



LANCASHIRE LOCAL HISTORY FEDERATION

NEWSLETTER ISSUE NO. 49, NOVEMBER 2024

COPY DATE FOR NEXT EDITION: 27 JANUARY 2025

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

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

**Just a reminder that your 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 website www.englishwine.com includes an annotated list of more than a thousand vineyards in the British Isles. While Surrey has over 30 entries, and Wiltshire has 22, there are but three in Lancashire (at Warton by Carnforth, Bolton le Sands, and Pilling). All are very small and none produces wine commercially. The nearest commercial vineyard to Lancashire is probably that at Holmfirth, improbably situated on the eastern gritstone slopes of the Pennines (who needs Tuscany?) and surely not uncoincidentally the location for the filming of 'Last of the Summer Wine'.

So far in Lancashire, therefore, we cannot pop along to Morrisons to browse the 'locally produced' section in their wine aisles, or even go to the nearest Booths (which would certainly stock a Lancashire sauvignon blanc), while the hen parties in Blackpool are as yet unable to get merry on a few bottles of Fylde prosecco. One day this will come, however, if present trends continue. There are vineyards in North Yorkshire and Montgomeryshire, and even Irish wine is now available ... albeit at a hefty price. Will we see, a few years hence, the south-facing slopes of Rossendale terraced and neatly planted, or the wineries of Rivington producing a quaffable red?

Stranger things have happened, and the portents are there to be seen. At our farmers' market in Ashton on Ribble (Preston) Steve, a smallholder from Kirkham, comes regularly, bringing his surplus crops. He sells delicious dew-fresh peas, the podding of which takes me back to my childhood; potatoes which actually taste of the earth in which they grow; onions with long leaves to knot and hang up; and small, pale and flavoursome Lancashire strawberries. But last year and this he brought a much more exotic addition to the commercial crops of Lancashire: there on his tray were watermelons, about six inches in diameter, which he grew outdoors on the edge of Kirkham. The sweet juicy flesh was not the vivid pink-red of the usual shop-brought fruit: instead it was a pale greenish-yellow. But what an extraordinary innovation this was.

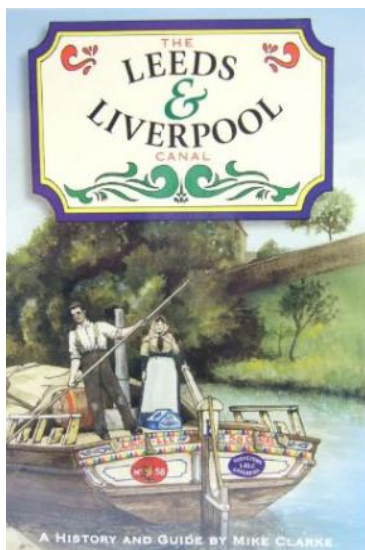
Lancashire has a very long tradition of agricultural and horticultural experimentation. One of my local heroes, Nicholas Blundell of Little Crosby near Liverpool (1669-1737), was a passionate gardener, and records in his copious diaries the many occasions when he tried new strains and varieties, new plants, and new techniques. I'm sure he would have warmly welcomed the chance to raise a crop of watermelons.

Just along the road from Little Crosby, at Formby, we have a fine example of a new commercial crop appearing and flourishing. In the early 19th century the growing of asparagus began, taking advantage of the light sandy soil on the seaward side of the parish. The scale of the trade grew rapidly with the opening of the railway between Crosby and Southport in 1848, giving easy access to Liverpool markets. Locally-grown asparagus still has a special cachet, though it is hard to come by these days, but it is a pleasure to buy and eat it in its short season – yes, we can get asparagus from Malawi or Guatemala at any time of year in the supermarket, but something that has come from only a few miles away, and in its proper season of only six or eight weeks, is special. Will Fylde watermelons become similarly prized? Will we wash them down with a glass of sparkling Chateau Clitheroe '35? The future of agriculture in Lancashire holds intriguing promise!

Dr Alan Crosby

FEDERATION DAY SCHOOL HELD ON 2 NOVEMBER

The canals and waterways of Lancashire



A large group of people gathered at Preston Masonic Hall for a day school marking the 250th anniversary of the opening of the first section of the Leeds and Liverpool canal, from Parbold to Wigan. The event was organised in collaboration with the Leeds & Liverpool Canal Society, so it was fitting that the first speaker was Mike Clarke from the society, and the author of the definitive work about the canal.

In a change to the usual format, there were several, shorter talks which together painted a clear picture of the canal network in the north west. Between them, the speakers covered the planning and building of canals and river navigations; their crucial importance to the development of trade, particularly in cotton; the topography in the landscape; the enormous number of listed buildings along the routes; the lives of the people employed; and, perhaps what is often overlooked, the interaction over a long period of time between roads, turnpikes, canals and railways.

We are very grateful to our membership secretary, Zoë Lawson, for making all the arrangements which ensured that it was a successful and interesting day.

