



LANCASHIRE LOCAL HISTORY FEDERATION

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Please see the website www.lancashirehistory.org for more contact details.

View from the Chair

In September 1769 the celebrated actor-manager David Garrick staged a three-day 'Shakespeare Jubilee' in Stratford-upon-Avon, to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the playwright's birth. As it happened, he was 5 years and 5 months out with his timing (Shakespeare was born in April 1564) but let's not worry about that! The celebrations were one of the earliest and most prominent examples of what has now become something of a national obsession – the marking and commemorating of the anniversaries of an almost unlimited range of people and events, and the attributing of an almost talismanic quality to those magic numbers ... 25, 50, 150, 200 and so on. Centenaries, bicentenaries, sesquicentenaries (I always like that one), 20th anniversaries, 50th anniversaries, Golden Jubilees, and on it goes.

For local historians, and indeed for historians generally, and especially perhaps for the media, the phenomenon is a godsend. There's never going to be a time when there is nothing to celebrate, as there will always be an anniversary to mark, however obscure or 'niche'. Quite often it might be a big and dramatic event (a railway accident or mining disaster), an important happening (a Civil War battle), the date of a famous person (the birth centenary of a 1970s TV celebrity), but it could equally be very local and seemingly less significant – though potentially very meaningful in context (the first council house, the new church organ, the closure of the branch line).

Nationally important events, which may be universal in their impact, often generate a wealth of books, articles and media coverage – think of the massive attention given to so many tragic centenaries between 2014 and 2018, swiftly followed by the no less troubled commemoration of the 1918-1920 'flu epidemic (though for obvious reasons that was swiftly overshadowed by current events). In Ireland the 'decade of centenaries' is reaching its end: a litany of unrest, uprising, wars international, national and civil, and political turmoil and consolidation. The literature published during 2013-2023 about the events and people in Ireland 100 years ago is vast and often challenging in its appraisals and reassessments of what happened and why, and its consequences right through to the present day. As with WWI, the centenaries were an opportunity to look afresh at received wisdom and arguments.

Locally, of course, marking anniversaries might result in the holding of exhibitions, or a day conference, or a public lecture, or a programme of linked activities. Schools might be involved, libraries and archives might use the commemoration as a focus of outreach, and the parish or town council might sponsor or encourage celebrations (or is that a naively unrealistic thought in this world of financial stringency?). And, naturally, the local history society has a central role to play.

I was thinking of what we have coming up in Lancashire over the next decade or so - and it's a long list. In 2024 it's the 250th anniversary of the opening of the first section of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, in 1928 the Garstang bypass (one of the earliest in the country) was opened and, looking further ahead, 2034 marks the centenary of the East Lancs Road and the first Mersey Tunnel. In Blackburn the parish church of St Mary the Virgin was made a cathedral in 1927 when the diocese was created; the Midland Hotel in Morecambe was opened in 1933 (will its centenary coincide with the Eden Project Morecambe?); the great Ravenhead plate-glass works at St Helens opened in 1776; and two of the really big events will be 2029's bicentenary of the Rainhill trials followed a year later by the 200th anniversary of the Liverpool and Manchester Railway.

And let us not forget that this year, 2023, sees the 50th anniversary of the Regional Heritage Centre at Lancaster University and of the Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society, and (fanfare of trumpets) the **Lancashire Local History Federation**. Now that is really a cause for celebration!

Alan Crosby

TWO DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The Federation AGM, followed by a talk by a guest speaker, will be held over Zoom at 7pm on Tuesday 28 March. Do join us. Further details to follow.

The Federation is delighted to say that this year's 'At Home' is to be hosted by Ribchester Local History Society on Saturday 10 June (see programme and application form below). We are sure it will be an enjoyable and informative day.

**Lancashire Local History Federation
'At Home'
with Ribchester Local History Society
in Ribchester Village Hall
Saturday 10th June 2023**



9.30-9.50am Arrival and registration with refreshments

9.50- 10.00am Welcome and outline of the day

10.00-11.00am Speaker 1: Dr Jim Morris

'The Ribchester Revisited Archaeological Project'

11.00 – 11.30am Break

11.30-12.30pm - Speaker 2: Sir Peter Openshaw

'St Saviours Stydd: Its history, and the myth that the Catholic martyr, Margaret Clitherow, is buried there'

12.30- 1.15pm Lunch

1.15- 4.00pm Visit to Ribchester Roman Museum (entry included in ticket)
Visit to St Wilfrid's Church
Ribchester Village trail including visit to St Saviours Stydd
Exhibition in Village Hall: 'Mills of Ribchester & Knowle Green'

Speakers and contributors :

Dr Jim Morris: Senior Lecturer in Archaeology UCLAN. Dr Morris co-directed the "Ribchester Revisited Archaeological Project" in Ribchester 2014- 19.

Sir Peter Openshaw : Sir Peter has a keen interest in the history of the Ribchester area and has researched various topics relating to the area.

Roy Skilbeck: Roy, the Society's President, is an authority on the history of area. He produced the exhibition and will be available to answer questions.

'At Home' with Ribchester Local History Society

Saturday 10th June 2023

Please complete all sections and post to be received by Thursday 25th May 2023 to:

Mrs Alison Forde, 4, Eastgate, Ribchester, Preston PR3 3ZN

Or Email: ribchesterlhs@gmail.com

Please print clearly in capital letters

Please note price includes entry to Ribchester Roman Museum

Please reserve places, with finger buffet lunch at £20 per person

Please reserveplaces without lunch (but inc. tea/ coffee) at £15 per person.....

Special access/ parking requirements.....

Special dietary requirements.....

Cheque enclosed for..... made payable to Ribchester Local History Society

Name(s).....

.....

Contact address:.....

.....Tel:

Email:

Confirmation and further details will be sent by email whenever possible

NEWS FROM ARCHIVES

LANCASHIRE ARCHIVES

New Lancashire history publication – Archives



Our new Lancashire local history magazine, *Archives*, is now available to purchase in all Lancashire libraries and at Lancashire Archives, priced at £3. If you'd like to receive a copy by post, please contact the Archives at archives@lancashire.gov.uk

Thanks are due to all the contributors who submitted articles, the design and print teams at Lancashire County Council and the editorial team at the Archives.

