

LEYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

(Founded 1968)

Registered Charity No. 1024919

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AIMS

To promote an interest in history generally and that of the Leyland area in particular

MEETINGS

Held on the first Monday of each month (September to July inclusive)

at 7.30 pm

in

**The Shield Room, Banqueting Suite, Civic Centre,
West Paddock, Leyland**

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Vice Presidents: £15.00 per annum

Members: £15.00 per annum

School Members: £ 1.00 per annum

Casual Visitors: £5.00 per meeting

A MEMBER OF THE LANCASHIRE LOCAL HISTORY FEDERATION

THE HISTORIC SOCIETY OF LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE

and

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR LOCAL HISTORY

Editorial

Welcome to the sixty-first edition of the *Lailand Chronicle*.

The time of final preparation for the printing of this year's *Chronicle* sees the celebration of six hundred years from 25th October 1415, St Crispin's Day, when the battle of Agincourt was fought on a muddy field in northern France. Church services are being held and trips are being made to the field of battle; and so it is with a 'once more into the breach, dear friends', that I put together the pages of the 2015/16 *Chronicle*.

Articles received for this season's *Chronicle*, although few in number, provide a good read and I thank contributors for them.

Our next issue of the *Chronicle* takes us into the 49th year of the Leyland Historical Society and, as a contribution, maybe members could pen a few paragraphs on how they came to live in the district. Were you born here or where did you come from? Was it through work, perhaps the offer of a job in one of the industries? Did moving here change your life? How much have you seen your area of Leyland change? Your contributions, however small, just a few jottings will do (with photographs so much the better), could then be included in a page or two in the issue.

This year the demolition the Royal British Legion club took out a building that had been open to members for more than sixty years. House building is now in progress on the plot to provide homes for people with a connection to Leyland.

How sad I am to have to record the news of the entering into administration of the great Leyland company, John Fishwick & Sons. The last Fishwick bus returned to the garage on Golden Hill Lane at midnight on Saturday, 24th October 2015, and was applauded in by a good crowd of Leylanders and fans of the green bus.

Congratulations go to Committee member, Edward Almond who was awarded the Historian of the Year shield by Mr. David Hunt for his well researched article on the Golden Jubilee of Leyland St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church .

Once again, our Chairman has prepared a varied programme for the new season with excellent speakers for our entertainment. We thank Peter for all the hard work and the time he devotes to the Leyland Historical Society.

Mary Longton, Editor

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Society Affairs
2015 - 2016

To begin the forty-seventh season, the eighth in the Civic Centre, we returned to the subject of Leyland from another angle, this time with a talk on the Mapping of Leyland with some maps that had not been seen before. I included those from the Leyland Hundred of Speeds map, through the varying tithe maps, town plans, transport maps, the first Ordnance Survey Map of 1844 and all the subsequent editions which can now be free on the internet courtesy of the National Library of Scotland. I brought the story up to date with the Land Registry to Google Maps, Earth and Streetview.

This year's Mikron Theatre production in October told the story of the Troupers. It is 1914, British entertainment is down on its uppers, actor-manager Lena Ashwell (OBE) has a theatre but no audience, so she assembles a motley bunch of 'turns' and books a tour with a difference. Her Troupers didn't tread the boards of Old Blighty but the muddy, bloody fields of France. Twice nightly: 'we're here all week, if we're here at all!' In a little told story of the Great War, Troupers brings to life the amazingly audacious Concerts at the Front – a hitherto unsung war effort that's full of guts, gusto and greasepaint. Who was better to present this story than modern-day troubadours, Mikron? The acting and production were of the usual great acting tradition which, together with the subject matter, made this one of the company's best historical productions to date.

In November we welcomed our Historical Society member, Thomas Woodcock, who described his work at the College of Arms. He is the Garter King of Arms which is the senior of the three English Kings of Arms. The office takes its name from the Order of the Garter. King Henry V instituted the office

of Garter in 1415 just before sailing for France.

The College of Arms is the official heraldic authority for England, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Commonwealth. As well as being responsible for the granting of new coats of arms, the College maintains registers of arms, pedigrees, genealogies, Royal Licences, changes of name, and flags. After describing the various devices to be found on a coat of arms he then went over the discussions that take place with a future peer, Knight of the Garter, before the shield device can be designed and agreed, two of course cannot be the same.

With a few very interesting tales, such as the Scottish question, regarding any future change after the possible devolution, to the Union Jack, for which he was requested not to speak to the press before September. The truth being that it would not change as the Union Jack was established before the Act of Union of 1705.