The varied and stimulating topics were:

- *The historical importance of Lancashire's waterways: putting the L&LC 250th anniversary into context* – Mike Clarke
- *Constructing the Lancaster canal* – Bill Froggatt, Lancashire Heritage Officer for the Canal & River Trust
- *Researching the Douglas Navigation* – Bill Aldridge, Wigan Archaeological Society
- *Kennet on the L&LC: 25 years of L&LC canal anniversaries* – Colin Thunhurst, L&LCS
- *Traffics and traders on the L&LC in Lancashire* – Mike Clarke
- *Canals in the Lancashire landscape* – Alan Crosby
- *The Lancaster canal: transport, change & urban growth* – Paul Hindle, Manchester, Bolton & Bury Canal Society

THE SHIFTING SANDS OF LANCASHIRE HISTORY THROUGH THE AGES

The following article gives a report of a recent event from the perspective of someone who is visually impaired. Would your society benefit from considering some of the points Chris raises, in order to make events more inclusive? – Ed.

I'm **Chris Jenkins**, a severely sight impaired history enthusiast, who recently attended the Mourholme history weekend on the 19 and 20 October in Silverdale, Lancashire. This is a multi-sensory take on my experiences.

You may be thinking, how might someone with not much useful sight be able to interact with text and imagery? There are some tech options which I use.

Whilst I am able to use tech, about 70% of people in my situation who are aged over 50 are not able to access artefacts with tech. The tech isn't as good as a human, so every effort to ensure displays are as inclusive as possible is needed and is appreciated.

The tech I use is my smartphone with the app 'Seeing AI': with this I was able to read the various boards at the event. For example, I was able to find out why the local history society is called Mourholme, because my phone read to me the following: "In 1907 the Rev. J.K. Floyer read a paper to the Society of Antiquaries which contained the first clear evidence that the Castle of Mourholme had been sited in Warton".



Most of my good experiences over the two days were when the exhibits were less busy. This meant I could position myself and my phone optimally. It's much harder to achieve when it's crowded, as often my phone can be distracting for everyone when I need to hear alignment instructions and to hear the text, when others may prefer quiet when they are reading.

Over the weekend I found out with my tech, and was able to chat with other attendees, about a male midwife from the 19th century and a female all action hero, called Jessie, in the early 20th century.

Tech is being developed that attempts to describe pictures using artificial intelligence. Currently they are either overly verbose, hallucinate objects that are not present, or miss the point a person would highlight as a priority. I use them with caution and a pinch of salt!

On the Sunday, there was an exhibit from the Cumbrian metal detectorists, which is behind glass. I was given a guided tactile tour of all the artefacts, including explanations about what they were and where in the north of England they were found. Many of the objects are not used in modern times. It was great fun guessing the object and being totally surprised by the actual purpose.



Another highlight of the weekend was a talk on the life of Elizabeth Gaskell by Dr Diane Duffy, from the Elizabeth Gaskell Society. Although her talk did use PowerPoint, she briefly described what was on the screen which was useful, e.g. "this is the house Elizabeth moved to".

Equally interesting were the tales and trepidations of walking across Morecambe Bay, as told by Michael Wilson, the King's official guide over the sands.

Some of the property owners also opened their doors for the weekend. The atmosphere atop Lindeth Tower - and navigating up and down the interior - for me was a great experience. The intimacy and details of the venue were easy to take in, as I felt and stepped my way along, knowing that Elizabeth Gaskell had regularly used this property during holidays, and written novels there, including *Ruth*. It may not be so easy for others with visual impairment.

The history weekend was a new venture for most of the Mourholme Local History Society's committee members, and feedback from me and others was positive. I would definitely recommend attending the next one.

Here are my top tips for inclusive events

- Clear fonts and pictures, using good ink.
- Good spacing between boards and exhibits, for people walking and wheeling.
- Tactile artefacts are always a bonus.
- Check hearing loops are working before talks.
- When using PowerPoint, briefly describe what is on the screen.
- If you have the chance, go and speak to someone with a disability before the meeting: it makes us feel included, but it also helps the speaker adjust to their needs.

LANCASHIRE ARCHIVES & LOCAL HISTORY



PRESTON CARIBBEAN CARNIVAL, 1974-2024

Lancashire Archives are delighted to be partnering with the Preston Caribbean Carnival, historian Stephen Poleon, and Lancashire County Museum Service to present our new exhibition, celebrating 50 years of carnival in Preston.

The exhibition describes the journey that led to the first Caribbean Carnival

in Preston in 1974 and the decades of carnival celebrations held since, featuring items from the Lancashire Archives collections and a range of original costumes kindly lent by the Carnival Committee.

The exhibition is free to visit and will be open from Tuesday 18 November 2024.

LANCASHIRE LOCAL HISTORY PUBLICATION – ARCHIVES

The fifth edition of our Lancashire Local History magazine, *Archives*, will be on sale from 1 December 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 email us and we'd be pleased to discuss your suggestion. You can now read [previous editions of the magazine online](#)



The deadline for submissions of articles for the sixth edition is 1 March 2024. You can find out more about how to submit an article by visiting our website at: [Ordering copies and publications - Lancashire County Council](#)

LANCASHIRE ROMAN CATHOLIC AND METHODIST REGISTERS - AVAILABLE ON ANCESTRY

Lancashire Archives have been working in partnership with Ancestry to make more of our church registers available online. Ancestry have recently launched a collection of Lancashire Roman Catholic records and Non-Conformist registers which contains high quality, colour images of many of registers. There are nearly 3,000,000 Roman Catholic church register entries and 450,000 Methodist church entries covering baptisms, marriages and burials. The collections are fully indexed so you can either search by name across the whole set of records or browse through the images of an individual register.

