



LANCASHIRE LOCAL HISTORY FEDERATION

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Editor: Marianne Howell
01942 492855 mariannerh@hotmail.co.uk

Chair: Dr Alan Crosby	01772 827835
Secretary: John Wilson	03330 062270
Treasurer: Peter Bamford	01253 796184
Membership Secretary: Zoë Lawson	01772 691859
Website Manager: Peter Houghton	01772 641604

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

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL Just a reminder that membership is due for renewal on 1 January. Zoë Lawson, the Membership Secretary, will be sending out a notice at the beginning of December with the details for renewing your membership. The fees are unchanged at £5 for an individual, £8 for joint membership and £8 for a society.

VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

The Lancashire Local History Federation is celebrating its 50th anniversary. Our organisation was founded in 1973 by a group of local historians (mostly from south-east Lancashire, the hundred of Salford) with the aim of establishing an umbrella body which could bring together local history societies and individual local historians from across the historic county palatine. That has been our primary purpose and intention ever since.

The Federation published an annual journal, the *Lancashire Local Historian*, between 1982 and 2008. Sadly, we were not able to carry on producing the *LLH* for various logistical and financial reasons, although that doesn't rule out a revival in the

future. I was the editor for some years, and I well remember one of the major problems: it was surprisingly difficult to market and sell a county-wide journal to local readers. I sent out spare copies to member societies, suggesting that they might like to subscribe. One copy was sent back by return from a certain society (which had better be nameless), with a terse note stating, 'There is nothing about [place name] in here so we are not interested'.

The year 1973, when we were founded, was in the middle of a transformative change in the history of the county palatine. Lancashire had emerged as an administrative unit in the middle decades of the 12th century, and was first formally recognised in central government record-keeping in the pipe roll of 1182. The county was organised with the familiar pattern of six hundreds (Lonsdale, Amounderness, Blackburn, Leyland, Salford and West Derby) and of course included the Furness and Cartmel peninsulas 'over sands'.

Now, all was about to change. 'Lancastershire' was the last English county to be officially constituted, but even so it was almost 800 years old when the Lancashire Local History Federation was founded. But at that point its existence had only a few months left to run, for the Local Government Act 1972 had legislated for the wholesale reform of the structures and functions of councils, and their complex multi-tiered geographies, and on 1 April 1974 this reorganisation would come into effect. Most of us are familiar with what was done in the dismemberment of the historic unit. For a start, Lancashire north of the sands was amalgamated with Cumberland, Westmorland and the Sedbergh area to form the new county of Cumbria. Exactly fifty years later, earlier this year, Cumbria was itself abolished and the former parts of Lancashire are now part of the unitary authority of Westmorland and Furness. How long do we give that, I wonder?

South of the sands, the creation of the metropolitan counties of Greater Manchester and Merseyside took away almost all of south-east Lancashire and much of south-west Lancashire respectively, while Warrington and Widnes, rather oddly, became part of Cheshire, ending the role of the Mersey as a frontier (its name means 'boundary river') after 1500 years. In 1996, in turn, Warrington and Halton (i.e. Widnes + Runcorn) were taken out of Cheshire and became separate unitary authorities. While all this was happening, the residual Lancashire (the new administrative county) pinched a sizeable chunk of the former West Riding of Yorkshire, in the Gisburn, Barnoldswick and Earby area, and the new metropolitan borough of Oldham acquired Saddleworth. The latter always had a slightly anomalous position, as a portion of Yorkshire west of the Pennine watershed: its famous son, the writer Ammon Wrigley, had long ago wryly observed that Yorkshire got its money (the rate income) but Lancashire got its sewage.

So, all this upheaval meant that the ancient historic county of Lancashire ceased to exist as an administrative unit, but none of this was acceptable to true Lancastrians. The formation of another organisation, the Friends of Real Lancashire, reflected the determination of Red Rose patriots to keep the county alive, and prevent its memory fading. The founding of the Lancashire Local History Federation, with its remit extending across the whole of the historic county, emphasised that in terms of regional and local history 'real Lancashire' is the basis of much of our source material, ranging from quarter sessions records to the palatinate archives. Now, half a century later, we are still going strong, and have members from all parts of the

historic county. There is so much exciting and fascinating history in Lancashire, and so much research and investigation in progress – no shortage, therefore, of projects and plans for Federation activities. Many thanks to everybody who contributes to the work of the Lancashire Local History Federation, and to all those many friends and supporters who have gone before. Long may Lancashire and its history flourish!

Alan Crosby

THE REV. ROY CARMYLLIE - FOUNDER OF THE LANCASHIRE LOCAL HISTORY FEDERATION

In the year in which we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Lancashire Local History Federation, there can be very few members who remember our founder. He was the Rev. Roy Carmyllie, vicar of St. Andrew's Church, Ramsbottom (built by the Grant brothers, the "Cheeryble Grants" famed by Charles Dickens). Roy thought that a federation of societies could be helpful in providing support for society members and contact between local historians, so he convened a meeting to discuss the possibilities. The meeting, held at St. Andrew's, was well attended by members of local societies and some other active local historians, and as a result a steering committee was set up and the Federation was born.

Roy Carmyllie came from an industrial background, having previously worked as a diesel engineer at L. Gardner and Sons in Patricroft. He left Gardner's to train as a minister; his first appointment was at Chorlton-cum-Hardy, followed by a time at Collyhurst. He then moved to Ramsbottom, where he remained vicar for the next 18 years, before moving in 1984 to become Rector of Radcliffe. He died in August 1989 after a short retirement.