If you have an idea for a future contribution please contact us at archives@lancashire.gov.uk and we'd be pleased to discuss your suggestion. The deadline for submissions for the next edition is **Friday 17 March**. You can find out more about how to submit an article by visiting our website at: [Ordering copies and publications - Lancashire County Council](#)

Engaging Young People

We are always amazed and inspired by the creative ways that young people respond to our collections. On **Thursday 23 February** we are holding an open evening event for young people aged 13 to 25 to join us to establish a Young Archive Creators Group to help us programme exhibitions, visits, and other events for young people.

For more information email: archives@lancashire.gov.uk





Change Minds is a 'culture therapy' programme that works with people living with mental health challenges. As a member of Change Minds, you will be part of a shared experience of exploring historical mental health records from over one hundred years ago. Over 12 workshops, you will take part in a fascinating journey of learning, creativity and thinking about mental health in the past and today.

If you want to, you can also participate in the evaluation element of this programme through questionnaires and conversations to understand the impact of Change Minds on your mental health and wellbeing.



Scaling up Change Minds

This month sees the start of a new project looking at the historic records of the Lancaster Moor County Asylum.

Change Minds is a 'culture therapy' programme that works with people living with mental health challenges. As a member of Change Minds, you will be part of a shared experience of exploring historical mental health records from over one hundred years ago. Over 12 workshops, you will take part in a fascinating journey of learning, creativity and thinking about mental health in the past and today.

How do I get involved? Talk to the Recovery College team. You can email us at

recovery.college@lscft.nhs.uk, or call us on 01772 695365.

Find out more about Change Minds on the website www.changeminds.org.uk. You can also contact Victoria McCann, Archivist, by phone on 01772 533039 or email archives@lancashire.gov.uk.

Can you help keep Lancashire in the picture?

*Colne Camera Club on Pendle Hill
(Red Rose Collections 227021)*

Lancashire County Council's archives, museums and libraries take care of hundreds of thousands of historic photographs of our county. You can look at many thousands of them online. However, many more are not available online so the collections need to be brought up to date. Gone are the days when some people printed their photographs and handed a copy in at their local library. Digital cameras and smart phones are capturing images of Lancashire every minute of the day, but few are being added to our collections.



(See <https://redrosecollections.lancashire.gov.uk/> for the current collections.)

A project is being developed, ahead of an application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund, to digitise and catalogue more photographs in the existing collections so everyone can enjoy them. People will also be asked to donate more recent images and help further by taking photographs that show what Lancashire is like now. It will be important to ensure that the images in the collections reflect the diversity of Lancashire's communities.

If you are interested in lending a hand - by helping with digitisation, donating images or taking photographs – just drop a line to archives@lancashire.gov.uk and we will keep you updated as the project takes shape.

FINDING A WAY: LANCASHIRE ROADS THROUGH HISTORY



Rooley Moor Road
(Geograph 412271, Dr Neil Clifton)

Federation Day School Saturday 5 November 2022 Preston Masonic Hall

The day school had been planned before the pandemic, so it was pleasing to see so many people come together when it could finally take place. Thanks to **Zoë Lawson** for making the arrangements.

Report by **Marianne Howell**

Although each speaker had chosen a different aspect of the topic, across many centuries, the talks complemented one another.

Dr Ian Saunders' theme was *Roman roads in Lancashire*. Dr Saunders is a retired physics lecturer from Lancaster University with an interest in cartography; he began to collect and research antique maps in 1984. His illustrated book on *Printed Maps of Lancashire: the first 200 years* was published in 2013.

Dr Saunders gave a comprehensive account of various aspects of these roads, which began as a necessity for moving the military, but evolved over time. He dealt with three principal aspects:

Information from documentary records. These are both sparse and sometimes contradictory. They are also often frustratingly vague about the locations and routes of roads.

Road construction. There were three kinds of road in a vast network, each with differing construction methods, but thanks to many excavations these methods can be reliably described. The main network is well known, but many puzzles remain.

LIDAR – Light detecting and ranging. The advent of LIDAR has greatly aided research, particularly for roads whose existence is assumed, but for which there is no visible evidence on the ground. Previous erroneous routes can be corrected as a result. Dr Saunders mentioned several Lancashire roads, some of which have been found because of LIDAR.

Dr Alan Crosby spoke about 17th and 18th century roads via quarter sessions and highway surveyors' records. Dr Crosby has had a long career in researching many aspects of local history, resulting in a large body of printed work. He was the editor of *Leading the Way: a history of Lancashire roads*.

Quarter sessions records (available in Lancashire Archives) exist from 1625 onwards. They dealt with criminal cases as well as county administration and other civil matters.

Early legislation gradually codified the way in which roads were to be provided and maintained, which for a long time was the responsibility of individual parishes. A great many petitions were presented to magistrates for adjudication. They dealt with disputes between neighbouring authorities, road blockages, and maintenance.

Every locality had a highway surveyor, volunteers who were appointed for a year, sometimes with no relevant experience.

Bridges linking roads between parishes presented particular problems, where magistrates had to balance the need for maintenance against the desire to control expenditure.

Celia Fiennes (1662-1741) travelled extensively through England, writing vivid descriptions of difficulties and obstacles she encountered on appalling roads. On one occasion she took 5 hours to travel fourteen miles. In 1697 there was legislation to provide signposts, which Fiennes noticed on the Garstang-Lancaster road.

There was a growing realisation that better roads were needed to advance economic expansion, especially with the advent of heavy stagecoaches. Gradually turnpikes were introduced to raise revenue for the upkeep of roads.



Dr Paul Hindle's theme was *Turnpikes and county mapping in central Lancashire*. Dr Hindle is a retired Senior Lecturer in Geography at Salford University who has published several books on historical geography, including *Maps for historians* and *Roads and tracks for historians*.

