



LANCASHIRE LOCAL HISTORY FEDERATION

NEWSLETTER ISSUE NO. 47, MAY 2024

COPY DATE FOR NEXT EDITION: 22 JULY

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.

'AT HOME' with Chorley Heritage Centre Group Saturday 13 July

Please see the programme and booking form below. We very much hope that people from all over the county will come for this enjoyable day.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Federation AGM took place by Zoom on 6 March, attended by 32 people. Alan Crosby, the Chairman, emphasised that 2023 had been a good year, following the resumption of normal life after Covid. Highlights were the 'At Home' hosted by Ribchester Local History Society (on one of the hottest days of the year!), and the Federation's 50th anniversary event at Lancashire Archives, including a fascinating talk by Dr Paul Booth about the differing origins of Liverpool and Toxteth. Alan thanked the members of the committee for their work – all were re-elected.

The meeting was followed by a talk from Jonathan Healey entitled *The birth of the Poor Law in Lancashire*. He showed that the Quarter Sessions records held in the Archives reveal much about the early development of England's unique system of poor relief, which can lead us on to envisage what life was like for the very poor.

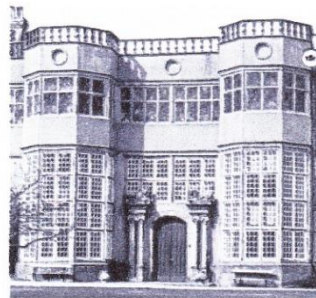
Lancashire Local History Federation

“At Home”

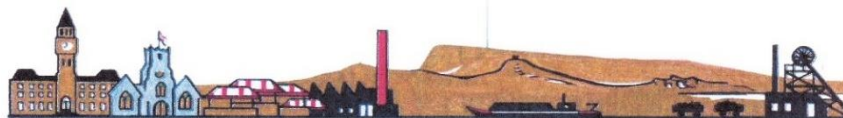
with Chorley Heritage Centre Group
At The Lancastrian Suite, Chorley Town Hall

Saturday, 13th July, 2024

Programme



- 9.30-9.50 am Arrival and Registration, with refreshments, incl. Chorley Cake
- 9.50-10.00 am Welcome and outline of the day
- 10.00-11.00 am Keynote Presentation : Dr Bill Walker “ Myles Standish: Man of Mystery”
(Bill Walker is author of “Duxbury in Decline” and Education leader Chorley Heritage Centre Group)
- 11.15am-12.15 pm Guest Historian: Alan Davies B.A (Hons) “ The Pit Brow Women of The Lancashire Coalfield”
(Alan is former Curator of both the Lancashire and Cheshire Mining Museum and Wigan Record Office and author of many mining titles including “Coal Mining in Lancashire and Cheshire”)
- 12.15-1.00 pm Lunch- with recent exhibitions e.g ” Charles Lightoller and the Titanic”
- 1.00- 1.45 pm Group visits to Chorley Library and “ The Lost Coal Mines of Chorley” Exhibition
- 1.45- 4.00 pm Choice of Field Visits:
- a) Chorley’s Historic Core
 - b) Astley Hall “The Jewel in Chorley’s Crown” (a ten minute walk through Astley Park, followed by a guided tour of the recently refurbished Hall)
 - c) Tour of Duxbury Hall and Gardens (*members opting for this experience will need to take their own transport to Duxbury or request a lift when booking.*)





LLHF "At Home" with Chorley Heritage Centre Support Group

Saturday, 13th July, 2024

*Please complete all sections and send to be received by **Saturday 22 June** to:*

Mrs Jane Atherton, 13 Fernbank, Chorley, Lancashire, PR6 7BH.

Or, as attachment with email, to Lincoln Shields, i.e: lshields26@hotmail.co.uk.

Please reserve places with finger buffet lunch at £15 per person

Special dietary requirements.....

Please reserve place(s) on the afternoon tour a) Chorley Town Centre

..... b) Astley Hall

..... c) Duxbury

Cheque enclosed for £..... made payable to Chorley Heritage Centre Support Group

or £..... paid by BACS to Chorley Heritage Centre Support Group, NatWest Chorley,
Sort Code 010194, Account29786304.

Name (s).....

.....

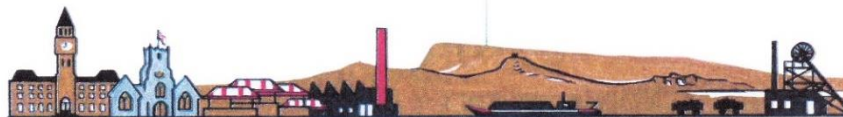
Contact Address

.....