Roy Carmyllie was himself an active local historian, and was an authority on the Grant brothers, publishing books and pamphlets on them and other local topics. He was very lively, friendly and approachable with a quiet sense of humour, and is warmly remembered by his many friends.

My thanks to the Bury Times and to Bury Archives for their help. Helpful details, including those of the Rev. Roy Carmyllie's early career, were found in the obituary printed in the Bury Times, 11 August 1989.

Diana Winterbotham

[We should acknowledge here the enormous contribution to local history and to the Federation which Diana herself has made, and which she would be too modest to mention herself – Ed.]

A CELEBRATION OF THE FEDERATION'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

On 27 October, people from many different local history groups gathered at Lancashire Archives to mark the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Lancashire Local History Federation. The Chair of the Federation, Dr Alan Crosby, introduced

the guest speaker, Dr Paul Booth, as an outstanding Lancashire historian, and one of the longest-standing members of the Federation.

His theme was *A tale of two places: Liverpool and Toxteth Park*. He spoke first about how his interest in history had been sparked by a schoolboy visit to Liverpool Library when the 750th anniversary of the city was being celebrated. He circulated copies of the document he first saw on that occasion, which was the granting, by King John, of Letters Patent to those who 'shall wish to have burgage plots' in the town.

The next document showed a list of 147 tenants in 1346, revealing the occupations of several of them. A map of town fields in 1725 was accompanied by summaries of six title deeds, some of which mentioned 'lands' shown on the map.

Toxteth Park differed greatly from Liverpool in its development. It was a very large deer park which came under forest laws, rather than ecclesiastical administration. In 1277 some felled trees were supplied from there when Flint Castle was built; and in the 15th century ashlar stone was used in the construction of Liverpool Castle. In 1523 Henry VIII ordered a fat stag from the Park.

Later, Henry, Earl of Derby, persuaded Queen Elizabeth that the area should be disparked. This led to much subsequent development, some of which in our time follows the routes laid out centuries previously.

After questions to the speaker from the audience, the subject turned to the Federation itself, its function and value. One benefit is that it brings together people from across the county palatine to give a wider perspective on 'local' history. Through the Federation, people can discover more about places in the county beyond their own area; Lincoln Shields mentioned that Chorley Heritage Centre is hosting an 'At Home' on behalf of the Federation next year [13 July 2024 – more details in future newsletters] where attendees will learn about various aspects of the town, including its links with Myles Standish, one of the 1620 Mayflower Pioneers.

After this stimulating session, guests enjoyed a delicious buffet (with much thanks to Jacquie Crosby), and were able to take a tour of the Archives to see just some of the treasures it holds. We are grateful to Alex Miller and the staff for hosting a very fitting venue for the occasion.

Some Federation information from 1976 follows.

Marianne Howell

EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE FEDERATION FROM DECEMBER 1976

Just before our 50th Anniversary event, I looked at the Federation archives to find out something of our origins and this excerpt from the minutes of December 1976 caught my eye:

The Federation has now been active for over two years. Its main achievement has been so far to be born and take its first faltering strides. ...We have had one setback in the newsletter. Originally planned as a bi-monthly

communication between societies, the first series in fact took two years to be produced and after the sixth issue ceased to exist. The reason for its demise is two-fold: the first response was encouraging but soon contributions and interest died; the second reason was out of the dearth of information and the task of the production was too onerous for the secretary.... This want of response to the newsletter was followed by a decline in the number of societies from 36 to 25.

We have come a long way since then and although we have had our ups and downs we are still a very active organisation, currently having 79 societies members and 60 individual ones. The importance of the newsletter is clearly shown and we are grateful to all members for providing Marianne, the editor, with plenty of contributions so she can produce such an interesting publication. And, of course, our thanks to Marianne, herself, for her tireless enthusiasm which makes the newsletter the heart of the Federation.

Zoë Lawson (Membership Secretary)

LANCASHIRE ARCHIVES & LOCAL HISTORY

VINTAGE & CRAFT FAIR

The Archives will be hosting a vintage and craft fair on **Saturday 25 November** to mark Lancashire Day. There will be makers' stalls, music and the Friends of Lancashire Archives' own Café Archive for refreshments.

We still have space for stallholders so if you are interested in taking a stall, please contact us at archives@lancashire.gov.uk



The *News from the Archives* newsletter and our social media has more details.

1921 CENSUS

FREE ACCESS AT LANCASHIRE ARCHIVES AND LANCASHIRE LIBRARIES

Visitors can now research parts of their family history for **FREE** online with Find My Past at the county council's Lancashire Archives and Lancashire Libraries.

To search the census and thousands of other records on Find My Past, visit [Libraries and Archives - Lancashire County Council](#) to find your nearest venue.



LANCASHIRE LOCAL HISTORY PUBLICATION – ARCHIVES

The third edition of our Lancashire Local History magazine, *Archives*, will be available to purchase from 1 December in all Lancashire County Council Libraries and at Lancashire Archives, priced at £3. If you would like to receive a copy by post, please contact the Archives at archives@lancashire.gov.uk

If you have an idea you'd like to discuss, please contact us at archives@lancashire.gov.uk and we'd be pleased to discuss your suggestion.

You can find out more about how to submit an article by visiting our website at: [Ordering copies and publications - Lancashire County Council](#)

EXHIBITION:

SHAPING THE FUTURE: LANCASHIRE WOMEN'S LIVES, 1950-1980

The first exhibition in the newly created space continues until January 2024. It explores aspects of women's lives in Lancashire, including themes of women at work, in politics and civic society, entertainment and recreation, home lives and fashion.

