

Hitler's link to the local area

During WW2 there was a genuine fear of Hitler successfully invading Britain, and the person he would put in charge was Oswald Mosley. Mosley spent much of his childhood at Apedale Hall. In 1932 he founded the British Union of Fascists. Stoke-on-Trent was an important power base for Mosley, and outside London had the largest membership of the party, with 500 members by 1934. Joachim von Ribbentrop, the Nazi Ambassador to Britain often stayed with Mosley in Stoke until Mosley was arrested during WW2.



Local History- Y7

INTRODUCTION

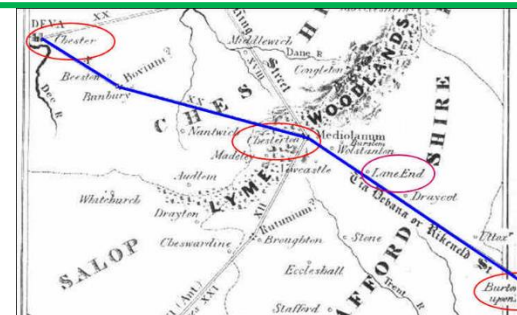
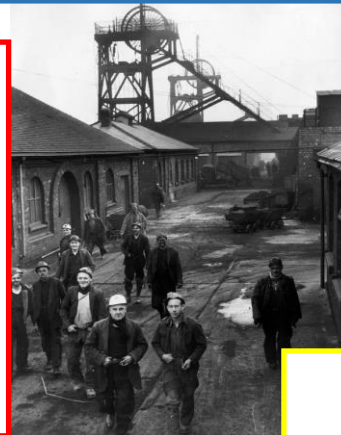
Here at The Orme Academy we value the importance of developing our students local history. By doing local history we do all kinds of history at once; social, cultural, political and economic. From local history we get to family history, archives, museums and archaeology, through the communities who lived there, the records and buildings that have been left. By trying to understand the history of a local environment and culture we learn why things are that way today.

The influence of the Orme Academy on the Romans

Excavations locally have revealed a sandstone-paved section of the road in the grounds of The Orme Academy. Further evidence shows that the road crossed Wolstanton Golf course and entered Chesterton, close to the junction between London Road and the A34. The road then continued on towards Middlewich in Cheshire. This road was a vital link to move resources from the small market in Chesterton to big cities in Chester and London.

Coal Mines- The Wolstanton Colliery and local mine disasters.

Wolstanton Colliery was the village's greatest employer of men. In 1947, the pit employed 650 men underground and 215 on the surface. Following the Second World War, more coal was required from collieries and between 1957 and 1964, Wolstanton became the largest and deepest pit in Europe. In 1963, output was 1,015,784 tons, achieved with a workforce of 2,626 men. Where this mine avoided major disasters due to safety measures and modernisation, two local mines at Bignall End and Halmer End both faced major explosions that killed many workers and led to many negative social and economic impacts on the local area.



Philip Astley- how Newcastle-under-Lyme is the home of the modern day circus

Philip Astley was born in Newcastle-under-Lyme. Astley's dream was to work with horses, so he joined the cavalry when he was 17, later becoming a Sergeant Major. After he was sacked from the cavalry in 1766, Astley saw that trick riders received the most attention from the crowds in London. He had an idea for opening a riding school which allowed poor people to receive an education and move into a lifestyle that allowed them to travel for free as part of Astley's circus. Astley began to make a reputation and to grow richer. After two years in London he had to bring something new to his performances, so he hired other horsemen, musicians, a clown, jugglers, tumblers, tightrope walkers, and dancing dogs – the modern circus was created. Astley's circus was so popular that he was invited in 1772 to perform before Louis XV of France in Versailles.



Witchcraft comes home

The witchcraft craze was a huge movement across Europe in the 17th and 18th Centuries and its impact was felt in our local History. The curious case of Molly-Leigh who was a lonely woman and was targeted by the local reverend as being a witch and causing pain on to others. Historians believe Mollie earned Reverend Spencer's hatred for refusing to contribute to the church's upkeep as she accused him of spending too much time drinking and wasting donations to the church. The reverend, with churchmen from Wolstanton convinced the people of the local area that Molly was a witch, and her body was reburied facing in the wrong direction so her soul could not rest.