.....

Email:

Confirmation and further details (e.g directions and parking options) will be sent on receipt.



VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

In common with many other local historians, in recent years I have been making plenty of use of the ever-expanding range and choice of delights available on the National Library of Scotland's maps website <https://maps.nls.uk/>.

For over a decade the library has been steadily digitising its immense collections of maps and plans of all sorts, and putting the digitised images online in what is now a vast and wonderful website. The quality of the digitisation is quite outstanding, and what is no less remarkable – indeed, scarcely credible – is that the entire site is free to access and to use. In terms of public spiritedness this is quite exceptional. In this country we have become accustomed to the notion that everything has a price, that everything should and must be monetised. To find a resource like this which is free of charge, its providers taking the view that it is for public benefit and for the greater good, is tremendously heartening.

I use the NLS site very frequently for many aspects of my work, ranging from looking at the occurrence of place-name elements, via field patterns and town plans, to Ordnance Survey parcel numbers and the location of tollgates on turnpike roads.

Every scale of mapping is there, but for Lancashire the particular treasure is the first edition of the 6 inch to 1 mile mapping, for which the survey work was undertaken in the mid-1840s, with publication towards the end of the decade. At the time this was the largest scale of systematic surveying and mapping ever carried out in Great Britain (although Ireland had been mapped at a 6-inch scale in the 1830s).

The survey teams had spent the previous half-century slowly moving northwards, beginning in Kent and Sussex and mapping usually at 2 inches to 1 mile but publishing the maps at the standard 1 inch to 1 mile (1: 63,360). By the end of the 1820s it was becoming apparent that this scale was far too small to be used in the fast-growing civil engineering and construction sector, or for legal and commercial business, and so the decision was taken to move to the 6-inch scale and publish at both 1 inch and 6 inches to a mile. This was implemented from the Mersey and the Humber northwards.

For local historians in the county palatine of Lancashire, and those across the Pennines in Yorkshire, this policy change is highly fortuitous – a real blessing. We have very detailed, highly accurate and beautifully engraved maps of the county from the early Victorian period. It is sometimes said that these are the finest maps ever produced, and south Lancashire was where the work was first implemented.

They capture a crucial period in the history of our county: the turnpike network was at its maximum extent, the railway network was growing apace, and the industrial revolution had been under way for eighty years. Towns were expanding rapidly, but the unrestricted suburban growth of the later 19th century was not yet in progress. The first great reservoir schemes were completed, at Rivington and elsewhere in the south-east of the county, and the great series of docks along the Mersey shore had reached downriver as far as Bootle. But most of Lancashire was still purely rural: these maps of the 1840s portray in exquisite detail the fields, woods, lanes, farms, moors, mosses, mountains, fells, tarns, landed estates, rivers and hamlets of that fascinating and so often beautiful countryside. Town and country alike, I find myself

wandering through the Lancashire of 180 years ago, in the comfort of my chair, thanks to the exemplary and enlightened policy of the National Library of Scotland.

Alan Crosby

NEWS FROM ARCHIVES

LANCASHIRE ARCHIVES & LOCAL HISTORY

PRIDE OF THE PITCH



NATIONAL FOOTBALL MUSEUM

The new exhibition at the Archives is now open! *Pride of the Pitch: Preston's Footballing Icons*, chronicles these individual and team icons, from PNE's 'Invincibles' team of the 1880s, the Dick, Kerr Ladies of the early 20th century, and Tom Finney from the mid-20th century.

While in residence at

Lancashire Archives, there will also be some exciting public and community programming including drop-in family craft sessions during school holidays, focused community sessions with key community groups to create a responsive artwork that will become part of the exhibition, behind the scenes tours, 'In conversation with' talks with football heritage experts and much more!

Aimee Broughton, the National Football Museums Participation Producer (Preston and Wider Outreach) and one of the leads on the exhibition said: "*Pride of the Pitch* is one of the highlights of our Football Creates program and wider Preston community offer. We are looking forward to highlighting Preston's rich sporting heritage and bringing forward some of the stories and people that helped put Preston on the footballing map not just nationally but worldwide." The exhibition has been created in partnership with Lancashire Archives and has been supported by key partners, such as Gail Newsham, Michael Barrett (PNECET) and Lancashire Museums Service.