It features collections from Lancashire Archives, Lancashire County Museum Service, The Harris Museum, and Blackburn with Darwen.



The exhibition is free to attend and open during normal Archives opening hours [Opening times and your visit - Lancashire County Council](#)

KEEPING EAST LANCASHIRE IN THE PICTURE



This exciting two-year project, running until 2025, will bring together thousands of people in East Lancashire, of different ages and backgrounds, to make the amazing collections of historic photographs in their libraries more accessible, inclusive and sustainable. A key aim is to reflect the diversity of the population in the east of the county. Schools, community groups and individuals will be encouraged to:

- **Explore** their rich photographic heritage and help make digital versions of 100,000 images in the library collections.
- **Create** new collections by finding significant existing images from within their communities and by taking new photographs that reflect life now
- **Share** both old and new images, online – through [Red Rose Collections](#) - and offline, in ways that engage even more people in a creative and fun way.

There will be 4 project hubs based in local libraries in Accrington, Burnley, Nelson and Colne.

Volunteer recruitment for the project has now opened and you can find out more about how to get involved at: <https://lancsvp.org.uk/opportunities/archives-collections-volunteer-keeping-east-lancashire-in-the-picture/>

Contact us at archives@lancashire.gov.uk or on 01772 533031 if you want to know more about the project, particularly if you are interested in getting involved.

Thanks to National Lottery players. We are also grateful to the [Friends of Lancashire Archives](#) for their support of this project.

CLARETS COLLECTED: A FOOTBALL TOWN ARCHIVE AT BURNLEY

LIBRARY This Lancashire Archives & Local History project, running until August 2025, which involves colleagues from across the county council's Cultural Services and external partners, will bring together a fan-led Burnley Football Club archive at Burnley Library. This will be a wonderful resource for everyone with an interest in the club and have huge potential in terms of community engagement: Burnley is arguably the prime example of a "Football Town".



The project has been generously supported by the Friends of Lancashire Archives and private donations and will include further future fundraising to support the work. We will be working closely with the National Football Museum and Burnley Football Club in the Community.

A 2-year development plan includes: cataloguing and growing the collection; working with volunteers; creating a new gallery space with an exhibitions and events programme; delivering schools sessions. You can find out more about the project at: <https://www.flarchives.co.uk/category/resources/clarets-collected>

WE ARE ON FACEBOOK

Please have a look and follow us at: <https://www.facebook.com/lancsarchives>
You can also follow us on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/LancsArchives>



SPEAKERS' CORNER

We invite speakers to contact the newsletter to publicise their talks to a wide audience. If you would like to do so, please send:

- Name
- Contact details
- Subject(s)
- Areas where you are willing to travel
- Whether you would deliver over Zoom, if asked
- Any other relevant information

Please do not include details of 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.

mariannerh@hotmail.co.uk Marianne Howell, Newsletter editor.

ANDREW HOBBS

Contact details: andhobbs@hotmail.com / 07780 553189

Subjects:

- 19th-century local newspapers in Lancashire
- Poetry/Lancashire dialect/historical writing in 19th-century local newspapers
- The life and diaries of local journalist Anthony Hewitson (1836-1912)
- The histories of *Lancashire Life* and *Cheshire Life* magazines
- The history of the newsagent's shop
- The cultural history of tripe

Areas where you are willing to travel: Based in Preston, happy to travel anywhere in Lancashire. Happy to use Zoom.

Any other relevant information: Dr Andrew Hobbs is a former journalist who worked for the *Lancashire Evening Post* newspaper, and *Lancashire Life* and *Cheshire Life* magazines, among others. He now teaches journalism and researches the history of journalism, at the University of Central Lancashire.

PAUL SALVESON

Contact details: paul.salveson@myphone.coop or 07795 008691; postal address: 109 Harpers Lane, Bolton BL1 6HU

Subjects:

- Lancashire social and cultural history (can sometimes shape to requirements)
- Railway development in Lancashire
- The Lancashire dialect literary tradition
- Walt Whitman's links with Lancashire
- Lancashire's radical political tradition

Areas where you are willing to travel: anywhere in the north-west. Happy to do Zoom but prefer in person. Flexible availability - just need sufficient notice but have been known to cover at very short notice!

Any other relevant information: Dr Salveson MBE is visiting professor at the universities of Bolton and Huddersfield. The subject of his PhD was 'Lancashire Dialect Literature 1746-1935' (Salford 1993). The website www.lancashireloominary.co.uk gives details of his publications, and www.paulsalveson.org.uk gives more information about his range of interests. (See Publications of Interest in this newsletter for information about his latest book.)

PETER SNAPE

Contact details: 07831311028 / peter@thesnapes.org.uk

Subjects:

- *Most truly yours, Aunt Anne*: Anne Geddes Gilchrist, the Lancastrian collector of folk songs and music who made many significant contributions to the preservation of English folk song.
- *Cotton Town chronicles*: a look at working life during the age when cotton and coal were king, providing a social history synopsis through a different lens.
- *Three yards a penny! Song, song, songs!*: a journey into the world of John Harkness in Victorian Preston with a selection of the 'street literature' he printed and published being 'hawked and peddled' along the way.

Areas where you are willing to travel: Lancashire, Greater Manchester, Merseyside, Cheshire and Cumbria. All these presentations by Peter and Barbara Snape are song based so are given in person, not via Zoom.

NEWS FROM MEMBER SOCIETIES

REGIONAL HERITAGE CENTRE

Saturday 18 November: *Manuscripts and Medieval life: the Great Cowcher Book of the Duchy of Lancaster*. Study day in the Lancaster Suite of Lancaster Castle.