Ancestry can be accessed free of charge within Lancashire Archives and in any Lancashire library.

NEWS FROM THE ARCHIVES

Our new-look monthly digest of updates and news from Lancashire Archives & Local History is now available as a direct web-link as well as in PDF format, depending on how you like to take your archives news.



If you would like to be added to the mailing list for *News from the Archives*, please contact us at archives@lancashire.gov.uk and mention you would like to receive *News from the Archives*.

IMPROVING STORAGE FACILITIES AT LANCASHIRE ARCHIVES

Visitors may have noticed the scaffolding being assembled around our New Stacks storage tower. We are improving the storage facilities at Lancashire Archives to help safeguard Lancashire's archive collections for the future. This is an opportunity to future-proof our strongrooms and to make sure we can continue to provide the best care for all types of records including digital, photographic and written collections.

The necessary building work will mean some disruption to our service. Some records will be temporarily stored off site, which will have an impact on our ability to deliver on-the-day access to some collections. All affected items will have a note on LANCAT, our online catalogue. This will let you know that advance notice of 10 working days will be needed in order to access these records. This will apply to around 10% of the records in our care, so most will remain accessible on the day.

Please continue to book and visit the Archives as usual and if you have any questions please get in touch.

CLARETS COLLECTED



The [Clarets Collected](#) collection has recently benefited from substantial donations from two ex-Burnley FC directors. Clive Holt had previously donated many of his papers and photos relating to his time at the club, and he has now been followed by fellow ex-director

John Sullivan. John's collection consists of mementoes from his own period of directorship as well as items he collected along the way, such as a wonderful framed photo of Bob Lord and fellow directors from c.1960, with the Football League Trophy proudly on display. There is also a pair of football boots that were worn by Ade Akinbiyi when he scored his memorable hat-trick at Luton Town in November 2005.

Over the recent Heritage Open Week, Keith gave two talks about the first year of the Clarets Collected collection, and its development, and other BFC-related subjects. The talks were very well received by all who were there.

Work continues in preparation for our next major BFC exhibition at Burnley Library, which will be on the theme of post-WWII Burnley goalkeepers and will feature in particular the life and career of Jimmy Strong, Burnley's first post-war goalkeeper, and whose daughter has made available her extensive collection of photos and anecdotes about her father's record-breaking time at Burnley. Which record? Well, you'll have to come and see...!

PS: Don't forget that we are on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/lancsarchives> and X (Twitter)

<https://twitter.com/LancsArchives>

SPEAKERS' CORNER

Your local society needs you! Societies are always looking for speakers to fill their programme each year. If you speak on local history topics which you think will interest people in your area or further afield, please send us your details. Our newsletters reach all the members of the 80 societies which are members of the Federation.

If you would like to do so, please send:

- Name
- Contact details
- Subject(s) covered
- Areas where you are willing to give talks
- 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.

STEPHEN HALLIWELL

Contact details: 01772 768637 or srh.steve@aol.com

Subjects:

- ***Moses Holden 1777-1864: Self-educated genius.*** The Bolton-born, Preston resident, who was a travelling, lecturing, astronomer, and much, much more.
- ***My work as a local history detective:*** How it all began, and what it has led to.
- ***St. Kilda: A social history***

Area covered: Lancashire and South Lakes (in person only)

Stephen adds: I am a lifelong naturalist, whose interest in local history was triggered by visits to St. Kilda, a Hebridean island in the North Atlantic, 400 miles from Lancashire, where a fascination with the social history of the place was transferred to Preston, the place where I was born and raised. I quickly discovered Moses Holden, and my life changed. See my website for more information:

<http://www.stephenhalliwell.com>

We have had a request from one society to ask if anyone knows of a speaker who can talk about pack horse bridges – if you do, please email the editor mariannerh@hotmail.co.uk

NEWS FROM MEMBER SOCIETIES

WE WELCOME ONE OF OUR NEW MEMBER SOCIETIES -

They have given us a profile of the society and their activities

ORMSKIRK AND DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY (ODFHS)

ODFHS is pleased to be a new member of the Federation. Founded in 1980 and based in Ormskirk, our remit covers the sixteen ancient parishes and townships of south west Lancashire, but our members' interests cover a much wider area. The impact of human migration, particularly since the industrial revolution, has resulted in families which once came from West Lancashire being spread around the UK and across the world. Equally, the current population of West Lancashire can trace their roots to many other parts of the UK and the world. About half of our membership lives outside the area of our remit but we all share interests in both family history and the local history of West Lancashire. Further details about the society and how to join can be found on our website [Membership \(odfhs.website\)](http://odfhs.website).

Meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday of each month (except December) at the Guide HQ, Moorgate, Ormskirk, L39 4RU (opposite Hesfords). Talks start at 7.30pm. Non-members are welcome (£2 admission). Our programme of talks and other events can be found on our website and on Facebook www.facebook.com/OrmskirkDistrictFamilyHistorySociety.