Toll Bar, Wharton

(Lancashire County Council Red Rose Collections 275513)

After the end of the Tudor period roads had deteriorated, so to remedy the situation tolls were first proposed in the 17th century. The first in Lancashire was in 1725.

There were two main periods of the establishment of tolls: from 1750 to 1770 the main focus was the improvement of existing roads; from 1790 to 1830 the emphasis was on the creation of new roads. Turnpike trusts were established by Acts of Parliament, and were not intended to be run for profit. By 1860 there were 80 miles of turnpiked roads nationally. Toll houses became a feature of the landscape, in differing styles, but all placed to give a clear view of oncoming traffic.

Dr Hindle showed various examples from older maps – Yates (1786), Greenwood (1818), and Hennet (1828-9) – to illustrate how to differing degrees they portrayed turnpikes, milestones, mileages and toll booths.

Professor Geoff Timmins took as his title *More than McAdam: road improvements in Lancashire during the industrial revolution*. Dr Timmins is Emeritus Professor at the University of Central Lancashire and a local and regional historian and author. His particular interests are the textile industry, weavers' housing and roads. His most recent book is *The built environment transformed: textile Lancashire during the Industrial Revolution*.

The talk outlined the differing **methods of road construction**. A typical method used in Lancashire was to lay down paving, then setts and cobbles.

Because of the increasing number of weekly coach services and other wheeled, horse-drawn vehicles, it was becoming increasingly necessary to provide better road surfaces, to widen carriageways and to straighten bends where possible.

Financing was a key issue. There were some exemptions from tolls, for example for funeral processions or mail coaches. In some cases, loans were given to finance the building or improvement of roads. There were auctions for the right to levy tolls annually. Many turnpike trusts went into debt over time.

There were accounts of terrible journeys for **road travellers**. In some cases this applied even to turnpiked roads. As the rail network was developed, there was an increasing disparity between the time taken by the two methods of travel.

With the growth of the economy brought about by the Industrial Revolution, there was a need to make road travel easier. **Gradient easing** was used, especially in the hilly east of the county, to ease journeys for horses.

Illustrations showed how roads were built or moved to lower gradients to 1:30 to 1:35 which was comfortable for horses, and bridges were provided over valleys.

In some cases new turnpiked roads were built to join existing older schemes, or constructed to provide an alternative, shorter route. Non-turnpiked roads were also improved.

There follows a list of resources which complement the talks on the day – Ed.

RESOURCES

Crane, Nicholas. *Great British journeys*. (Phoenix, 2008). ISBN 9780753824306 [Description of the journeys of eight early travellers.]

Fiennes, Celia. *The illustrated journeys of Celia Fiennes*, ed. Christopher Morris. (Macdonald, 1982). ISBN: 9780356086316.

Fiennes, Celia. *Through England on a side saddle in the time of William and Mary*. (Cambridge University Press, 2010). ISBN: 9781108021753.

Hindle, Paul. *Maps for historians*. (Phillimore, 1998). ISBN: 9780850339345.

Hindle, Paul. *Roads and tracks for historians* (Phillimore, 2001). ISBN: 9781860771828.

Leading the way: a history of Lancashire's roads, ed. Alan Crosby. (Lancashire County Books, 1998) ISBN: 97871236330.

Saunders, Ian. *Printed maps of Lancashire: the first two hundred years*. (University of Lancaster, 2013). ISBN: 9781862203075.

Timmins, Geoff. *The built environment transformed: textile Lancashire during the Industrial Revolution* (Historic England in association with Liverpool University Press, 2021). ISBN: 9781800856530.

Lancashire Archives. <https://bit.ly/2P6KNMH>

- Q – Lancashire Courts of Quarter Sessions 1583-1999
- QAR – Roads and Bridges
- QDT – Turnpike Trusts

Lancashire old maps, provided by Lancashire County Council [Lancashire County Council: Environment Directorate: Old Maps](#)

National Library of Scotland maps database <https://maps.nls.uk>.

Roman Roads Research Association www.romanroads.org.

The Milestone society. www.milestonesociety.co.uk. From 1767 mileposts became compulsory on turnpiked roads.

SPEAKERS' CORNER

Three more speakers have given us their details:

ROGER FRANKLAND

CONTACT: rfrankland6@gmail.com. Tel 01524 382097

SUBJECT: The history of "Top Cemetery" [Quernmore Road] Cemetery, Lancaster, and its Victorian inhabitants.

WILLING TO TRAVEL: Lancashire and South Cumbria.

MEDIUM: Prefer face to face but will Zoom.

NIGEL NEIL

CONTACT: 5 Hillside, Lancaster, LA1 1YH

07968 621530 nigelrjneil@googlemail.com

WILLING TO TRAVEL: Mainly in Lancashire, but willing to talk over Zoom to a wider audience.

SUBJECTS:

- Whalley Abbey archaeology: 30+ years on site. What have we learned?
- Lancaster Castle: from prison to heritage asset
- Lathom's War Horses: the WWI remount depot at Lathom Park, near Ormskirk
- 'Guides to take visitors through the labyrinths': First World War training & the public in Blackpool
- A Leap In The Park - medieval deer parks in the modern landscape

- Record it before it moves ! Lessons learned from 35+ years of recording buildings in advance of conversion
- The Bare Bones of It: my 40-year Burial archaeology learning-curve.

Nigel is a freelance archaeologist, with 45 years in the profession, but now 'semi-retired'. 'In theory, I am not taking on any new projects, though I still have numerous commitments to long-running projects' – notably his work on Whalley Abbey and Lancaster Castle. Nigel can offer a lot more detail about the background to his talks if you enquire.