This extraordinary book is considered second only to *Domesday* in terms of a record of places in England and Wales. It was produced c.1402 on the orders of Henry IV to record the deeds of the possessions of the Duchy of Lancaster. Book via the Regional Heritage Centre [Events - Lancaster University](#).

FRIENDS OF PENDLE HERITAGE

All meetings take place at Higherford Methodist Church, 5 Bankfield St., Barrowford BB8 9NY. (Parking available at the rear of the building.). Non-members always welcome.

Tuesday 14 November 2.00pm: *Recent work by Ribble Valley Archaeology*. **Barrie Tyrer.** Includes results so far from the Downham and Rimington Roman Road project, including a hunt for a lost medieval chapel.

Saturday 27 January 10.00am – 4.00pm: A varied programme of sessions by four authors, providing fun and interest for all the family.

For further information, including the cost of each session, visit our website www.foph.co.uk or email us at info@foph.co.uk or contact us at 07787 631078.

BURNLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

10 January 2024: *1920s Founding of Burnley Rotary Club – local people and society*, by Edward Walton

PRESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Meetings are held at Central Methodist Church, Lune Street, PR1 2NL. Visitors always welcome (£5 per talk).

Monday 6 November 7.15pm: *Brilliantly brutal: A new look at Preston Bus Station* by Michael Akers. An outline of the brutalist architecture, and the restoration of the bus station after it was saved from demolition.

Monday 4 December 7.15pm: *The diary of a Lancashire weaver: 75 years on* by Stewart Turner. Further research into the life of John Ward of Clitheroe and his 1860-1864 diary.

FRIENDS OF WINCKLEY SQUARE

Thursday 7 December 1.30-3.30pm, Central Methodist Church, Lune Street, Preston PR1 2NL. *Three Georgian Christmases in Winckley Square - 1813, 1824 & 1836: talk by Susan Douglass.* Susan's research revealed how three different families celebrated Christmas in three particular years.

The occasion includes seasonal food and drink, accompanied by seasonal music and a Georgian Christmas slide show.

THIS EVENT IS SOLD OUT, BUT IS BEING REPEATED ON 14 DECEMBER. Pay £6.50 on the door or book in advance on Eventbrite.

Sunday 10 December 3.00-5.30pm: *Winckley Annual Christmas Concert in the Square.* Come and join the convivial event, with traditional Christmas carols round the tree, entertainment, and food and drink. FREE of charge. Details on Eventbrite <https://tinyurl.com/2a3af7wx>.

WARRINGTON LITERARY AND PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

Meetings are held at Friars Green Methodist Church Hall, 37 Cairo Street, WA1 1EH. Visitors are always welcome.

Monday 6 November 7.30pm: *Treemendous Trees! A journey through our biggest plants and how we manage them.* Anthony Brandreth is a long-time tree conservator and specialist, whose talk will look at how trees work, how they communicate with each other, and the profound effects they have on our well-being.

Monday 4 December 7.30pm: *Roman Britain and where to find it.* Mike Bryan. Mike's recent book on Roman Britain looks at the subject with fresh eyes and in a way that helps the non-specialist to understand what the Romans did for us, and where we can see their handiwork.



Mike Nevell, LCAS President

LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

140TH ANNIVERSARY AND BOOK LAUNCH
1883-2023

MANCHESTER CENTRAL LIBRARY

5 SEPTEMBER 2023

This was an excellent event with wine, nibbles and lots of chatter. We even had a cake to mark the occasion, although we weren't allowed to light candles in the library - fire risk!! We felt lots of goodwill towards our society and are hoping to maintain that momentum and grow our membership over the next few months.

The society was formed in Manchester in 1883 and covers the two historic counties of Lancashire and Cheshire. Its sphere of interest ranges from pre-history to the present day, including both traditional and industrial archaeology, social and economic history, architecture, trade, transport, and local customs. It also has a strong interest in conservation in the area. Since its foundation the Society has produced over 113 volumes of the Transactions and we intend them to continue into the next 140 years.

The book we launched was a double edition of the Transactions, volume 114. It is a beautiful hardback book with plenty of illustrations and many articles of local interest and has been well received by those who took a copy at the event. There has been a little delay at the printers getting the rest out to members, but we're reliably informed they will be sent shortly.



As a member of the society you receive a copy of the Transactions each year, as well as Zoom talks and conducted walks around Lancashire and Cheshire. We are very much a hands-on society and welcome contributions from our members and from anyone who has something interesting to say or write.

If you want any further information about our society or how to join, please contact us either through our website, Facebook or via email secretary@landcas.org.uk.

Sue Peebles

TAMESIDE LOCAL HISTORY FORUM

Heritage Open Days

Tameside Local History Forum and Tameside Local Studies and Archives coordinated a wide range of venues and activities for Heritage Open Days in the borough.

The strong nonconformist tradition in the area was showcased by the chance to visit many chapels including Albion Chapel, Hyde Chapel, Fairfield Moravian Church, Denton Unitarian Chapel and Dukinfield Old Chapel. Anglican churches were also well represented, including Ashton Parish Church, St George's Mossley, St Mary's Newton, St Michael's Mottram and St Thomas Hyde. There was even the chance to see the ruins of the oldest surviving building in Dukinfield, the Tudor Old Hall Chapel, which is now in the middle of an industrial estate.

A contrasting religious building was the BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, a new Hindu temple in Ashton.