Our next speaker meetings will be:

- **Wednesday 22 January 2025: *The use of manuscripts in Mediaeval Lancashire* - Brian Farrimond**
- **Wednesday 26 February: *A slice of gingerbread* - Kathryn MacDonald**

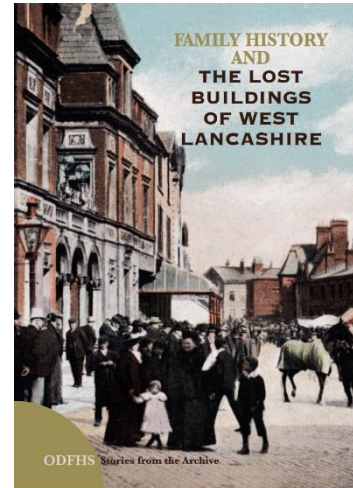
We hold a monthly **ODFHS Family History Help Desk** on the 1st Monday of each month (excluding bank holidays) from 10.30am to 11.30am at Ormskirk Library, Burscough St, Ormskirk, L39 2EN – all welcome.

This year ODFHS is also collaborating with the Ormskirk Community Partnership to present a series of **Ormskirk Heritage Talks** at St Anne's Parish Centre, Prescott Rd, Ormskirk, L39 4TG starting at 1.30pm. Forthcoming talks include:

- **Tuesday 3 December: *A very Ormskirk Christmas history* - Dot Broady-Hawkes**
- **Tuesday 7 January 2025: *The history of Ormskirk inns and beerhouses* - Dot Broady-Hawkes**
- **Tuesday 4 February: *West Lancashire military heroes remembered* - Dot Broady-Hawkes**

Highlights of this year included:

- ODFHS Library Open Day / **Treasures from the Archive** exhibition held in Ormskirk Parish Church on 12 October
- Completion of in-depth research into fascinating local figures **Cecil Edward Maples** and **Arthur William Davenport**.
- Publication of the first of two free booklets jointly funded by Lancashire County Council and ODFHS crowd-funded donations. This first booklet **Family History and the Lost Buildings of West Lancashire** was featured by Lancashire Archives in their entry in the last LLHF newsletter. So far, well over 1000 free copies have been distributed as printed copies or downloads from the ODFHS website [Downloads \(odfhs.website\)](#). The second and final booklet **Family History and the Landmarks of West Lancashire** will be published shortly – see our website or Facebook page for further information.
- Supported by Heritage Action Zone funding, ODFHS collaborated with local artists Angie Thompson and Becky Atherton for events at Ormskirk Library and Ormskirk Parish Church. Called **The Memory Collectors**. These art-based activities and heritage displays were designed to spark memories of life in Ormskirk in the distant - and not so distant - past.



BURNLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

8 January: *Chance and coincidence* – Mike Townend and Linda Dawson

12 February: *Burnley Film Makers*

12 March: *Sex and scandal in the Victorian era* – Lavinia Tod

9 April: *Lancashire Lads in the Scottish Rifles* – Andrew Gill

HISTORIC SOCIETY OF LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE

One place studies – their place in the historical landscape – a talk by Janet Barrie. Janet Barrie, the chair of the Society for One-Place Studies, researches the people and activities associated with the Springhill area of Rossendale. She examines the principles of conducting a one-place study. The talk is available on the website at <https://tinyurl.com/2pw5kk9p>.

LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

Offprints from the society's *Transactions* are available for sale at a cost of £2.00 each. See the website www.landcas.org.uk for details. Some examples below:

- *A missed opportunity?: bicycle manufacturing in Manchester 1880-1900* – Nick Clayton
- *Milling through the ages at Goosnargh mill* – Janet Edmunds
- *The historiography of the Wirral* – Paul E H Hair
- *Stockport and east Cheshire in the cattle plague of 1865-66* – Stephen Matthews
- *Preventive policing in Oldham c. 1826-56* – Michael Winstanley

LANCASHIRE FAMILY HISTORY AND HERALDRY SOCIETY

Visitors are welcome to branch meetings. Information about membership, and further details of branches and their meetings can be found at www.lfhhs.org.

Thursday 14 November: *The Parkers of Bagganley: a Chorley family in the 15th century* – Alan Crosby. (Chorley branch)

Wednesday 4 December: *Growing up in Accrington, 1946...* - Alan Mitton. (Rossendale branch)

Thursday 9 January 2025: *When emigration goes wrong*: the story of the coal miners and their families from Chorley who went to Hanna, Wyoming, only to be caught up in two devastating pit disasters. (Chorley branch)

Thursday 13 February: *John Critchley's story*. John Critchley lived and died in Hamilton Road, Chorley, and his papers were passed to the society after his death. (Chorley branch)

LIVERPOOL & SOUTH WEST LANCASHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY – LEIGH BRANCH www.lswlfhs.org.uk

Tuesday 19 November 7.30pm: *The suffragette sleepover: the life and time of Rose Hyland* – Dr Tom McGrath. Leigh Town Hall, Market Street WN7 1DY.