My particular favourite concerned the Royal Coat of Arms, pictured. As can be seen, the Scottish Unicorn is held in chains, which a Scottish politician was not happy



with as it appears that Scotland is under the control of the English and therefore requested that the chain be removed.

Until it was pointed out to him, that this symbolised that the Scottish people were so strong they could tame wild Unicorns and the

removal of the chain would mean they were now weaker, the politician then changed his mind.

As I have had many conversations with Thomas before, when it came to ‘any questions’, I managed to get him to tell Society members about the other interesting parts of his job which include introducing new members of the Lords into the House after interviewing them first. He had actually delayed interviewing a new peer to enable him to speak to our members.



Though the most interesting part of his job is in respect of arranging and attending State occasions, from the yearly State Opening of Parliament and the Knight of the Garter services to Royal weddings, Royal funerals and any other events, as he told the members about his busy year of 2012 and the day of the Royal Regatta down the River Thames in the rain. The amount of detail that goes into the planning of these events led to the discovery that the arrangement for the Princess of Wales’s funeral was actually that arranged for the Queen Mother which had been already fully planned.

Both Thomas and his job have their own separate pages on the Wikipedia website and it had therefore been surprising, in the previous week to his visit, that his name had appeared, actually incorrectly, on the game show, *Pointless*.

In her second visit as a speaker, Lizzie Jones, told us of the stories of ‘The Halls of West Lancashire’ were many warring relatives could result in problems regarding inheritance and the subsequent downfall of landed families.

For the first talk of the New Year, we welcomed back Chris Wild from Oxford Archaeology who gave a talk about the recent excavations at Quarry Bank Mill, once the technical problems were sorted out, and he provided an introduction to the following month’s talk by Mr Sid Calderbank. In a different sort of archaeology, Chris described, with a series of photographs and plans, how they managed to discover the various stages of development at the mill from surveying the standing buildings. From its early days as a water powered site in 1784 through to the many boiler houses as the steam engines grew more powerful from 1810 onwards.

The Greg family who owed this site and kept updating the Mill over the years ensured that the National Trust who now look after the buildings have a huge heritage to display to the visitors.



February saw Sid Calderbank and Mark Dowling talk and sing about the many songs and poems that became famous concerning the First World War They were broken down into three sections, songs and

poems from before the War that became famous during the War, ones written during the War and ones written since the War looking back.

Whilst these were sad and melancholy, Sid did try to lighten the load with many refrains of *When one staff officer jumped over another staff officer's back* and *They were only playing leapfrog* which brought back memories of watching *Oh What A Lovely War*. More recent songs included one by Mike Harding called *Christmas 1914* and another called *And the band played Waltzing Matilda* which was covered by the Pogues.

Following the recommendation of Robert Poole, we had an intriguing talk in March by Nick Mansfield entitled, *Work, Class, Politics and Nineteenth Century Soldiers*. This concerned the way that the army, soldiers and officers were portrayed in the press during the nineteenth century, sometimes in a positive way other times not, depending on the political situation at the time.

In April, we finally had a railway story which was new to me, the Liverpool Overhead Railway or the 'Dockers Umbrella' as it was known, Mike Murphy told us the story of the early commuter line which was demolished before being modernised. The line taking the population from Sandhills in the northern suburbs of the city through the centre to its southern terminus at the underground station in Dingle. In its long history, there was only one accident, so good in this period prior to Health & Safety.

This year's trip on the 4th May was over the border to the country of North Wales. A full fifty-one seater coach took the members to the walled town of Conwy where we were greeted by Karen Black and other members of the Aberconwy Historical Society who split us into three groups and took us around the small town with its overpowering castle, built by Edward I, and the town that supplied it from the coast road that ran through it and the small dock that is still busy today. There were many historic buildings to see not least being

the smallest house in Britain.

Leaving Conwy along a short but very busy road we arrived in Llandudno where we found the town was packed with people attending the Victorian Extravaganza. All the town centre roads were closed and fairground rides and attractions took up the road space.

We made our way through the crowds stopping here and there to watch the parade as numerous old vehicles, steam traction engines and other steam-driven vehicles made their way towards the exhibition arena. There was no time to linger as members had a date with the Great Orme Tramway, the 2 pm journey having been booked for us.



Arriving at Victoria Station, we queued and boarded the tram for the journey to the top. As the cars were open to the elements, it was lucky that it was a lovely day with only a slight breeze. After the steep gradient of the first tram, the group then changed trams at the Halfway Station to make the final ascent to the summit.

We then all had a look at the view from the top which on a good day can include, the Isle of Man, Liverpool and the top of Snowdon. Following a visit to the Café which has huge cream cakes, we journeyed back down, reading the displays about the history of the line as we went. The rest of the day was for enjoying the Llandudno event before returning on the coach to Leyland.

