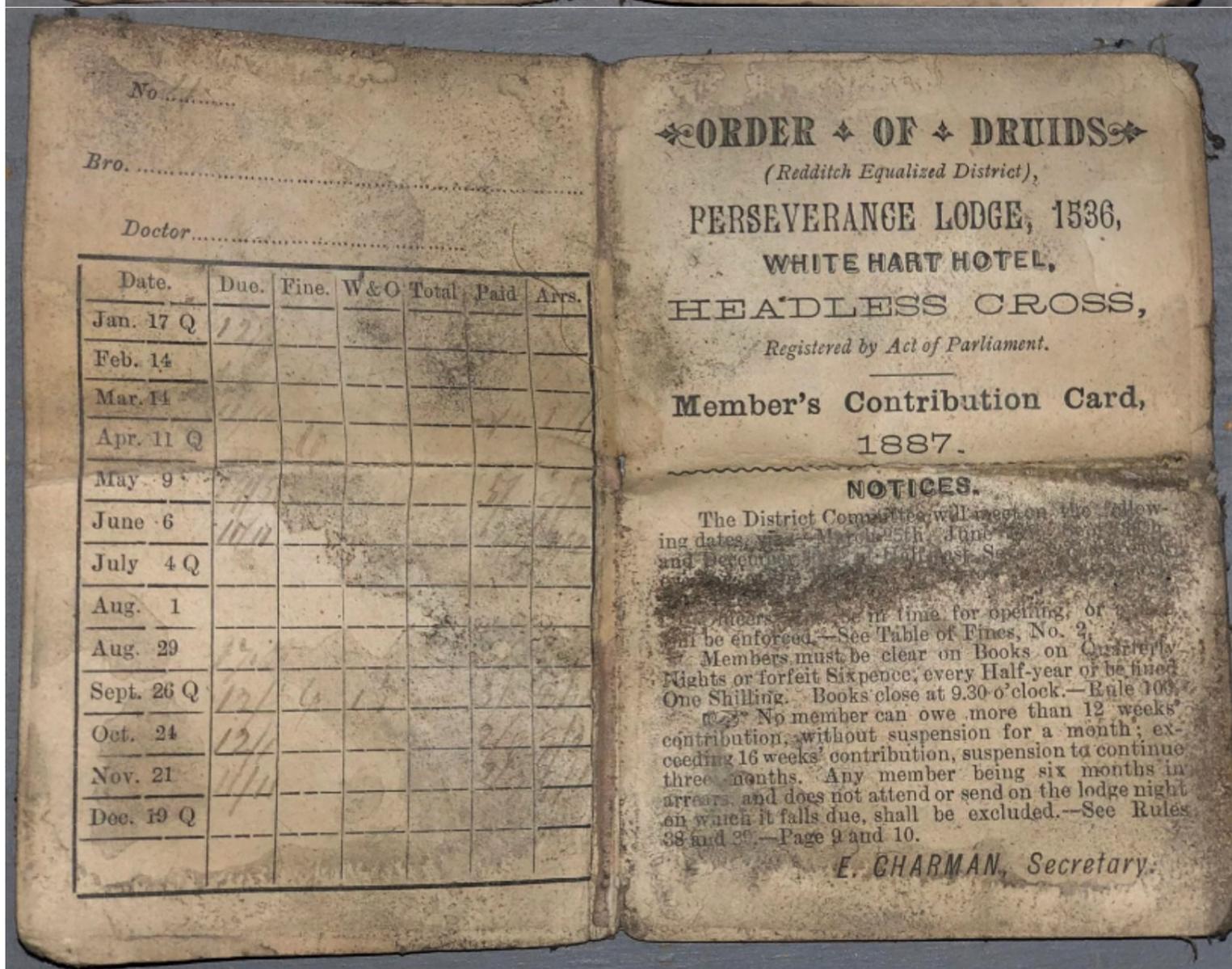
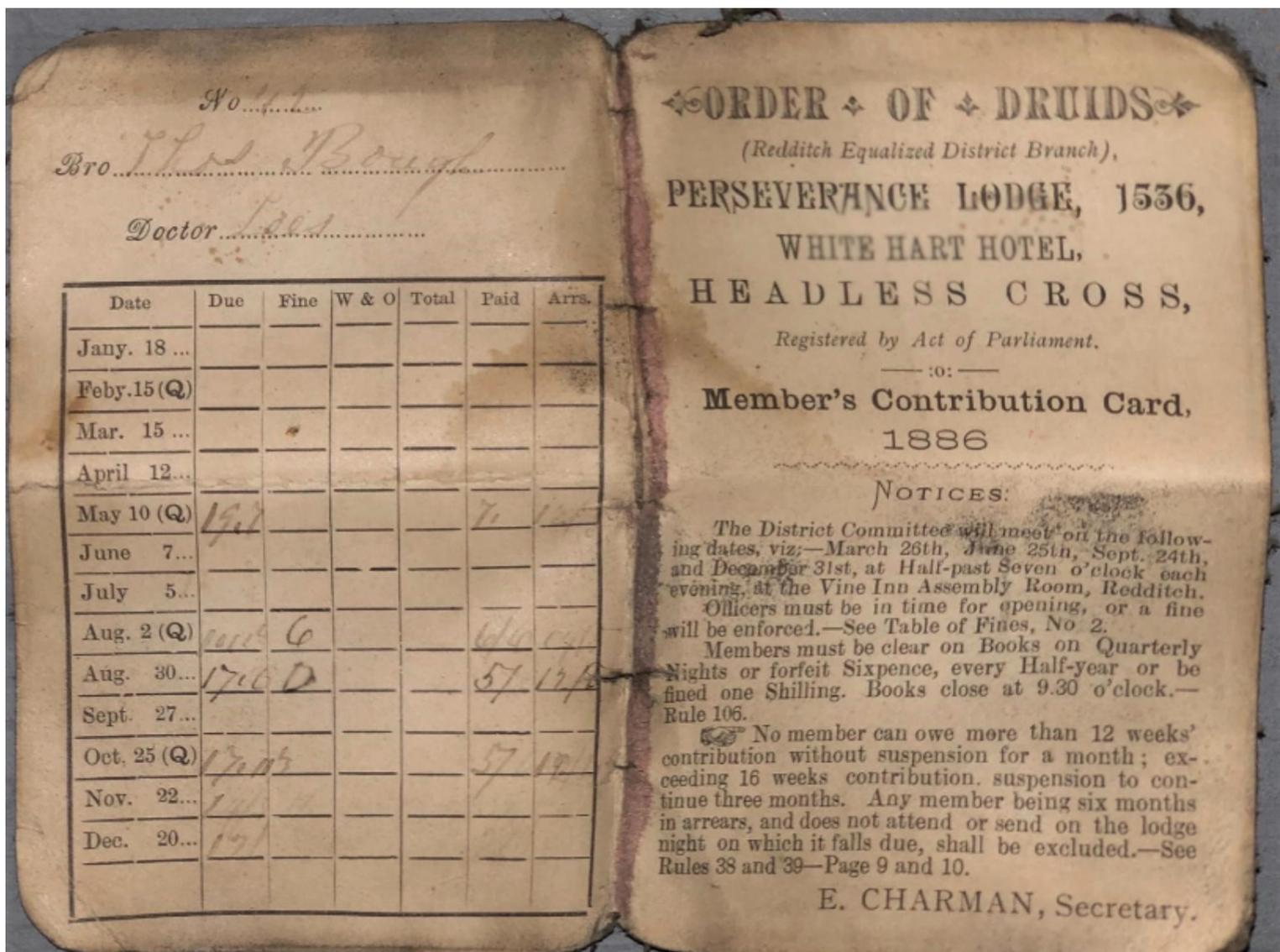
I was wondering if anyone would be able to shine any light on the history of this at all?