ADRIAN TAYLER

CONTACT: Holly Bank, Leasgill, Milnthorpe LA7 7ET
01539 564030 / 07760 757339 aptayler@gmail.com

SUBJECT: Curtain Up! A history of British theatre and the Lancaster Grand, the third oldest theatre in the UK, dating from 1782

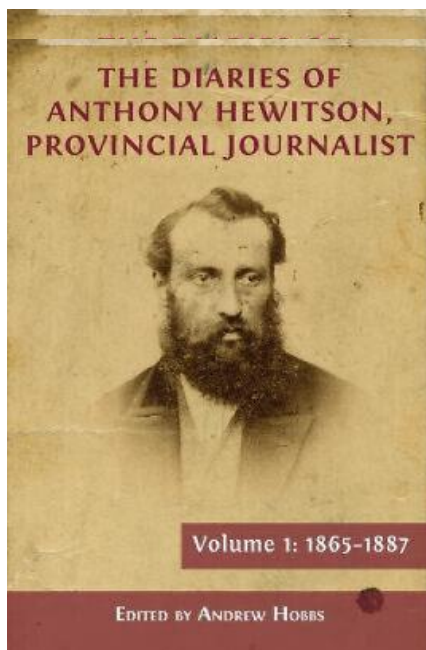
WILLING TO TRAVEL: Anywhere in Lancashire or south Cumbria. No Zoom talks.

FURTHER INFORMATION: I have a laptop and can provide a projector. I can also arrange backstage visits for groups and there are monthly public tours: <https://lancastergrand.co.uk/shows/theatre-tours>.

If you wish your details to be listed in the newsletter, do not include information about fees, as this can be discussed with the organisation when you make contact.

Any agreement will be made between the speaker and the group, so the Lancashire Local History Federation cannot accept responsibility for any aspect of the arrangement.

PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST



The Diaries of Anthony Hewitson, Provincial Journalist, vol.1 1865-1887, edited by Andrew Hobbs

(Open Book Publishers, 2022), xlix+672pp.

ISBN 978-1-80064-236-2.

Pbk £25.95; hbk £35.95; eBook can be downloaded £5.99; PDF downloadable free; free to read online: to find out more and access online or downloadable versions go to website <https://bit.ly/3HmoYW7>.

Many Lancashire historians, especially those from Preston and the part of the county north of the Ribble, may have come across Anthony Hewitson as the author of *Northward*, his local history-cum-travelogue published in 1900.

It is a well-constructed and well-researched volume, attractively written, and packed with contemporary observation, covering the area along (and on both sides of) what is now the A6 from Preston to Lancaster. Hewitson wrote that 'My principal object in writing the chapters that form this volume has been to promote the cause of Local Knowledge—to record, as the result of much research, personal inquiry, and friendly assistance, many curious particulars respecting roads and travelling methods, topography, personal and residential history, ecclesiastical and social matters, traditional and legendary affairs, &c, all pertaining to localities between Preston and Lancaster'. It is unusual to find such a 'mission statement' so clearly set out in a local history book now over 120 years old.

Northward followed several other books, of which *Churches and Chapels of Preston and District* is perhaps the best-known. But for Hewitson these works, and the considerable effort in research and exploration which lay behind them, were only a small part of his prodigious output. Born in Blackburn in 1836, in 1850 he became a printer's apprentice on the *Lancaster Gazette* newspaper. In 1857, after a very brief spell at the *Kendal Mercury*, he went to the West Midlands as compositor and reporter (and editor) of the *Brierley Hill Advertiser*, but only a year later became a compositor and reporter on the *Preston Guardian*. Moving between this and the *Preston Chronicle* and the *Preston Herald*, he was eventually chief reporter of the *Guardian* (1864), reporter at the *Chronicle* (1867) and in 1868 became the owner of the latter, keeping it until its sale in 1890.

Hewitson kept a diary from at least 1865, although in 1864 he had already written a short autobiographical memoir, *My Life*. His surviving diaries are now in Lancashire Archives, covering (in the present volume) 1865-1868, 1872-1875, 1881, 1884-1885, and 1887 (with some shorter gaps within these years). The entries are generally quite brief, and often largely factual, and quite frequently they are less than a full sentence (Tuesday 23 March 1875: 'Working in shop & office all day'; Wednesday 24 March: 'Same'). Relatively few of the entries give opinions, verdicts or judgments about people or events, but it is possible to build up a very rounded and convincing impression of the character of Hewitson as a man – journalist, leading figure in Preston's civic and public life, father, husband, and friend of many.

The diaries have been meticulously edited by Andrew Hobbs, who has also written a valuable and informative introduction which emphasises the importance of Hewitson in terms of wider social history. Provincial and local newspapers were among the most important cultural developments of the 19th century and, until the development of the telephone at the end of the 1890s, they were absolutely dominant and unrivalled as a means of public communication and the dissemination of an infinite amount and variety of news and information. Today, especially because of the digitisation of newspapers and their online availability, they have rapidly become a key source for all manner of local history research covering the 19th and early 20th centuries.

However, as Andrew Hobbs highlights, we know next to nothing about how the provincial newspaper businesses functioned, or about the reporters who were, for obvious reasons, fundamental to news-gathering and its presentation. The Hewitson diaries are therefore a crucially important window into that largely closed world, giving us a clear understanding of the work of a locally-significant reporter (including the extraordinary nocturnal lifestyle involved in getting a paper ready for the morning:

Hewitson very often worked until the early hours, and surely deserved the glass or several and the tobacco pipe which he frequently records enjoying at his homecoming).

If you suppose that all this sounds rather too esoteric, have no fears. A particularly revealing aspect of the diaries is the picture which they give of family life. Anthony married Margaret Wilson in 1858, and between 1859 and 1879 ten children were born, four of whom died in infancy or early childhood. His laconic accounts of these events reveal much about the grief and sadness which child mortality created in Victorian families, but countering this is his obvious pride in, and love for, his children, their walks together, the games they played, and their progress. Beyond that, the diaries give a valuable sense of how a thriving industrial, commercial and administrative centre functioned – the social and business life, the politics and legal affairs of Preston are vividly portrayed.