Secular buildings which also opened included Mossley Heritage Centre, featuring its work with local people recording Mossley's history, and Ashton Old Baths, a Victorian swimming pool transformed into a creative community. And Newton Hall, an ancient cruck framed building, was open for a local history book sale.

A series of guided walks added to the programme - Currier Lane, the ancient highway between Ashton and Stalybridge; the canal at Daisy Nook; Hyde War Memorial on Werneth Low; Park Bridge industrial hamlet; and Mossley.

The image (above) is part of the "recognisable ruins" at Park Bridge, an early example of conservation of the industrial past.

The Local Studies and Archives service decided to extend the series of events throughout September with talks in the Centre in Ashton, covering subjects such as archaeology in Tameside, 19th century radical songs, the history of Tameside CND and extracts from a new historical novel set in Hyde.

After the disruption caused by the pandemic it was a pleasure to see the celebration of local heritage returning to previous levels of popularity and activity. It is hoped this can be built on in future years.

Alice Lock

NEWS ROUNDUP

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION – MANCHESTER, LIVERPOOL & CHESTER BRANCH

Meetings are held at the Friends Meeting House, 6 Mount Street, Manchester M2 5NS, at 12 noon on Saturdays. £3 for visitors, who are always welcome. More details can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/4dwcx432>.

Saturday 12 November: *Cycling and early motoring in North West England* – Professor Craig Horner (Manchester Metropolitan University).

Saturday 9 December: *Mayors of Greater Manchester since 1835* – Dr John Garrard (Professor Emeritus, University of Salford).

Saturday 20 January 2024: *The real 'King' Arthur: A northern warrior of the sixth century* – Dr Andrew Breeze (University of Navarra).

PODCASTS ABOUT KNOWSLEY HALL BY LADY DERBY

The Countess of Derby delves into the rich history of Knowsley Hall in a new six-part Duchess podcast series, launched on August 17th.



These hour-long episodes feature high profile guests, including television history presenter, Dan Snow, world-renowned academics, historians and curators, as well as Edward Stanley, 19th Earl of Derby. The podcasts look at the fascinating history of the Derby family from the fourteenth century to the present day, providing insights into the earls, illustrating pivotal moments in their history and new discoveries found in the archives of the hall.

In the first episode Lady Deby meets Dan Snow and Dr William Shannon (the well-known Lancashire historian) to discuss the history of Knowsley Hall, Lathom House and the Stanley family from the 14th century until the mid-seventeenth century. They describe how Sir Thomas Stanley placed the crown of England on the head of his stepson, Henry Tudor (Henry VII), and outline the life of his mother Lady Beaufort, a powerful woman who masterminded her own destiny at a time when women could not own land or property. Other episodes include the earls of Derby and Shakespearian theatre, and the Derby collection of art works. More are to be released in the coming weeks. The complete series may be accessed at duchessthepodcast.com.

Zoë Lawson

LANCASHIRE PAST – WEBSITE AND BLOG

The website lists places in Lancashire which can be visited. It started in 2013, and currently has 200 entries with detailed descriptions of each. The periods covered are from prehistory to the 20th century. There is an opportunity to add your email if you wish to be notified when new pieces are added. www.lancashirepast.com.

FRIENDS OF SALFORD CEMETERIES TRUST

The latest edition of the quarterly newsletter contains interesting information about activities of the group; cemetery news from the Bereavement Services Officer; and potted biographies of some of the people buried there. For more information contact Pete Kilvert petekilvert@virginmedia.com or find them on Facebook.

MANCHESTER HISTORIES

VICTORIA BATHS

The Victoria Baths is a survivor from an age when there were many similar venues, at a time when many houses did not have indoor sanitation or hot water supplies. The Friends of Victoria Baths and The Victoria Baths Trust have ensured that this important cultural and historical landmark will be enjoyed by future generations.



David Dixon (Wikimedia Commons)

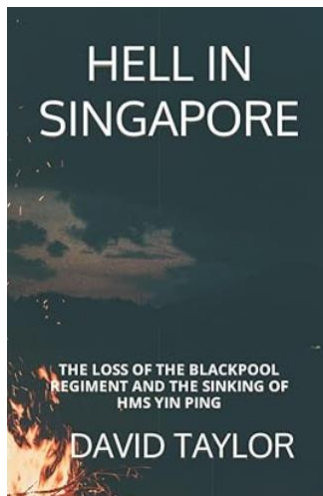
Restoration continues, including a plan to re-open at least one pool for swimming. It now hosts guided tours and a varied programme of events. The Manchester Histories website hosts a history of the baths by Tesni Boughen <https://tinyurl.com/mr3mmcmv>

WORKING CLASS MOVEMENT LIBRARY

Another blogpost hosted by Manchester Histories, by Xinran Meng, outlines the history and scope of the Working Class Movement Library <https://tinyurl.com/4dry53c6>

Visit Manchester Histories www.manchesterhistories.co.uk for more events and news.

PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST



HELL IN SINGAPORE: THE LOSS OF THE BLACKPOOL REGIMENT AND THE SINKING OF HMS YIN PING

David Taylor

123 pp. (2022) self-published (purchase through Amazon) £9.95 (paperback) £4.95 (ebook).

David Taylor tells the story of the contrasting fates during WW2 in the Far East of two servicemen: Francis Ronald Emery, who was the author's uncle, and son of a cinema owner and MP; and Alfred Burt Briggs, who came from a family much involved in the theatre world. Ronald joined the RAF, serving as a military policeman, whilst Burt was a commissioned officer in the newly formed 137 Field Regiment RA (TA), known as the Blackpool Regiment. Both men were in Singapore when the Japanese invaded. Ronald was detailed to evacuate on HMS *Yin Ping*, the author describing in detail its final voyage when it was sunk. Ronald Emery was one of the many who drowned, whilst others were slaughtered.