Thanks very much in advance.

Heather

You will find the images on Page 3. The document is fascinating and is certainly new to me! - Tony

Images of local Druid Group membership cards



BALH On-line Webinars

BALH

BRITISH ASSOCIATION
FOR LOCAL HISTORY

As part of our digital engagement, we are running a series of online skills workshops and webinars throughout 2021.



I have looked at the webinars available and, of interest to members, and not necessarily for use for the Society, is the BALH Digital Webinar: How to grow your local history social media presence.

The one-hour webinar is on Wednesday 10th March 2021 at 6:00pm and is with BALH's Social Media Fellow, Daniella Gonzalez. Daniella will introduce the various social media platforms available and how local history societies can best use them to promote their work and engage with the wider history community.

Details are at:

https://www.balh.org.uk/event-balh-balh-digital-webinar-how-to-grow-your-local-history-social-media-presence-2021-03-10?utm_medium=email&utm_source=BALH&utm_campaign=newsletter-792.

This is free for BALH members (which means the Society but not the membership) and open to non-members for a small fee.

They are trialling an initiative to offer a discount for BALH Society Members to pass on to their membership and each society has been issued with a discount code for this purpose. I have the discount code for the Society, which reduces the fee to £3.

If you are interested in taking part, please contact me for the discount code.

For details of future events check their website www.balh.org.uk/balh-events.

Anthony Green, Secretary

secretary@redditchhistorysociety.org.uk