Friday 10 May 6.00-7.00pm: *Pride of Preston: Dick, Kerr Ladies 1917-1965, with Gail Newsham.* Gail is a renowned football historian, who will be explaining why she believes the team is the most important in the history of women's football. The event is free but booking is essential at: events.apps.lancashire.gov.uk.

NEWS FROM THE ARCHIVES

Our monthly digest of updates and news from Lancashire Archives & Local History has had a refresh and is now available as a direct web-link as well as in PDF format, depending on your preference. If you would like to be added to the mailing list please contact us at archives@lancashire.gov.uk and mention you would like to receive *News from the Archives*.

LANCASHIRE LOCAL HISTORY PUBLICATION – ARCHIVES

The fourth edition of our Lancashire Local History magazine, *Archives*, will be on sale from 1 June 2024 and available to purchase from in all Lancashire County Council 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

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.

The deadline for submissions of articles for the fifth edition is 1 August 2024.

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



THIS LANCASHIRE SPORTING LIFE...SPORT & CREATIVE WRITING UNITED

THIS LANCASHIRE SPORTING LIFE... SPORT & CREATIVE WRITING UNITED



Lancashire Archives & Local History are teaming up once again with Preston Arts Association for a Summer of sport and creative writing! No sporting prowess necessary as sports related archives will be the inspiration for creative writing - in all it's forms. From absolute beginners to the seasoned writer, all are welcome—are you game?

lancashire.gov.uk/archives



Lancashire Archives & Local History are teaming up with Preston Arts Association for a summer of sport and creative writing. From absolute beginners to the seasoned writer, all are welcome—are you game? **Saturday 11 May, 2:00-4:00pm:** A workshop looking at original records in the Archives, with an archivist to introduce the records, and a lead writer to give advice about how to turn your ideas into a piece of creative writing.

SATURDAY 15 JUNE: UCLAN FESTIVAL OF HUMANITIES & WORLD

CULTURES Lancashire Archives and Local History will be taking part in this popular FREE festival at the University of Central Lancashire in Preston. There will be lots of family friendly activities, including Caribbean Carnival and Pride of the Pitch football craft activities with the National Football Museum.

Don't forget you can find us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/lancsarchives>
You can also follow us on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/LancsArchives>

NEWS FROM MEMBER SOCIETIES

BARNOLDSWICK HISTORY SOCIETY

Our regular monthly meetings have now finished for the summer. Fortunately our friends at Earby on the other side of West Craven hold their meetings during the summer so there is always something to look forward to.

Our dedicated band of archivists will continue the work of cataloguing our extensive collection of archives.

Several society members contributed to an article in *The Dalesman* magazine which quizzed them about their feelings 50 years after the town moved (administratively) from Yorkshire to Lancashire. Maybe it wasn't so bad after all!



The photograph shows an infant school class at our Wesleyan school. The school was 'largely a gift' from local industrialist and philanthropist William 'Billycock' Bracewell. Local newspapers for 1885 reported on the long cortege for his funeral; on General Gordon and the fall of Khartoum; on a First Nation uprising in Manitoba; and on the new station building at Earby.

For further details about the society contact:

Alan Roberts alanrobertsbarnoldswick@gmail.com

HORWICH HERITAGE CENTRE Beaumont Road BL6 7BG



TALKS – Tuesdays at 7.30pm. Non-members £2 per meeting.

14 May: *Bolton transport*, with David Lloyd

11 June: Annual General Meeting

EXHIBITIONS

Until 16 May: *The centenary of Horwich Harriers*

May to August: *A Horwich timeline*

See the website for opening times and how to join www.horwichheritage.co.uk

FRIENDS OF PENDLE HERITAGE



Sunday 28 July 2:00pm: Summer Event in the Cruck Barn, Pendle Heritage Centre, Colne Road, Barrowford BB9 6JQ. (There is a car park across the road from the centre – charges apply.)

Stephen Halliwell will give a talk on *Levens Hall: The Park and Gardens*. The gardens, 5 miles south of Kendal, are home to the world's oldest topiary displays, which were designed in the 1690s by Monsieur Guillaume Beaumont, gardener to King James II.

Please pre-book e: info@foph.co.uk or m: 07787 631078. Payment of £10 (which includes the talk, a welcome Prosecco, a trio of sweet treats, tea & coffee) is required when booking.

FRIENDS OF WINCKLEY SQUARE

TALKS

Tuesday 30 July 2:00-3.15pm: *From Prison to Citizenship*: Talk by Helen Howell
From exclusion in 1832 to limited franchise in 1918, this talk explores the journey towards suffrage for women, ending with a light-hearted look at the first election in Preston when some women could finally cast a vote.