FRIENDS OF PENDLE HERITAGE

Saturday 9 November 2024, 10.30am, Booths Café, Barrowford BB9 6HH. Archaeology pre-walk meeting with Alex Whitlock, followed by a field walk.

The following meetings take place at Higherford Methodist Church, Barrowford BB8 9NY. Members £3, Non-members £5, Refreshments £1.

Tuesday 12 November 2.30pm: 'Three yards a penny! Song, song, songs!' with Peter & Barbara Snape, is a journey into the world of John Harkness in Victorian



Preston with a selection of songs being 'hawked and peddled' along the way. John Harkness is the man behind a broadside ballad collection that put 'Proud Preston' on the map and who is regarded as a significant figure in the printing and distribution of broadside ballads - printed

sheets of paper with songs for entertainment and news value, affordable and popular with the 'everyday' working person, selling at a penny or halfpenny a sheet and providing a 'window on the world' for those who did not have access to more formal (and more expensive) forms of media. The Harkness Press at Preston was one of the two largest provincial printers of Victorian street ballads.

Tuesday 3 December 2.30pm: 'I'm proud to have known Wilfred Micah Spencer' with Geoff Crambie. Geoff has mentioned Wilfred Spencer in every book he has written.

Tuesday 14 January 2025 2.30pm: Sean Clayton, Managing Director of Peter Reed, delves into the

world of Peter Reed and luxury linens, discussing the brand's rich history, manufacturing in Lancashire, and recent collaborations. Since 1861, Peter Reed has been renowned for crafting high-quality linens in Lancashire, with a Royal warrant highlighting their meticulous craftsmanship. They

offer a range of fabrics with high thread counts, and specialise in custom options monograms and embroidery tailored to individual tastes. The skilled team at Butterworth Mill in Nelson ensures every piece is crafted with precision and artistry. A donation for this talk is being made to Healthier Heroes, Burnley.



PRESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

11 November: *The new Poor Law in Preston* – Dr Lewis Darwen. The talk focuses on the long running dispute in the town in the period 1837 to 1865.

9 December: *Crossing the Ribble: The Preston to Walton Summit 'Old Tram Road'* – Nigel Hardacre

10 February 2025: *Religion in Tudor Lancashire 1520-1620* – Dr Alan Crosby

Talks are held at Central Methodist Church, Lune Street, Preston PR1 2NL on the 2nd Monday of the month (September to May). Doors open at 6.00pm for a 7.15 start. Visitors £5 per talk.

REGIONAL HERITAGE CENTRE

Saturday 8 February 2025: Study day with Dr Alan Crosby

Alan will be examining the history of social, political and religious movements and popular dissent and protest in the north west.

Saturday 1 March: 52nd Annual archaeology forum

Topics will include

- The last phase of excavation at Birdoswald, a Roman fort on Hadrian's Wall
- The re-excavation at the site known as King Arthur's Round Table
- The contributions of women to archaeology in the north west

Further details and booking information at [Regional Heritage Centre - Lancaster University](#)

MOURHOLME LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Wednesday 27 November 7.30pm: *Tales of the unexpected* – a talk by Ambleside Oral History Group. An oral compilation of fascinating stories from the archive which were revealed when the group interviewed people from the region.

Wednesday 18 December 7.30 pm: *Most Truly Yours, Aunt Anne Geddis Gilchrist OBE* - A presentation by Peter and Barbara Snape. Aunt Anne was a Lancastrian collector of folk songs and music. Peter and Barbara will focus on the songs she collected, celebrating a remarkable woman who was a pivotal figure within the folk song collecting community of the early 20th century.



Meetings are held at Yealand Village Hall LA5 9TA. Visitors are welcome - £2 per single meeting – but annual membership is available for individuals or couples. For more details www.mourholme.co.uk

FRIENDS OF WINCKLEY SQUARE

Three Edwardian Christmases in Winckley Square: Annual Christmas event, including a talk by Susan Douglass

Join us to enjoy a cosy Christmassy afternoon. The event includes an Edwardian Christmas slide show, mince pies and mulled wine (0%) or hot chocolate to the sound of Christmas carols.

Venue: Central Methodist Church, Lune Street, Preston PR1 2NL

Monday 2nd December 2.00-4.00pm <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/DZDB>

Thursday 12 December 2.00-4.00pm <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/DZDC>

Problem booking? Contact patricia@winckley.org.uk

NEWS ROUNDUP

CLAYTON-LE-MOORS HERITAGE PROJECT: EXCITING NEW EXHIBITION AT CLAYTON COMMUNITY CENTRE.

Thanks to Heritage Lottery funding, Clayton Community Centre is to have its very own permanent exhibition in the main hall for all to enjoy. With a grand opening at the end of November, it is hoped that the 'school friendly' information boards and pictures will engage and inform all who encounter them. This is the culmination of twice monthly meetings over an 18 month period. A brand new community group now exists - The Clayton-le-Moors Heritage Team. Friendships have been forged, while memories and 'missing pieces' have been unearthed. Much laughter, a lot of poring over masses of photographs and a real sense of camaraderie has joined us all together on this very special journey. Such fun has been had that the group intends to carry on post exhibition and new funding is to be applied for to take it to the next level....