The short-lived Blackpool Regiment was defeated at Jitra and Slim River in Malaya. Now divided, some fought on in the Kuala Lumpur area whilst the others, including Burt, were harried down the Malay peninsula through jungles and crocodile-infested rivers to Singapore. As David Taylor writes:

In the Malayan campaign up to the surrender, the regiment lost 70 men killed or missing in action, with a further 154 destined to die in POW camps in the three years following: a total of 224 terrible losses and some 30% of the whole regiment. This, of course, does not take into account the awful physical and mental distress of the survivors of the camps, causing suffering to all of them for the rest of their lives. Nor does it take into account several post-war suicides, one known to me, the author, personally.

In Singapore the survivors joined other allies in the defence of the area, but only for a short period. The Japanese moved with speed and attacked from the least defended direction, such that the surrender was signed on 15 February 1942. Then began Burt's experience of being a prisoner of war in Japanese camps along the line of the Thai-Burma railway. Although conditions were dreadful and food sparse and dreary for all, Burt, as an officer, was more fortunate than most. He was made the liaison officer with the responsibility of going into the local town for provisions and it was here that he met Boon Pong, a merchant who was sympathetic to the Allied cause. At great danger to his life, Boon Pong supplied medical goods and extra food to the prisoners. When the Japanese surrendered he supplied thousands of pounds worth of goods on credit and also advanced thousands of pounds of British currency simply on the promise of repayment. He was subsequently awarded the George Cross and an MBE.

Burt Briggs played a prominent part in the stand at Nong Pladuk POW camp. The prisoners had been so badly treated that they refused to work so were lined up in oppressive heat for many hours with threats of beheading or being shot. Burt and some other officers had been absent but when they returned they managed to diffuse the situation. Burt's final comment on the stand was, "it is no easy thing to stand up to a man with a sword in his hand and say, 'no', knowing perfectly well, that he may, in the next few minutes, chop off your head or resort to other unpleasant treatment". It was the very highest test of moral and physical courage. Not all circumstances went as well for Burt: on several occasions he did his best to speak up to try to persuade the Japanese that officers should not work. For his troubles, he was beaten about the head and discharged from any further liaison with the Japanese, and ended up on a wood-collecting party.

However, he was one of the fortunate people who survived the deprivations and ill-treatment, and after the war he returned to banking as a clerk in charge at the Whitegate Drive, Blackpool branch of Martins Bank. He was awarded campaign medals: War Medal 1939–1945, the 1939-1945 Star Medal and Territorial Decoration with Bar.

Perhaps because of his family connections, David Taylor writes with empathy and, as befits a solicitor, he has undertaken much research into the lives of his main protagonists and also many of their fellow servicemen, which he conveys with great clarity. The book portrays the horrors of war and imprisonment in the East and treats with humanity the many who suffered. It is a valuable addition to the part that many Lancashire men and the Blackpool Regiment played in WW2.

John Wilson

SUNDERLAND POINT MISSION HALL

A local group is raising funds for the renovation of the Sunderland Point Mission Hall, so that it can be fully used for the benefit of the community. More details can be found at www.sunderlandpoint.net or Sunderland Point Lancashire on Facebook.

To support the project, four local history books have been produced, with all proceeds going to the Centre.

They are priced at £7 each (postage extra), or can be bought from Lynne Levey at No. 14, Second Terrace, LA3 3HT. Email lynne.levey@icloud.com.

Digital Copies are £5 and are available from beth.hampson@hotmail.co.uk.

The changing faces of Sunderland Point.

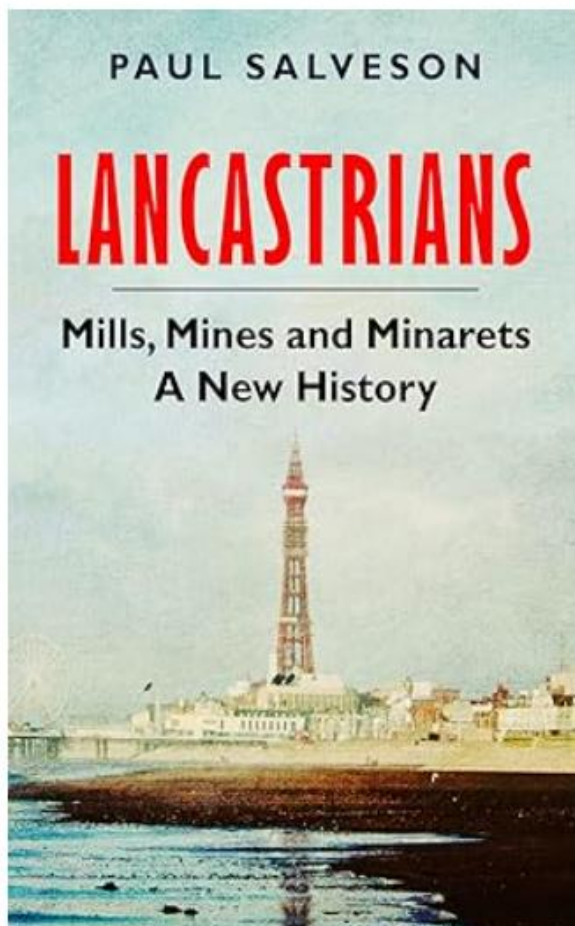
Contains many articles written by past inhabitants. 163 pages, with tales from J W Gardner and Wilton Gardner; The Gilchrist & Swainson story; Who lived where, by J W Gardner; and newspaper articles, etc.