To book <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/DKDK>

Tuesday 20 August 2:00- 3:15pm: *Cornelia Connelly: Blissful Bride to Notorious Nun!* Presentation by Judy Beeston A fascinating true story brought to life by Judy in role as Cornelia's one time friend turned nemesis Emily Bowles. A wife, the mother of five children, a nun, and an abbess, who began the religious order 'The Society of Holy Child Jesus' which Cornelia said was 'founded on her broken heart'. A truly remarkable woman who had a significant impact on education in Preston. Book <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/DKDI>

Venue of talks: Central Methodist Church, Lune Street, Preston PR1 2NL Tickets £5

GUIDED WALKS start in the centre of Winckley Square unless stated otherwise. Walks cost £5. Places are limited so please book on: www.trybooking.com/uk (search events for 'Winckley Square').

Problem booking? Contact patricia@winckley.org.uk

8 MAY 2pm - 3.15pm Pat Harrison	Extraordinary Women of Winckley Square Learn about the lives of women who broke boundaries when women were not allowed to vote and had to submit to laws when they had no voice in their formation.
12 MAY 2pm-3.30pm Steve Harrison	From Fishergate to the Ribble: West Preston shaped by power and influence. The walk explores Churchgate and Fishergate; where Preston's rich and powerful families lived until factory building in the late C18.
28 May 2pm-3.15pm Susan Douglass	The Horrocks' Family Connections 'Horrocks, Miller & Co.' was one of the largest cotton manufacturing businesses in Preston by the 1840s but Horrocks and Miller were not just business partners.
12 June or 7 August 2pm- 3.15pm Peter Wilkinson	Former Residents of Winckley Square – famous and infamous In the beginning- starting with the vision for the Square and the first house built in 1799 you will encounter real people who made history.
16 June or 4 August 2.30-4.30 Helen Howell	Preston suffragette walk Polite persuasion or bombs? Follow in the footsteps of Preston women fighting for the right to vote and discover their tactics
23 June 2pm-4pm Nigel Hardacre	Lancaster Canal and Tram Road This is a flat route and easy going, but good walking shoes are still recommended. There is the old tram road route, the site of the original Preston Basin, hidden bridges and other local history from the 19th and 20th Centuries
25 June 2pm-3.15pm Susan Douglass	Servants – The Hidden Occupants of Winckley Square Invisible and inaudible essential to family life at all times. Find out about some of these hidden residents and what became of them.
7 July 2pm-3.30pm Michael Akers	'Drawing Board Dreams' and the reinvention of Preston In the 1960s and early 70s, planners and architects attempted to remake Preston. Bold modernist ideas saw the sweeping away of a large section of the old C19th centre. <i>The walk begins outside the Guild Hall, Lancaster Road.</i>
11 July 13 August 7pm-8.30 Michael Akers	The Bridges that made Preston Bridging the Ribble has been core to Preston's development as a market town, a transport hub and a manufacturing centre. Each bridge has a fascinating story. <i>The walk will begin at the Old Penwortham Bridge, Broadgate side</i>

REGIONAL HERITAGE CENTRE

Saturday 18 May 9:30am-4:00pm: Maritime Matters: A full day on-campus study event devoted to the maritime history and heritage of the Isle of Man. The event is live and will not be recorded. Speakers include **Allison Fox** and **Christopher Weeks** (Manx National Heritage) and **Andrew Choong** (National Maritime Museum Greenwich).

Saturday 1 June 10:00am-4:00pm: Visit to Carlisle Cathedral and its library A full day study event held at Carlisle Cathedral's Fraternity Hall looking at the Cathedral library's collection of rare books and manuscripts. This event is for in-person attendees and will not be recorded. Book via [Events - Lancaster University](#)

LANCASHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Saturday 29 June 1:30-4:30pm: Visit to Croston Old School, Parish Church and Archive



The school was erected in 1660 by Rev James Hyatt at his own cost as a free school for the 'good education of the children of the parish'. The school was rebuilt in 1827 and continued as the village school until 1999. There will be a tour of the Grade II building, a talk about the history of education in the village, and an exploration of the archive.

This will be followed by a short walk for a tour of the ancient parish church and an explanation of how influential it has been in the area. £6 for non-members (to be paid on the day). Email lancsarchsoc@gmail.com for more details.