Ian Hodgson, Clayton-le-Moors Heritage Team lead

MUSIC FOR CHRISTMAS

Saturday 14 December 7.00pm: *Music for Christmas: an exploration over 800 years* - A talk by Dr Alan Crosby



St Michael and All Angels, 2 Egerton Road, Ashton-on-Ribble PR2 1AJ. Part of the Christmas Tree Festival. Admission £5 on the door, including a glass of mulled wine or mulled fruit juice. Further information about the Festival will be available as plans develop: visit the church website

<https://www.stmichaelswithstmarkpreston.co.uk/>.

Image: David Dixon

Music has been at the centre of Advent and Christmas celebrations for many centuries. A multitude of composers and performers, many of them for ever anonymous, have created a wonderful musical diversity. This ranges from cheerful and joyous carols that draw upon the folk tradition, via the solemn and moving anticipation and wonder expressed in songs of Advent and Nativity, to the grandeur and complexity of masses of the Renaissance. There are thriving local versions such as the village carols of South Yorkshire and Derbyshire; there are the rousing verses of the Victorian Christian revival; and there are the old English musical traditions which crossed the Atlantic to America and are now preserved in the folk songs of New England. All of these are included in this fascinating talk by Alan Crosby, explaining how our Christmas music developed over the centuries, and illustrated by recordings of the music itself.



BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR LOCAL HISTORY



Call For 'Zooniverse' Participants - The Material Culture of Wills: England 1540-1790. The project is looking for participants to help transcribe a sample of 25,000 English wills that were made between 1540 and 1790.

This Leverhulme-funded research project is based at The University of Exeter and The National Archives. They are looking for participants to help transcribe a sample of 25,000 English wills that were made between 1540 and 1790.

Using the online 'Zooniverse' platform, volunteers will contribute to the research project which aims to reveal how ownership of, and attitudes towards, objects changed in a period of profound economic transformation. The project will make a vital archive of English history more accessible, and lay foundations for future initiatives to widen access to [The National Archives](#)' manuscripts.

The project has automatically transcribed the contents of wills from five periods across the sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, 1538-52, 1604-08, 1664-6, 1725-6 and 1785-6, totalling 25,000 wills in total. Volunteers will check these transcriptions and suggest corrections where needed. Training is provided on the Zooniverse site for people who need to improve their reading of early modern handwriting. 'Bite-size' transcription checking tasks are designed to fit around other commitments.

To find out more, have a look at the Zooniverse site <https://tinyurl.com/38r8wfn7>.

COMMUNITY ARCHIVES AND HERITAGE GROUP



The Community Archives and Heritage Group (CAHG) is a national group which aims to support and promote community archives in the UK & Ireland. They bring together bodies and organisations concerned with community archives, and provide a forum for the regular exchange of views and information.

It is free to join at [Become a member | Get involved | Community Archives and Heritage Group](#).

The website profiles their 'Community heritage group of the month' on the website. **If you join on behalf of your group, could you be highlighted one month?**

The process is straightforward. Once your group is a member, you can fill in the form to be considered as the group of the month [Take Part in Community Archives and Heritage Group of the Month | Awards | Community Archives and Heritage Group](#).

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION – MANCHESTER, LIVERPOOL & CHESTER BRANCH

Meetings take place at Friends' Meeting House, 6 Mount Street, Manchester, M2 5NS. For further information, please contact Sahand Razavi on 0161 233 0818 or alternatively through email at srazavi@live.co.uk.

Saturday 16 November 12.00pm: *Recording Manchester's textile mills – Dr Michael Nevell, Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust.* The talk gives an insight into the legacy arising from the city's 150 textile mills, from the 1780s to 1912. Individual mill complexes highlighted include Arkwright's 1780s mill, the Murray's mill complex from the 1800s, the Brownsfield mill of the 1820s, and a series of archaeological excavations of early textile mill engine houses.

Saturday 7 December 12.00pm: *Muslim merchants in nineteenth century Manchester – the Moroccan and Syrian community – Haseeb Khan, Manchester Metropolitan University.* During the 19th century Arab merchants including Muslims, Christians and Jews from Morocco and Syria settled in Manchester to work in the cotton trade. This talk discusses the religious identities amongst the merchants.

FRIENDS OF SALFORD CEMETERIES TRUST

The Autumn newsletter contains a mixture of information about the cemeteries, seasonal events, and life stories behind some of the gravestones.

Sunday 15 December 11.00am at Agecroft cemetery, Langley Road, Pendlebury M27 8SS: Wreath laying ceremony in remembrance of the Blitz.

Sunday 15 December 12.00noon at Peel Green cemetery, 716 Liverpool Road, Eccles M30 7LW: Wreath laying ceremony in remembrance of the Blitz.