The publication of these diaries (to be followed by a second volume) is to be welcomed, not only as a source for Preston historians but much more widely. They have been edited with great skill and precision by Andrew Hobbs, ably assisted by Margaret Dickinson (a direct descendant of Hewitson, who has provided important context and background). It is a great achievement, made greater by the remarkable generosity of the publishing arrangements – to make it possible for us to access the text online and free of charge is a truly enlightened decision.

Alan Crosby

NEWS FROM MEMBER SOCIETIES

BURNLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Meetings are held on Wednesdays at 2.00 p.m. at St. John's RC Church, Ivy Street, Burnley BB10 1TB. Members free, guests £2.00

8 February: *Two Midland Hotels* – Molly Haines.

8 March: *King Cotton- how it affected other industries* – Kathy Fishwick.

12 April: *Elizabeth Parker of Browsholme Hall* – Linda Sawley.

LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

Tuesday 21 February 6.30 pm: The Morris Garratt Memorial Lecture: '*The Mexico Disaster and the St Anne's Lifeboat Monument: Identity, Memory and Nationhood*', by Andrew Walmsley. Andrew's PhD research is based around this striking piece of public sculpture. The monument has been an important part of the landscape at St Anne's since its unveiling in 1888 and the talk will explore its significance over time, both locally and nationally. His research can be found at <https://stonesermons.blogspot.com/>.

Tuesday 25 April 2pm: *Mary Quaile, a Manchester trade unionist*, by Bernadette Hyland. Bernadette is an activist and writer whose interests include women, class, culture and history. Her publications include *Northern ReSisters*, *Conversations with Radical Women*, *Dare to be Free* and the blog *Lipstick Socialist*. Mary Quaile (1886 1958) became involved in trade union activities while working at the Clarion Cafe in Manchester, and eventually sat on the General Council of the TUC. She was involved with the General Strike and had trips abroad including to the Soviet Union. Bernadette is a founder of the Mary Quaile Club which was set up to hold discussions on working class history.

Please contact Alice Lock secretary@landcas.org.uk for more details.

LANCASHIRE FAMILY HISTORY AND HERALDRY SOCIETY

Local branches of the Society hold meetings to assist people with family history research, as well as inviting speakers on different subjects. Non-members are welcome for a small charge. Visit www.lfhhs.org to find information about the benefits of membership and details of all the branches.

Preston branch: Kingsfold Methodist Church, Padway, Penwortham, Preston, PR1 9EJ.

Wednesday 22 February: *The History of the Euxton Royal Ordnance Factory*, by Lindsay Burrow

Wednesday 26 April: *The old Tram Bridge and Road*, by Nigel Hardacre

MOURHOLME LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Meetings are held in Yealand village hall, starting at 7:30pm.

Footeran Lane, Yealand Conyers, LA5 9SU. Annual membership costs £10, or £18 per couple. Visitors pay £2 to attend a single meeting.

Wednesday 22 February: *County Lunatic Asylum for the Palatine of Lancaster*, by Pauline Churchill. The Asylum at Lancaster was the first to be established in Lancashire, and only the fourth in England. The buildings were ready for occupation in July 1816. "We look inside at the inmates, their daily lives and a few key events in this 19th Century institution."

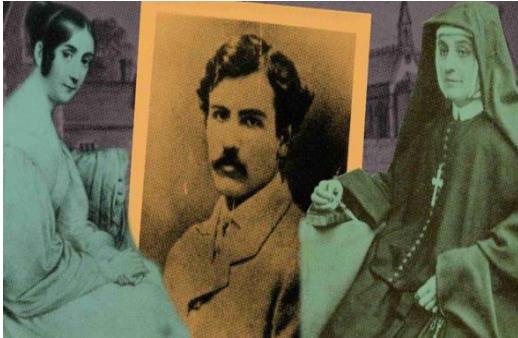
Wednesday 29 March, with Judith Shingler: *Short's Sunderland Flying Boat factory*. This audio-visual presentation by Ambleside Oral History Group uses extracts from interviews with those who worked at Short's factory at White Cross Bay on Lake Windermere during World War II. It was a huge enterprise, employing over 1,500 people, which came and went almost without leaving a mark.

Wednesday 26 April: *Market Street, Carnforth Now and Then*, by Clive Holden
The idea is to give a 'potted' history of Market Street from its beginnings in the 1880s up to the present time with, it is hoped, input from members of the audience who may know things that the speaker doesn't !

PRESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Meetings are held at the Central Methodist Church, Lune Street, PR12NL.
Membership is £15.00 per year. Admission to visitors £5 per event.

Monday 6 March 7.15pm: *Three Winckley Square Women who shaped Preston*



Join **Patricia Harrison**, Friends of Winckley Square and PHS Committee Member, to hear about three extraordinary women.

William Cross had the vision for Winckley Square but it was his wife and widow **Ellen Cross** who drove through the realisation of the vision, combining motherhood with business and management skills that have helped shape Winckley Square and East

Preston. Despite a life of deep tragedy, public shaming and legal struggles, **Cornelia Connelly** oversaw the creation of a caring education system for many of Preston's children. **Beatrice Todd** led the organisation that provided the station buffet during WWI and was a strong advocate for the families of men serving on the battlefield.

Monday 3 April 7.15pm: *Maps of Lancashire and their Makers*

Ian Saunders has written a book on the history of Lancashire maps up to 1789, which led to further discoveries e.g. of an unknown 1602 Lancashire map in the John Rylands Library. In this talk mapping for our region is traced from Saxton in the 1570s to improvements in accuracy and refinement of detail in the 18th century, as modern standards of mapping were being established.



Monday 8 Ma 7.15pm:

Annual General Meeting

Followed by 'The Stonyhurst Collection', with Dr Jan Graffius

REGIONAL HERITAGE CENTRE

Tuesday 28 February: *Making history accessible online*, with Dan Snow.

Dan Snow has made use of live media in several projects: livestreaming via TikTok when searching for Shackleton's *Endurance*; on Instagram from WWI biplanes; and podcasts from the Arctic and Antarctic circles. He will speak about the opportunities and dangers involved.

The venue is Lancaster Town Hall. The event will be recorded then available via [Public Lectures | Lancaster University](#).