NEWS ROUNDUP

170TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREAT PRESTON LOCK-OUT 1853-54



14TH MAY, 5:45PM-8:00PM

CENTRAL METHODIST CHURCH, LUNE STREET,
PRESTON

JOIN THE UCLAN HISTORY TEAM ALONGSIDE COLLEAGUES FOR AN EVENING
EXAMINING THE GREAT PRESTON LOCKOUT 1853-54.

THE EVENT FEATURES A SERIES OF TALKS ON NEW RESEARCH TO BE PUBLISHED IN A
SPECIAL EDITION OF TRANSACTIONS OF THE HISTORIC SOCIETY OF LANCASHIRE AND
CHESHIRE (2024), THE SCREENING OF A SHORT FILM BY SARAH-ANN KENNEDY, AND
A PERFORMANCE OF SONGS FROM THE LOCK-OUT BY GREGG BUTLER AND TOM
WALSH.

TICKETS ARE FREE BUT BOOKING IS REQUIRED VIA:
[HTTPS://WWW.TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/BOOKING/T-LNMDVVY](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/booking/T-LNMDVVY)

This was a momentous national event. It began as isolated strikes in a small number of mills in Autumn 1853, and by October had become a lock-out of most textile operatives. A further, larger strike began in February 1854 and continued until May. It was immortalised by writers including Samuel Bamford, Charles Dickens, Elizabeth Gaskell and Karl Marx. They were inspired by the operatives and their famous cry of, 'Ten per cent and no surrender'.

Join the UCLan history team and colleagues for an entertaining and informative evening.

This is a free event but booking is required via www.ticketsource.co.uk/booking/T-LNMDVVY

MANCHESTER JEWISH MUSEUM OPEN DAY

Monday 6 May 2:00-4:00pm.

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the museum's Spanish and Portuguese synagogue. On the open day visitors will be able to see the new exhibitions in the galleries, and learn the stories of the communities who are part of the remarkable building. The award-winning café includes a new Sephardi-inspired menu.

Entry is free, but booking is required tickets@manchesterjewishmuseum.com.



CHRISTOPHER ASPIN – AN APPRECIATION

Chris Aspin, who has died at the age of 91, was one of Rossendale's – and indeed Lancashire's - finest historians. He was the author of more than twenty-five books on the history of Rossendale and the textile industry, both in this country and abroad. His expertise on the early cotton trade was well known and his help was sought by researchers from all over the world.

Chris began writing articles in the 1950s and his pieces have appeared in publications as diverse as *Whisky Export* and *History Today*. He published his first book in 1962: *Haslingden 1800 – 1900* examined the development of the town largely through reports in local newspapers. It quickly sold out and has become a much sought-after title, changing hands at prices which Chris found astonishing.

In 1964, Chris produced a pioneering study of James Hargreaves, inventor of the spinning jenny, while his *Lancashire: the first industrial society* (1969) looked at the social changes the county underwent during the Industrial Revolution.

In terms of textile history, Chris's *magnum opus* was *The Water-Spinners: a new look at the early cotton trade* (2003). In this book, which was some fourteen years in the making, Chris looked at the impact on the north of England of Arkwright's invention, and located the sites of many early water-powered spinning mills.

Chris spent his entire life in Helmshore, where he attended the local council school before moving on to Haslingden Grammar School. Leaving at the age of 16, Chris had little idea of what to do for a career. Spotting an advertisement in a local newspaper, he applied and found himself appointed Accrington and district reporter for the *Lancashire Evening Post*. Thus began his long career as a journalist. From Accrington, he moved to the *Northern Daily Telegraph* in Blackburn, then to Wigan and Bolton, before joining the *Manchester Evening News* in 1965. He wrote mainly on business, finance, and music matters. He retired in 1993.

Chris's interest in local history began in childhood when he discovered a series of pamphlets *Historical Notices of Helmshore and Musbury* published in the 1920s. After National Service in the RAF he and his friend, the late Derek Pilkington, co-founded Helmshore Local History society in 1953. The Society began to build up an archive of material relating not only to Helmshore and Haslingden but to other parts of Rossendale too. Many of the photographs and items of ephemera later found their way into picture histories, beginning with *Helmshore* (1977) and *Haslingden* (1979). In its early days the society held lectures, and members undertook an excavation of part of the Roman road at Edgworth. In 1958 and 1959, two colour films recorded village life, capturing Helmshore just before the large-scale changes of the 1960s.