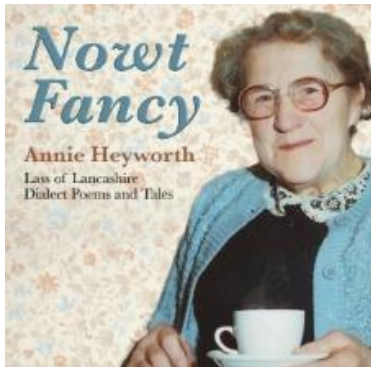
Several members of the Friends have carried out research into some of the people buried or commemorated in the local cemeteries. Research of this kind can be of help to family historians. Some examples (with much more detail contained in the Friends newsletter):

- **Randall K Williams** (1848-1898) - known as the "King of Showmen." He helped establish the forerunner of the Showman's Guild, and developed a moving picture show before the advent of cinemas. (Weaste)
- **Charles Snape** (1851–1927) was born in Moscow to English parents. As an engineer he contributed to the growth of the cotton industry in Russia in the 19th century, along with many other Lancashire families. (Peel Green)
- **Professor George William Daniels**, who died in 1937, was Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Manchester University and Professor of Political Economy. His research concentrated on the Lancashire cotton industry. (Swinton)

Membership of the Friends of Salford Cemeteries Trust is FREE. Email Paulcsherlock40@gmail.com Also see Facebook site, and the website: www.Weaste.HeritageTrail.co.uk.

To receive the newsletter, email PeteKilvert@virginmedia.com.

PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST



Nowt fancy: Lass of Lancashire: Dialect poems and tales

Annie Heyworth

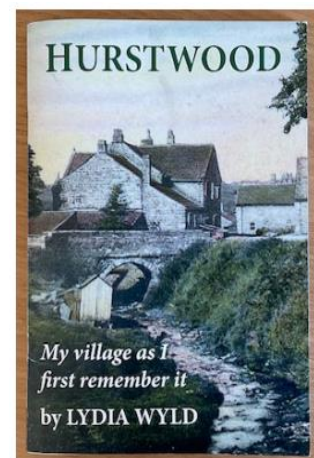
The once familiar dialect of Lancashire has now all but died away in most of our villages and former small mill towns. However, one late resident of the Township of Whitworth in Rossendale, Annie Heyworth, was regularly performing anecdotes and recitations at various church concerts through into the 1970s. Fortunately, a number of Annie's recitations were captured on tape and, thanks to the wonders of technology, are now available to be enjoyed in digital format. A CD entitled "*Nowt Fancy*" consisting of 15 tracks is available for just £5 from Whitworth Historical Society & Museum. Orders can be placed by email at sales@whitworthhistoricalsociety.org.uk or, for those living nearby, copies of the CD can be collected from the Society's museum at North Street, Whitworth, Lancs. OI12 8RE. The museum, housing the Society's impressive collection of objects, photographs and documents, is open each Saturday from 11.00am – 4.00pm.

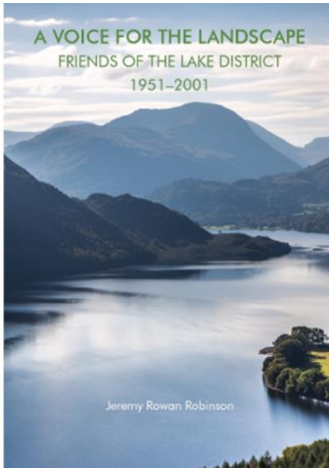
Hurstwood: my village as I remember it **Lydia Wild**

ISBN 9781911138402

Available from Burnley & District Historical Society
www.burnleyhistoricalsociety.org

Lydia Wyld was a lifelong Hurstwood resident before her death over 60 years ago. The book is a reprint of her winning entry in the *Farmers Weekly*, and includes a historical commentary by Ramon Collinge. There are numerous illustrations and a map of the village.





***A voice for the landscape:
Friends of the Lake District 1951-2001***
Jeremy Rowan Robinson

This meticulously researched book, using a wealth of primary resources, traces the Friends' involvement with some of the largest development programmes in the landscape of the Lake District. Foreword by Dr Alan Crosby.

£15.00. Available from the Regional Heritage Centre

<https://tinyurl.com/2tyackrz>

RESEARCH ARTICLE

COUNTING CHIMNEY POTS CAN REVEAL A SURPRISING AMOUNT ABOUT LIVING CONDITIONS OF THE PAST



As is well known, many cottages erected in Lancashire during the Industrial Revolution are often referred to as two-ups, two-downs. In other words, they had two downstairs rooms and two bedrooms. As in the examples (left), which are situated along Liverpool Road, Hutton, near Preston, alterations may have been made to them over time, including additions at front and rear. An increase in internal space was achieved, and external appearances became differentiated. Yet the houses can still be regarded as examples of vernacular buildings, as they were constructed from locally-available materials in a characteristic local style, with little attempt made to incorporate architectural details.ⁱ

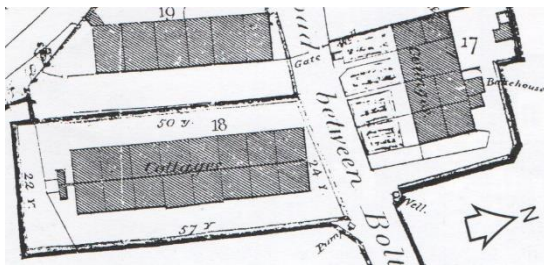
As a rule, too, these cottages had chimney stacks that originally contained two pots, indicating that two of the four rooms contained fireplaces. But in which rooms were the fireplaces situated? Six possibilities arise, namely the lower; the upper; the front; the rear; the front lower and rear upper; and the front upper and rear lower. You might like to make a reasoned choice and continue to read!