Saturday 4 March: *Annual Archaeology Forum*. The programme will include:

- Rachel Newman from Oxford Archaeology North, the founder and developer of the forum
- Jessica Elleray and Katie Anderson will speak about training and education for the next generations
- Dr Andrew Birley – the impact of climate change on archaeological sites
- Jodie Hannis from DigVentures – the role of community archaeology

Friday 28 April: Dr Fiona Edmunds will lead an event at Whalley Abbey on the subject of the Cistercian abbeys of north west England

Details of all these events can be found at <https://bit.ly/3knLCo8>

TAMESIDE LOCAL HISTORY FORUM

One of the groups under the Tameside Local History Forum umbrella is History on Your Doorstep. This group began as a WEA adult education class in 1997, learning about the history of the area and undertaking research projects. When the tutors, Alan Rose and Jill Cronin, decided to retire, the members continued to meet to research and discuss local history and to produce exhibitions. These have included a history of Ashton-under-Lyne Mechanics Institute, to coincide with the award of a brown plaque, and a history of the Cockbrook area. The Cockbrook exhibition was produced in partnership with Interface Art, Ashton-under-Lyne Photographic and Imaging Society, and Tameside Cultural Services, and was displayed at Stalybridge Art Gallery. This resulted in a record number of visitors.

As the 200th anniversary of the Peterloo Massacre approached, the group investigated the involvement of local people in the lead up to, and during the massacre, and staged an exhibition at Portland Basin which included banners and pennants made by a number of local individuals and groups.

A newsletter "History in your own words" and an annual "History Alive-Tameside" magazine were published. Research resulted in several books being published,

including “Charlestown: Ashton–under-Lyne’s lost hamlet”, ”Carrbroo: a peep into the past”, “Smokestack to Urban Chic: St Petersfield in Ashton-under-Lyne”, “ An Illustrated Account of the Rural District of Hartshead and Broadcarr” and “Tameside Remembers Peterloo”. All are available at Tameside Local Studies & Archives Centre.

The History on Your Doorstep group is now looking at the history of the Guide Bridge area of Ashton and new volunteers are very welcome. They meet on Thursday afternoons at Tameside Local Studies and Archives Centre.

Members sorted photographs donated to Tameside Local Studies and Archives Centre by the Reporter Group of newspapers, which have since been digitised as part of smile@tameside.

Meetings were interrupted by the pandemic, but afterwards the group helped to arrange an exhibition at Portland Basin Museum to belatedly celebrate the 20th anniversary of Tameside Local History Forum, an umbrella organisation that links local history groups in Tameside. Individual groups were given space to display their own information.

Inspired by the TV series “A House Through Time”, members undertook research into a house of their choice. It is hoped to set up a blog about this.

For Heritage Open Day 2021, the group displayed information about local inventors and inventions, which was shown at Portland Basin Museum alongside relevant artefacts.

Our current project is to research the history of the Guide Bridge area of Tameside. Topics include canals, railways, shops, reservoirs, and industry, as well as recording the memories of residents.

The group are grateful for the support they have received from the Tameside Local History Forum and Tameside Council, especially from the staff of Tameside Local History and Archives Centre and the Museums and Galleries Service.

History on Your Doorstep holds informal meetings at 1.15pm on Thursdays in Tameside Local Studies and Archives Centre, Cotton St East, Ashton-under-Lyne, OL6 7BY. Visitors and new members are always welcome!

NEWS ROUNDUP

LANCASHIRE CULTURE AND SPORT FUND

Lancashire County Council has launched a fund to enable communities to benefit from a share of a fund of £500,000 per year. It is possible to bid for as little as a £2. Individuals and businesses who have ideas for their community can be awarded up to £1500; parish and town councils up to £5000; and organisations up to £20,000 to boost their funding target.

‘This is the opportunity for communities to have a say in what happens where they live and for businesses to show support for their local culture and sport offers.’

The council is using Spacehive to create, fund and deliver project ideas. For more information visit [Crowdfund Lancashire - Home \(spacehive.com\)](https://www.spacehive.com).

The closing date for the present round of application has passed, but there will be the opportunity to bid in future years.

RESOURCES FOR LOCAL HISTORY: THE BIBLIOGRAPHY OF BRITISH AND IRISH HISTORY (BBIH)

How do you discover what has already been published in your field? Unlike online search engines such as Google, the [Bibliography of British and Irish History](https://www.bbih.org) is one of the most accurate and comprehensive resources available for researching the histories of Britain, Ireland, and the British Empire and Commonwealth from 55 BCE to the present day.

BBIH allows you to:

- Perform targeted searches of academic literature that has already been evaluated by expert historians to ensure their relevance to your research.
- Search by a wide range of options, including by historical period, place, and subject.
- Easily navigate through different types of publications. The bibliography also provides links to help you find resources in research libraries or online texts where available.
- [Set-up email alerts](#) so that you can effortlessly keep up-to-date with the newest publications in your fields of study or research.

The screenshot shows the BBIH website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'BREPOLiS' and language options (EN, FR, DE, ES, IT). The main header features the BBIH logo and a search bar. Below the header, there are navigation tabs: 'Introduction', 'Search', 'Coverage', 'Search History', 'My Email Alerts', 'Author & journal profiles', 'Provide feedback', and 'Last update: 7/10/2022'. The search results section displays 'Search results: 6308 hits' with options for 'Records per page' (20), 'Sort' (Newest first), and 'View' (Detailed). The search details are: 'Place name tree: "UK pre-1922 boundaries > UK post-1921 boundaries > Britain > England and Wales > England > English regions and counties > England, northern > England, north-western > Lancashire"'. The results list includes:

- 1) **'My Attitude to Sport Is Very Simple – It's Something That Jews Just Don't Do': The Lost (?) World of Sport in Jewish Manchester** Article New
David Dee
European Judaism, 55.2 (2022) 42-63
Export | Cite this record | Full text
- 2) **A 'great outrage on human decency': a trial on lewdness and indecency at a Manchester music hall in 1890** Article New
D. Huxley
Early Popular Visual Culture, 20.1 (2022) 21-33
Export | Cite this record | Full text
- 3) **'The Wider Aspects of "Kampong Kirkby"': A New Window on the Malayan Teachers' Training College in Lancashire, England, 1952–1962** Article
Rachael Jones
Family & Community History, 25.1 (2022) 20-39
Export | Cite this record | Full text
- 4) **'This heart-rending and world-shattering news': gender, emotion, and transnationalism in the Bill Shankly retirement letters** Article New
Alan McDougall
Sport in History, 42.1 (2022) 126-151
Export | Cite this record | Full text

What does BBIH contain?