In 1967, Chris and Derek were instrumental in saving the water-powered woollen fulling mill in Helmshore which had belonged to the Turner family. The mill had closed, and its contents were scheduled to be sold for scrap. At the last minute, a preservation order halted the sale and work began to turn the mill into a working museum. Within a short time, it was attracting hundreds of visitors and gained an international reputation. It is now part of the Helmshore Textile Museums site.

Apart from history, Chris's other great passion was cricket. He played as a child and youth and was a skilled bowler. Later in life, he became secretary of Haslingden Cricket Club, a position he held for more than 40 years. The Club honoured him by naming a suite after him at their Bentgate grounds. Chris wrote annual reports on the Lancashire League for *Wisden* and was proud to be acknowledged as their oldest contributor when filing his report for 2023.

Chris had an easy facility with verse, often producing poems to mark some local event. His memorial poem for the closure of the railway through Helmshore in 1966 begins:

*Old line farewell. Now useless you must lie
In mute rebuke of those who let you die.*

In old age, he would write something every day before breakfast as a means of keeping his brain active and he issued many of these poems in slim volumes, beginning with *Smile, please* in 2004.

From an early age, Chris had an interest in the paranormal. For many years he was a member of the Society for Psychical Research and collected accounts of all sorts of strange happenings from the locality. These too he published, beginning with *Strange stories from a Lancashire village* in 2014.

It was not in Chris's nature to join the lecturing merry-go-round and he rarely gave public talks, but he was always willing to share his knowledge with enquirers, whether it was for a school project or for the preparation of an academic work.

From a lifetime of writing, Chris had a finely honed skill at translating the results of his research into eminently readable prose. One of his main concerns was, where possible, to let those long dead speak for themselves by quoting letters, diaries or reports from newspapers. He had little time for books which seem to suck the life from their subjects, as though those involved had never been living, breathing people.

Chris worked until the end. His last book about Helmshore and the Turner family remained unfinished at his death.

Chris left no family, but his books are a fine legacy and lasting memorial to him.

John Simpson

WOMEN IN STREET NAMES – A NEW DEVELOPMENT



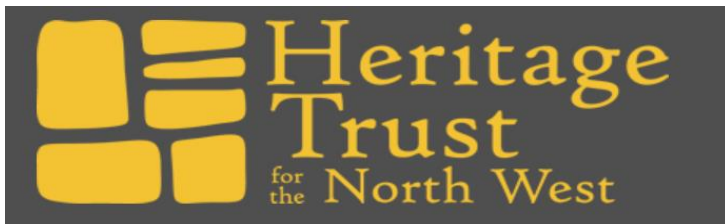
Previous editions of the newsletter (32, Aug 2020 & 41, Nov 2022) contained information about a project by **Carrie de Silva** to honour women in public life, including finding the names and writing the stories of women after whom streets are named.

The project now encompasses mini biographies. The first chapter is available online, including women who are remembered for public service or community work, nationally or locally. When the project is complete, an e-book will be published.

If you know of women who you think should be included, Carrie welcomes such contributions. She is also happy to talk to groups about the street names project or, more widely, the impact of gender bias in the public representation of women.

Her website contains a great deal of information about women in many walks of life – some of whom would be known only to a few in her locality, others internationally renowned, and from all periods of history. Carrie de Silva is Visiting Professor of Real Estate Practice Law, Harper Adams University, and Honorary Professor, Royal Agricultural University. <https://carriedesilva.weebly.com/history.html>

HERITAGE TRUST FOR THE NORTH WEST



HTNW, founded in 1978, is the largest historic building preservation trust in north west England. The Trust owns over 30 buildings in the area.

It is possible to visit some of these buildings. One is Pendle Heritage Centre www.pendleheritage.co.uk. The Trust has helped to save Bank Hall, Bretherton – to book a Sunday tour see website <https://heritagetrustnorthwest.uk>.

If you know of a project which would benefit from the Trust's expertise and network connections, email info@htnw.co.uk.

FRIENDS OF SALFORD CEMETERIES TRUST

The Friends produce a very interesting newsletter. The Spring issue includes:

- A summary of news and events from the Chairman, Paul Sherlock
- Cemetery news from Barry Ellis, Bereavement Services Manager
- Short biographies and unusual inscriptions of some of those interred in the cemeteries
- The Lancaster bomber memorial at Agecroft cemetery

If you would like to receive a copy of the newsletter regularly, email Pete Kilvert petekilvert@virginmedia.com.

