The meeting started with Polly R showing some pictures given to our archive – of Anne R’s family in the 1920’s and of the Young Wives Fellowship and a number of the people in the photo were recognised (including a member of the History Society’s mother!).

Tony D delivered his introduction to Ainsworth (Cockey Moor)’s claim to be Coccium.  It started with a quote from William Camden (1586) “As I was seeking eagerly near the Irwell for Coccium, mentioned by Antoninus, I saw Cockley, a wooden chapel set round with trees”.  There was also a sketch portrait of William Camden, which had been donated by a villager and which was passed around at the meeting.  There is a theory that Cockey Moor is connected with the Celtic word “Kokka” meaning red earth, and the ancient Latin for scarlet, which is coccinum (coccum), and this may be the origin of the Roman word “Coccium”.  According to the Antonine itinerary, Coccium was 17 miles from Manchester and 20 miles from Ribchester.   A Roman mile is 0.92 imperial miles, which makes it 15.64 miles from Manchester and 18.40 miles from Ribchester.  Looking at the map, Ainsworth does not match these distances (although Wigan does).  However, it was pointed out by a member of the group that Wigan only matches it “as the crow flies” and the Roman army would have been marching up and down hills as they went along Watling Street – so more research is needed (possibly someone taking the same path and measuring it as they go!)

It then continued with more pictures from our archive, this time of shows, especially pantos, from the 1930’s, 40’s and 50’s, including one panto which was taken “on tour” around the area and also was performed  to entertain the troops stationed in Lowercroft.  In addition, we saw a photo of Anne R in a Christmas Show when she was 5 years old and Anne talked a little bit about this.