In contrast to the Liverpool Road cottages are those in Eleanor Street, Bank Top, (right), formerly a factory village situated a few miles to the north of Bolton. Probably built during the early decades of the 19th century, the row was clearly intended to be visually impressive. It displays a classical-style, symmetrical frontage, with a pediment surmounting the two centrally-placed houses, which stand slightly proud of the rest. A keystone-arched window in the pediment, shared between two houses, offers additional visual interest. Similar frontages were very fashionable for domestic, industrial and public buildings in Britain and elsewhere during the late Georgian era, including the spinning mills and other buildings at David Dale's New



Lanark factory village in Scotland. Those responsible for building the row had looked beyond the locality in deciding about the appearance it would have.

Eleanor Street might be seen to comprise 8 two-up, two-down dwellings. If so, in addition to the attic space in the central houses, a total of 32 rooms would have been available. However, there are seven chimney stacks in the row, which could accommodate 42 chimney pots. The three stacks on the right-hand side of the photograph each had space for four pots and the others for six, with that in the centre having a double row.ⁱⁱ Plainly, ten more heated rooms were provided. The only place for them was in cellars located beneath the houses that have six-pot chimney stacks. Either there were ten single-roomed cellar dwellings or five with double rooms.



With the aid of documentary evidence, further details about the row emerges. Firstly, as the 1833 map extract (left) reveals, the houses were in fact built in back-to-back form.ⁱⁱⁱ They provided 16, two-roomed homes above ground-floor level, therefore. As was commonly the case, the cellars beneath are

likely to have comprised single-roomed dwellings that would have been accessed via external stairways. A block of shared privies, perhaps six in total and serviced by an open cesspit, was provided. Secondly, the row can be identified in the 1871 national census.^{iv} The enumerator for Bank Top recorded it, along with a neighbouring row of six cottages, as 'Middle Row'. He began with the latter, that now accommodates Bank Top United Reform Church. He then enumerated 15 more households in Middle Row, one of which was seemingly unoccupied or omitted from his survey. But he also included amongst them the details of four occupied cellars. What had happened to the others is unclear. In one of them lived a married couple, he aged 65, employed as a cotton mixer, and she aged 72, described as a housewife. In two others were married couples with two young children, the older of whom was 10, whilst the remaining one was home to a married female with a son aged 16, who worked as a piecer, and another son aged 7, who was a scholar. Perhaps by this time some of the cellars had been joined to create two-roomed dwellings.

Back-to-back cottages, which had only one external doorway, were frequently subjected to contemporary condemnation, especially because they were seen to lack through ventilation, with both a front and a back door being required for that purpose. Also, they often formed components of high-density urban houses without yards or with shared yards and open, cesspit privies. And overcrowding within them, judged by the commonly-applied standard of having no more than two persons per room, was common. However, at Eleanor Street in 1871, the average number of occupants was fewer than 3.5 people per house in the back-to-backs, with only one house having six occupants and another five. The rest had four or fewer. Using the same standard, however, all but one of the cellar dwellings would have been regarded as overcrowded, unless conversion into two-roomed dwellings had occurred.

It remains to address the question posed above about fireplace provision in two-up, two-down houses. The photograph (right) shows houses with two-pot chimney stacks being demolished along Haslingden Road in Blackburn. As can be seen, the two front rooms had fireplaces, rather than, as might be supposed, the two downstairs rooms. At the time they were built, front downstairs rooms usually served as a living room kitchen, with that at the rear being a scullery, in which the stairs were located.



So, what conclusions can be drawn about the evidence presented in this article? As the examples cited demonstrate, it is all too easy to draw misleading conclusions using physical evidence alone, though carefully observing it can prove to be very instructive, perhaps reinforcing findings arising from documentary investigation, as well as extending and modifying them to promote a fuller understanding. As far as back-to-back and cellar dwellings are concerned, the Eleanor Street examples demonstrate that both types were provided in rural as well as urban areas. They suggest that those who occupied them experienced healthier living environments than their urban counterparts and demonstrate that occupancy levels within back-to-back housing should not be overstated. Also, as the Bank Top map reveals, rural back-to-backs could bring other advantages for their occupants, with those across from Eleanor Row having sizeable garden areas.

Dr Geoff Timmins

References

ⁱ R. W. Brunskill, *Illustrated Handbook of Vernacular Architecture*, London: Faber and Faber (1971), 20-9.

ⁱⁱ Further details of the Bank Top cottages are given in G. Timmins, 'Housing Quality in Rural Textile Colonies, c.1800-c 1850: The Ashworth Settlements Revisited', *Industrial Archaeology Review*, XXII: 1 (2000), 29-30.

ⁱⁱⁱ Bolton History Centre, *Plan of Land in Sharples, Bolton and Turton, 1833*.

^{iv} Sharples Census 1871, RG10/3931, enumeration district 3, 72-4.