COMMUNITY ARCHIVES AND HERITAGE GROUP



Community Archives Directory

The CAHG Community Archives directory Archives | Community Archives and Heritage Group includes 750 local archives from the UK and Ireland. For the next two months CAHG are offering help to groups which wish to add their archive to the directory, but are unsure of how to do so, or are short of time. Email resources@communityarchives.org.uk for details.

The website contains an interactive map (see image left) which can be searched by different criteria.

It is free to join the mailing list for CAHG – see www.communityarchives.org.uk

WIGAN'S BLUE PLAQUE SCHEME

Honouring people, places and events of national significance

Wigan is not unique in having its own blue plaque scheme, and it is probable that the criteria used are similar in different places. It is also the case that many people, events and places that are commemorated because of their local connections will have had a much wider impact. Some of the Wigan examples follow.

FOLLY FIELD (1872-1886) This site just outside the town centre was where, in 1872, rugby was first played in Wigan. Games were played because cricketers wished to stay competitive in the winter months. This was some years before the rules of rugby league were codified. The last match played there in 1886 drew a crowd of 18,000 spectators. Wigan Warriors grew to be one of the most successful clubs in the history of the game.

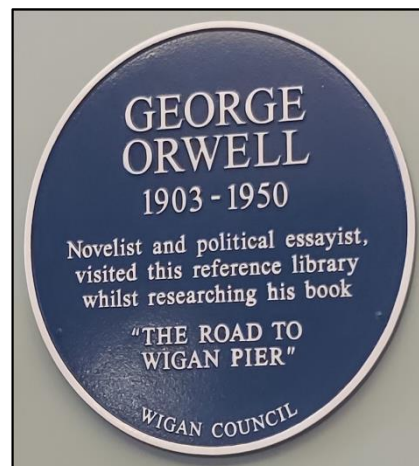
THORLEY SMITH (1873-1940) was the first person in the country to stand on a platform of women's suffrage. On election day in 1906 his carriage was pulled by four horses, with two women outriders, accompanied by six political 'Amazons', among them Emmeline Pankhurst - who 'amazed the natives' as they drove through the town - and by representatives of women's organisations. Smith was unsuccessful, and a local paper opined, 'We cannot believe there are 2,205 women's suffragists among voters in Wigan' [all of them men, of course!].



KATHLEEN MARY DREW-BAKER (1901-1957) became a pioneering scientist, specialising in the study of algae. Her research into nori (the seaweed used in sushi) revolutionised its growth, helping to stabilise the food and farming industry in Japan. A monument to her was erected in Uto in Japan, where she is celebrated on 14 April each year as 'Mother of the Sea'.

(Credit: Simasakon, Wikimedia Commons)

GEORGE ORWELL (1903-1950) wrote *The Road to Wigan Pier* after staying in the town in the 1930s to research the plight of working-class people. The plaque was unveiled by his son Richard Blair in the library where Orwell carried out his research (now the Museum of Wigan Life). The book is very controversial with many Wiganers: although it did indeed show the widespread deprivation in the town, it was clear that Orwell deliberately chose to visit those living in desperate circumstances, ignoring others who were poor but lived with dignity and a sense of pride in their labour and in the town.



MARGERY BOOTH (1906-1952) was a renowned opera singer who moved to Germany with her German husband and became a great favourite of Hitler. She was allowed to perform to British POWs in Genshagen camp, where she helped prisoners to send coded messages to spy chiefs in London. In 1944 she was arrested and tortured by the Gestapo but did not reveal any information. After liberation and the end of the war she gave evidence at the Old Bailey against SS officers, before moving to America.

WIGAN CASINO (1973-1981) evolved over time from a building which had opened in 1916 as the Empress Ballroom. The Casino was famous for its 'all-nighters' which attracted hundreds of thousands of people from all over the country. Much of the music came from people who visited America and returned with records from obscure bands and labels. In 1978 the US magazine *Billboard* voted the Casino 'The best disco in the world'. The sound created, Northern Soul, is still celebrated and re-created in Wigan and many other places.



SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF ANCIENT BUILDINGS



Entries are invited for the 2024 SPAB Heritage Awards

The awards celebrate the energy, expertise and creativity of the heritage sector. Anyone can enter or nominate a favourite building for the

- Best Loved Award
- Sustainable Heritage Award
- John Betjeman award for places of worship

There are also awards for individuals in two categories. The closing date is **31 July**. Details can be found at www.spab.org.uk/get-involved/awards

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

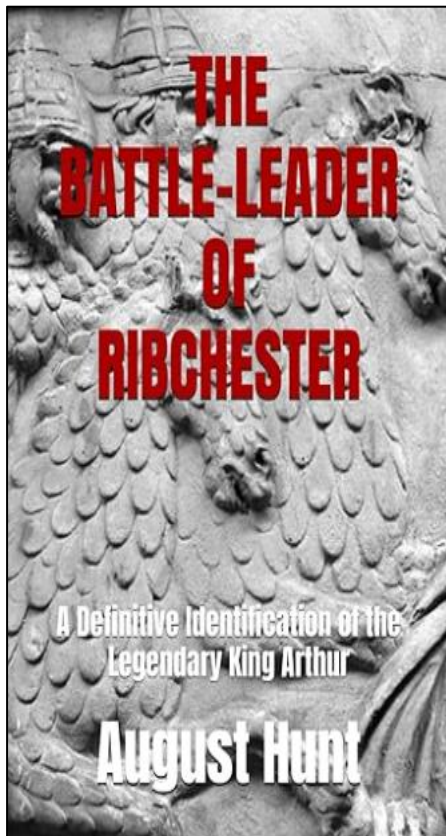
Showcase your unsung heroes

In anticipation of Local History Month this year, the Historical Association is inviting people to identify a person or place that has contributed to the world in which we live today, and that should be better known.

They could be people who were once famous but have been forgotten, or who have been overlooked because of their social status, gender, religion or ethnicity, but who contributed in a meaningful way to their locality or further afield. The same applies to buildings which played host to significant events, or villages or towns which were the birthplace of movements of significance.

Information about any person or thing which reflects the relationship between local history and the bigger picture of history is welcome.

You can email enquiries@history.org with the subject heading HALocalhistory2024 – heroes and heritage. Give a description of the person or place and, if you are including copyrighted material, acknowledge the source.



THE BATTLE-LEADER OF RIBCHESTER:

A DEFINITIVE IDENTIFICATION OF THE LEGENDARY KING ARTHUR

August Hunt

Available from Amazon £19.74 (hbk); £15.79 (pbk);
£8.66 (Kindle)

King Arthur dominates the mythic landscape of Britain. Cutting through centuries of ancient stories and poems, August Hunt presents an argument for both the existence of a historical war-leader named Arthur, and his presence on the borders of England and Scotland. The author uses several disciplines, including topography, archaeology, genealogy, myths, ancient texts and etymology, to come to his deductions about Arthur. He argues that these sources point towards real historical places in northern England and southern Scotland associated with Arthur's birthplace, power bases and final resting place. He writes,

In this book I have revealed a chieftain named Arthur, son of a chieftain of Ribchester, who fought a dozen or so Dark Age battles against the Saxons before being taken to Avalon/Burgh-By-Sands [Cumbria] to be with the Goddess of the Lake in death.

Drawing on this legend of Arthur being brought to Burgh-By-Sands for burial, the author argues that the Roman period cemetery there should be regarded as a site of great archaeological potential.

He also recognises the difficulty of disentangling the centuries-old Arthurian myths from the attempt to establish facts. The amount of in-depth research contained within the book would satisfy anyone who has ever wondered about 'The once and future king'.

The author holds a degree in Celtic and Germanic studies. He lives in Vancouver, Washington State, but would be happy to be interviewed about his theory and his book danielhunt716@gmail.com.

Marianne Howell

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

How old are you? – Not an impertinent question!

Anne Charlesworth, the secretary of Blackpool and Fylde Historical Society, asks:

“Are there any stats anywhere about how old each of the Lancashire societies are? We'll be 90 years old in January and I'd love to know if we're the oldest in the county, apart from the antiquarian ones etc. Is there any way of finding out?”

Congratulations to the society, which must be one of the oldest in the county!

Are any of our member societies older than Blackpool's? It would be interesting to know the answer and, indeed, to keep a tally of the age of societies generally. Do contact the editor with information.

SAVE THE DATE!



SATURDAY 2 NOVEMBER
THE CANALS OF LANCASHIRE

Preston Masonic Hall PR1 2QU

“Mr Leach of Riddlesden brought coals in one of his new boats upon the canal to the metropolis of Skipton in Craven – to the great joy of the poor – and demonstrations of happiness to all sorts of people – ringing bells and bonfires.” This event on 8 April 1773 marked the first time boats carried goods on the canal (which was not completed until 1816). The Federation will mark the 250th anniversary with a full day of talks in conjunction with the Leeds & Liverpool Canal Society. One of the speakers will be Mike Clarke, author of the definitive book *The Leeds & Liverpool Canal – a history and guide*. More details to follow.