The early days. 129 pages tracing past occupiers of the houses, visitor lists, stories of the people of the time, and more newspaper articles.

Overton history from the newspapers. 122 pages all about Overton, including the tales of the awful James Robertson and how he bullied the locals; an account of the conditions in Overton in 1858 – and it was pretty bad; the yacht *Sue* and Arthur Hassell Mansergh; tales of the pubs Snatchems, Ship Inn, The Globe, and more.

Sunderland Point & Overton Lives. A selection of memories, and the story of the Quaker Lawson family of Sunderland Point; early residents, boat owners etc.; Overton War memorial; 1911 Residents; Robert Bowie; the Gardner families; the horrific tale of emigration; the Thompson family; and stories from the newspapers.



LANCASTRIANS:

MILLS, MINES AND MINARETS A NEW HISTORY

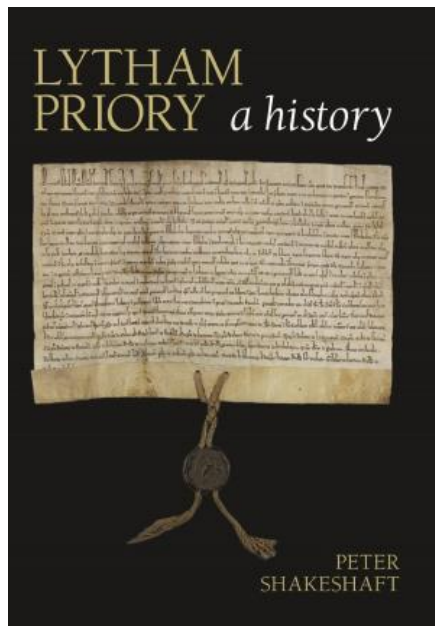
Paul Salveson

432pp. ISBN 9781787389335
[Lancastrians | Hurst Publishers](#)
C. Hurst & Co. £25.00

The book explores Lancastrians and their impact on Britain and beyond. It examines the cultural heritage and identity of Lancashire, from the Mersey to the Lake District, and contemporary Lancastrian culture and modern upheavals.

It peers into the future of the county and its people in this rich historical region.

LYTHAM PRIORY: A HISTORY



The latest book from **Peter Shakeshaft** is a comprehensive history of Lytham Priory, partly based on research in the online archive of Durham Cathedral.

It was built on land (now embracing the towns of Lytham and St Annes) which was gifted to the Benedictines in the 12th century. The Priory at Lytham was a dominant force in the area for centuries, with monks involved in everything from farming to local politics.

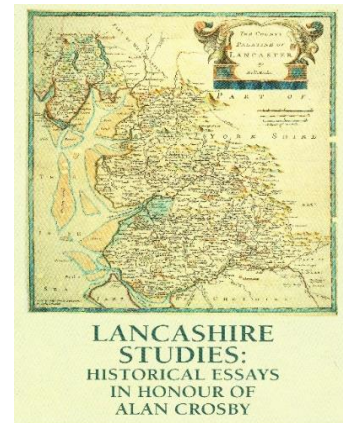
The book is fully illustrated and costs £25 (plus postage). Copies can be ordered by contacting the author by telephone 01253 720852 or by email peter.shakeshaft@btinternet.com.

THE IDEAL CHRISTMAS PRESENT?

In 2020 the Federation committee presented a unique book to Dr Alan Crosby, now the Federation chairman.

Lancashire studies: Historical essays in honour of Alan Crosby contains nine essays written by fellow historians who had known and admired him for many years. The foreword was written by Dr Paul Booth, and there is a bibliography of Alan's published work.

To tempt readers to order a copy for themselves – or a friend - summaries of the contents are set out below.



Red lines, over-sands crossings and King Arthur: a re-appraisal of the depiction of the north west on the Gough Map. The outstandingly significant map, now in the Bodleian Library in Oxford, dates to c. 1400. The author examines in depth the topography of the north west shown on the map, identifies many of the places, and discusses the nature of its 'red lines'.

Dr William D Shannon is an independent researcher in history and Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries. He is part of a research project concerned with the map.

The Catholic Cliftons and the Church of England at Lund and Lytham. The article examines a conflict over three hundred years at two Church of England churches, at Lund and Lytham, where the Catholic Clifton family held sway.

Peter Shakeshaft St Anne's born, who has lived there most of his life, has written several local history books, including histories of Freckleton and St Anne's.

Pilkington and its field names. Pilkington, in the hundred of Salford, was an important Irwell valley manor, but was dismantled by local government reforms in 1894. Documentary evidence is sparse, but local field names can help to determine some of the landscape features, including the bounds of the medieval deer park.

Diana Winterbotham was formerly the Local Studies Librarian for Lancashire County Library Service. She has a keen interest in home and working life in 17th century Lancashire and in landscape and place-name history.

Cheesemaking in the Goosnargh area in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The period covered saw increasingly commercialized production. Dairy farming in the area is surveyed as a basis for cheesemaking and its marketing, plus an examination of whether agrarian reform contributed to the improvement of production. Much of the work was informed by extensive research into many of the inventories held in Lancashire Archives.

Zoë Lawson is the membership secretary of the Federation, and a retired local studies librarian with a degree in history and diploma in local history. She has published research on different aspects of working-class life in the county.