BBIH provides up-to-date information on over 640,000:

- History books, articles, chapters, edited collections (published from the early 1900s to present)
- History theses (submitted late 1990s to present)

The bibliography is updated three times a year, with c.10,000 new records annually. BBIH editors also regularly check over 800 journals and book series for new content.

Get the most out of using BBIH

The bibliography also offers a range of support such as user guides and videos to aid in your research, as well as themed online reading lists.

You can learn more about using BBIH, as well as advice on how to keep up-to-date with the latest published research in your field and manage your reference lists or bibliographies by visiting: <https://bit.ly/3ISQ5tf>.

How to access BBIH

Access to the BBIH's is [via subscription](#):

- **Individual subscriptions.** If you are a [Friends of the IHR](#), an individual subscription is available at the discounted price of £35 GBP for 2023. An individual subscription is also available to [Royal Historical Society members and Fellows](#) at a substantially reduced rate. Further details of individual rates can be found at <https://bit.ly/3WjihbB>.
- **Institutional subscriptions.** Many UK and international university and research libraries subscribe and provide full access to members. Rates are tailored to the institution.

Find out more

To keep up-to-date with BBIH you can:

- Follow the UK's [Institute of Historical Research](#) (IHR), [Royal Historical Society](#) (RHS) and [Brepols](#) on Twitter [@ihr_history](#), [@RoyalHistSoc](#) and [@Brepols](#)
- [On history](#) – BBIH publishes regularly in *On History*, a digital magazine produced by the IHR.
- [Brepolis blog](#) – BBIH updates, including themed online reading lists, can also be found here.

RESEARCH ARTICLES

INTERROGATING THE SOURCES

Alan Crosby

Interrogating the sources is a key skill for any historian, allowing us to maximise the use of a source and to assess the information and evidence which it offers. In essence, it means that we should look at any document or printed work (or indeed, field evidence) and try to ask questions about it before automatically accepting it and its contents at face value. Documents were rarely consciously created for the benefit of us - the historians in what was then the future - and they were quite possibly deliberately or unknowingly biased, or at least less than truthful even at the time they were made. Our task, therefore, is to try to assess the evidence that a document provides – to gauge its accuracy, reliability, plausibility, bias, objectivity, truthfulness, honesty. When we have done that, we may be able to evaluate and accept, or reject, or leave in the ‘non-proven’ tray, the information, beliefs, attitudes or experiences which it conveys to us. We can also interrogate a document to establish what other information we might need to support our analysis and conclusions.

A couple of examples might illustrate these points. A good many years ago (but after the internet burst onto the scene) I was teaching an undergraduate module at a university, on the topic of ‘Reformation to Revolution: England 1530-1700’. I set an essay question which was about the significance of the Reformation, and was dismayed when one student returned her 2500 words which had been informed by only one source: an online Catholic encyclopaedia. She simply did not appreciate that an avowedly Catholic account of the period might not be entirely reliable, and could not see that it was perhaps partisan and one-sided. She had not interrogated the source. Or consider the use of diaries as a source of historical evidence – unquestionably, they are extremely important, but we should never simply accept what they tell us without exploring the background to them. Why were they kept and for whose benefit, were they intended to be read by others or perhaps even published, did they apparently omit certain subjects?, and so on. How many diarists, whether consciously or subconsciously, present a favourable picture of their own actions and thoughts? How many diarists set out to conceal or overlook key elements of their story?

So how do we go about ‘interrogating a source’, analysing and contextualising it, assessing its reliability and determining what value we can place upon it? In the example which follows I give a transcript of a not untypical seventeenth century source, and then set out a range of questions which we might ask concerning its creation and purpose, and the historical evidence which it potentially provides. Some of the questions are about factual aspects of the document, but others are more concerned with context and abstract ideas. There aren’t necessarily answers to some of the questions, and many of them would lead to further research, but I hope that this demonstrates how we might weigh up the document as historical evidence and extract its value as a source. Some of the questions might seem obvious, and others are probably those we’d deal with automatically, but the document comprises only about 1150 words, and I’ve listed 26 questions and numerous subordinate questions, which demonstrates that this can be a sizeable task if done thoroughly!

The document is a June 1648 petition to the Lancashire justices of the peace, who were shortly to hold their midsummer quarter sessions. It was sent from the inhabitants of Ormskirk (or was it? ... read on) and concerns their plight which resulted from an outbreak of plague in the town. The layout of the original document is precisely as given here, and I have retained the exact spelling and punctuation (or lack of it), but have silently expanded any abbreviations since this makes the text more accessible and comprehensible.

To the right Worshipfull Sir Thomas Stanley Baronett Peter Egerton & Raph Worthington Esquires Three of his Majesties Justices of peace & Quorum within the Countie of Lancaster¹

The humble Peticion² of the Inhabitants of Ormskirke³

Sheweth

That whereas itt hath pleased God to Visitt the Towne of Ormskirk⁴ with his heavie Judgment of the Pestilence⁵ Whereby some Families are sent unto Cabbins⁶ & others confyned to their owne houses⁷ to the number of 33 persons,⁸ who have hitherto lived upon the Charitie & reliefe of the Towne⁹ And forasmuch as by reason of this contagion the Markett & all manner of tradeing amongst us (the onely subsistence of the most part of the Towne)¹⁰ is interrupted & stop^t¹¹ & the Poore who had formerly the greatest part of their mainteince forth of the Country¹² are now Debarred of that reliefe & confyned to the Towne¹³ By reason whereof not onely those who are suspected to bee infected But alsoe the Poore & many other (who formerly lived upon the Benefitt of their trades)¹⁴ (to the number of 800 people¹⁵ are not able to subsist without speedie contribucions forth of the Country¹⁶

Maie itt therefore please your worships to grant your Warrant¹⁷ unto the next adjacent Parishes¹⁸ for their contribucion by such a Monethly Tax¹⁹ as you maie thinke convenient for the maintenance of such a number of Poore²⁰ Whereby wee maie bee enabled to keepe them within our owne Towne without Doeing of any Violence or Preiudyce to the Country²¹ Which otherwise wee are not able to persuade²² And your petitioners will ever pray &c²³

We doe certifie the contents of this Peticion to bee true²⁴ And in testimony thereof have subscribed our names the 13th day of June 1648²⁵

*William Bun Minister
Silvester Ashcroft
George Tipinge
Richard Burchall Scholemaster
Thomas Waynwright
Emanuell Morecroft
Richard Simkin
William Holland
Thomas Walton
John Heyes²⁶*

*Richard Dokenfield
Edward Breres
Gilbert Ambrose
Richard Morecroft
Thomas Morecroft*

[Lancashire Archives QSP 3/2]²⁷

Notes

- 1 We know that these three men were magistrates, but can we find out more about them – were they living locally, did they have commercial or other interests in Ormskirk, and why might the petition have been addressed specifically to them? Were they possibly ‘patrons’ of the small market town?
- 2 What was the petitioning procedure, and was it common practice? How did it actually work?
- 3 The petition is said to be from the inhabitants of Ormskirk, but it is signed by only 15 men. Are we justified in assuming that they were a self-appointed group of the ‘great and good’, speaking on behalf of the townspeople as a whole? Were they a formal group (such as a township vestry) or had they simply come together for the occasion?
- 4 Do we have any evidence of when the plague came to Ormskirk, and are there any statistics of mortality (from the burials section of the parish register) from which we can gauge its severity?
- 5 What does this tell us about the 17th century view of natural disasters such as plague? Is it typical of the contemporary view? And was Ormskirk alone in experiencing plague in the summer of 1648 – can we find any evidence that other towns in the region were suffering similarly, and indeed was this a ‘national’ plague year?
- 6 What might ‘cabbins’ be – can we find any description from this period? And where might the ‘cabbins’ have been located?
- 7 This is useful evidence of the expedient measures which might be taken in such emergencies – what sort of practical issues might have been involved?
- 8 Any statistic in a contemporary 17th century source raises questions: how plausible or potentially reliable is it; how might it have been derived; can we corroborate it from other sources or (in this case) cross-reference with e.g. parish registers; and roughly how would this relate to the total population of Ormskirk, bearing in mind that this was 150 years before the first census?
- 9 What are the implications of the phrase ‘charity and relief of the town’, and what formal or informal mechanisms and procedures might have enabled such assistance? Are there any sources such as overseer’s papers or churchwardens’ account which could shed more light on this?
- 10 Can we confirm that the market town role was the mainstay of Ormskirk’s economy, as is suggested here?
- 11 Who, if anybody, had had the power to close the market, or was it likely that people simply stayed away? Are there any market records or other ways of finding out more?
- 12 What does it mean when it says that the poor had their maintenance ‘forth of the country’, and what does ‘country’ imply?
- 13 This suggests that the town was sealed off, trapping the townspeople inside – can we compare this with other contemporary examples of such practices?
- 14 Trades were therefore completely disrupted: what other trades were there in the town, and what tradesmen might have sold goods on the market?
- 15 Another interesting statistic – how might it have been derived (was it a headcount, the result of a survey, a guesstimate, a totally made-up figure)? Are there any contemporary or near-contemporary sources for population in Ormskirk, and what methodologies are there for calculating approximate populations from these? Does the figure of 800 people seem credible?

- 16 What does 'contributions forth of the country' imply?
- 17 A formal procedure – an order from the magistrates – but what mechanisms might be involved here?
- 18 Ormskirk was a township, one of about 450 in Lancashire – but the word used here is 'parishes'. What geographical area might have been implied therefore (perhaps begin by checking with a parish and township map)?
- 19 What is meant by a 'monthly tax' and who would collect it, receive it and disburse it?
- 20 This requires the magistrates to assess needs and then to fix on a figure for levying a supplementary rate: how might that figure be calculated?
- 21 What is the implication of this?: if the poor are not assisted, they will seek to leave Ormskirk and so to escape – and thus might carry the infection to the surrounding areas
- 22 This implies that persuasion is the only power available, and that the petitioners lack any formal authority over the movements of individual townspeople
- 23 A formal ending to the petition – compare it with almost any other address to the magistrates in this period and you will find something similar (it is deferential and humble, and means that the petitioners will pray for the health and happiness of the magistrates)
- 24 "Well, they would say that, wouldn't they"!
- 25 Can we establish how long this is after the outbreak of the plague in the town (for example, does the parish register give any indication, or there any other relevant quarter sessions documents)?
- 26 These fifteen men are clearly of major importance, and include the minister and the schoolmaster. What can we find out about them, their status and their personal and public circumstances, from primary [documentary] or secondary [published] sources? Did they hold public offices (such as churchwarden, overseer, constable) and did they collectively or individually sign other documents such as wills or petitions? They all signed their names – what are the implications of that and was it unusual to have such a sizeable group none of whom made his mark?
- 27 What other documents in the quarter sessions records relate to Ormskirk in this period? How can we find the context (answer: Mona Duggan's 1998 book *Ormskirk: the making of a modern town* would provide a lot of background information as well as some specific factual support). And what happened afterwards: was the petition successful, did the magistrates order a district-wide supplementary rent, how long did the outbreak of plague last, how serious was it overall (returning to the question of mortality) and were there any longer-term consequences?

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