A Peculiar People transformed: the changing face of Quakerism in Victorian Lancashire. The number of Quakers in Lancashire was small, but a great deal of information about them can be gleaned from their detailed record-keeping. During the period, Quakerism changed from a rather inward-looking body, to becoming more evangelical, after which younger members adopted a more liberal outlook.

Angus J L Winchester is Emeritus Professor of Local and Landscape History at Lancaster University. His research interests lie mainly in the history of upland landscapes, particularly common land.

Working at home during the nineteenth century: a case study of Winckley Square, Preston. A survey of relevant records shows that in this period space was allocated in some of the houses in the square for proprietors to work at home. As the century drew to a close, many houses ceased to be used as family homes, giving way to business and institutional use.

Geoff Timmins is Emeritus Professor in the School of Humanities, Language and Global Studies at UCLan. His main research interests are modern social and economic history, as well as the teaching of history.

Success to the ladies of Worden: the trials and tribulations of a Lancashire estate. The long tenure by the ffarington family of Worden Hall and estate in Leyland was greatly compromised by a disastrous fire in 1941. The catalogue of the

subsequent sale in 1947 revealed the scale of the hall's golden age, much of it under the care of three formidable women. The council bought the remnant of the buildings and Worden Park in 1951.

Dr David Hunt is the retired curator of South Ribble Museum at Leyland, an author and a part-time university history tutor. His main research interests are in the nineteenth century, focusing on Preston and surrounding villages.

The Seward stained-glass studio of Lancaster. The author adds to her previously published research about Lancaster studios. Seward windows are not always signed, so documentary research coupled with comparison with known Seward windows has helped to confirm more examples.

Margaret Edwards read English Language and Literature at Durham University, and has lectured and published work on aspects of north west England history. She has contributed greatly to knowledge of archaeology in the region, often in collaboration with her late husband, B J N Edwards.

Local history and the Lancaster historical pageant of 1913. The author surveys the passion for pageants in different parts of the country. He examines in detail the purpose, planning and structure of the pageant. Historical scenes were re-enacted, involving the input of local historians, with varying degrees of accuracy.

Dr Michael Winstanley was Senior Lecturer in History at Lancaster University and is a National Teaching Fellow. His interests encompass many diverse aspects of the history of the north west.

The book can be ordered by copying and completing the form below.

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I enclose a cheque for £ ____ made payable to Lancashire Local History Federation.	
Send to: John Wilson, Green Hall, Tatham, Lancaster, LA2 8RB Telephone: 03330 062270 email: j.r.wilson@cantab.net	
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RESEARCH ARTICLES

BURIED AT WEASTE CEMETERY - OLIVER YATES (1813 – 1897)

Oliver Yates was a cotton yarn agent and merchant in Manchester, who later returned to his roots at Woodhead near Belthorn (in the Yate and Pickup Bank area, near Blackburn). On retirement he moved to Southport, where he died.

He was born in 1813, probably at Woodhead. There is no record of his early life. However, the Blackburn Times of 29 May 1920 carried an obituary of his nephew, i.e. his brother John's son, also named Oliver Yates, who was the major beneficiary of Oliver's will in 1897. This sheds some light on the family: "Mr Yates [the nephew] was a member of the well-known Yates family of Pickup Bank. The family were flourishing yeomen on the eastern side of Darwen so far back as the time of Edward III." It goes on to say, "An ancestor named Oliver Yates saw an advertisement in a Blackburn shop window for a salesman at Manchester. Oliver applied for the job and was engaged. Eventually he married his employer's daughter, who is said to have been very beautiful, succeeded to the business, and when he died left a fortune of over £160,000. This Mr Oliver Yates was born at Woodhead. He built the house at Woodhead, Belthorn, at which his nephew, the deceased Mr Oliver Yates lived, until his removal to Southport about ten years ago."

In 1841, at the age of 28, Oliver Yates was married to Mary Shimwell (aged 34) in Manchester by registrar. Mary was born in 1806 in Youlgreave, Derbyshire, the daughter of Isaac Shimwell, fringe and smallware manufacturer, of 11 St Mary's Gate, Manchester, and his wife Hannah. In 1851, the couple lived at Gordon Terrace, Cheetham, Manchester. Oliver's occupation was given as merchant, with his business address at 11 New Market Lane, Manchester Township. Sadly, in 1859 Mary died aged 52, and was buried at Weaste Cemetery (A5/DISS/398) on 16 April. They had no children. In 1863, Slater's Manchester Directory recorded Oliver as a yarn and cloth commission agent.

It would appear that Oliver was quite generous, as various newspapers recorded his donations to worthy causes. In August 1850, a guinea to the Manchester Monument to Sir Robert Peel fund; in March 1852, £5 to the Distress Fund at Holmfirth; January 1859, £1 to the Tyldesley Colliery Explosion Relief Fund; February 1862, 2 guineas to the Hartley Colliery Accident Fund; November 1862, £25 to the Manchester Infirmary Building Fund; and August 1865, £5 to the Manchester City Mission.

By 1871 Oliver's address was Woodhead House, Yate and Pickup Bank, Blackburn. Also in the house was Eliza Agnes Tillery, housekeeper, aged 37, born in Scotland. In 1881, still at the same address his occupation was a farmer of 22 acres. By 1891, Oliver lived at Sandhurst, Cambridge Road, North Meols, Southport. He was aged 78 and 'living on his own means', and had retained Eliza as his housekeeper.

Oliver Yates died on 5th October 1897, aged 84 and was buried with his wife in Weaste Cemetery. The main beneficiary of his will was his nephew Oliver Yates; amongst other bequests, he gave £500 Eliza, his faithful housekeeper.

Pete Kilvert