In June our old friend Colin Dickinson spoke about that most Victorian of civic buildings, the Market Hall, starting with the



medieval ones that can still be seen in the Cotswolds, then those market halls with either the town hall or guild hall above. Colin then talked about the various charters that led to the creation of the market hall and then with the coming of railway station architecture, the capacity to make much larger open structures like Preston or indoor structures like Bolton, Blackburn or Wigan.

After the AGM in July, we had the return of Stanley Walmsley who described the use of bells in many and various ways, a subject guaranteed to make for an interesting evening.

The website continued to grow since its inception in December 1999 to a point that up to 23rd May 2015 the number of visitors to the site was over 69,000. Then the site simply disappeared and there was no way it could ever be revived in its current form.

It is presently being rebuilt with the main pages, the Festival Route through Leyland's History and a new History of Leyland

Festival being the first updates. The first month's figures are very impressive with over 4000 hits since 1st June. We can now monitor where the hits are coming from, the majority being Google (.com and .UK), and Facebook, though Bing, Leyland Society, Leyland town and Wikipedia have also featured.

Enquires have continued to flood in with over thirty requiring the committee's attention in the last twelve months especially from the Facebook group 'Leyland Memories'.

I would just like to thank all the committee members for their assistance in the last twenty two years and I hope they will continue to carry on in the future, especially Michael who looks after secretarial matters and planning applications, Edward our organised treasurer and Mary who continues to edit the *Chronicle*.

Peter Houghton, Chairman

Monday, October 26, 2015 www.lfp.co.uk



DEPOT: John Fishwick & Sons bus depot at Tuer Street Golden Hill Lane in Leyland



John Fishwick & Sons

1907 - 2015

Many books have been written and many photographs taken of the double and single deck buses in the green livery which have travelled the bus routes between Leyland, Preston and Chorley. Articles will appear in our local press (next page) which will be treasured and kept for future generations to see. One book on my own bookshelf which gives a very comprehensive chronicle of the company is *John Fishwick & Sons A Century of Transport 1907-2007*. This is by David Prescott and it was published in 2007. Others will have their own memorabilia but here are just a few photographs taken for the *Chronicle* on that last rainy Saturday morning, 24th October 2015, on the route between Leyland and Preston.

Editor





END OF ROAD FOR BUSES

GREEN MACHINE: A Fishwick's bus in its historic green livery

By **MICHAEL HOLMES**
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THE iconic Lancashire bus company, Fishwick's, announced it is to cease trading in a shock move.

FULL STORY: PAGE 5

Historic firm stops trading

Headline from the Lancashire Evening Post - 26 October, 2015. Thankyou to ©Michael Homes at the LEP for the headline and write-up (p.10)

It's end of the road for historic bus company

Mystery as Fishwick's ceases trading after 108 years

By **MICHAEL HOLMES**
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THE century-old sight of iconic green buses run by a historic Lancashire firm has come to an end.

John Fishwick and Son stopped operating on Saturday night following days of speculation, with national transport provider Stagecoach stepping in to take over at least one of its routes.

Fishwick's, whose buses are synonymous with the Preston, Leyland, and South Ribble areas, offered luxury coach holidays to many UK and international destinations, public transport services, and private bus and coach hire.

It had been operating since 1907 and its closure has been branded the 'end of an era' and met with sadness by city leaders, Post readers, and heritage enthusiasts.

Callers trying to ring the company over the weekend were told in a recorded message: "As of midnight on Saturday, October 24, 2015, John Fishwick and Son will be ceasing to operate.

"To those who have paid money for holidays, we will be contacting you shortly.

"To the people of Leyland and surrounding areas, we would like to say thank you for your custom over the last 108 years."

One customer in the Manchester area said he feared there were problems when he had still not had confirmation about a holiday to Norfolk, which he had booked with the firm and was due to begin on Sunday.

Fishwick's wrote to the man, who said: "The holiday



HISTORIC: Preston Starhouse Square home to Scout Motors and Fishwick

has been cancelled. They said I'm going to get another letter next week explaining things. It says you will get your money back in the letter."

Stagecoach began providing the 111 service from Preston to Leyland yesterday and said it would sit down and talk to county hall chiefs about other routes too.

A spokesman said: "Taking over the 111 service follows special dispensation given by the Traffic Commissioner to Stagecoach to allow this to happen at very short notice.

"We will not be in a position to operate any other former Fishwick's routes today, but will be in discussions with Lancashire County Council over the possibility of covering other sections of route."

The 111 route will be the same between Preston Bus Station and Moss Side, and will then operate a loop of Dunkirk Lane, Schleswig Way, Longmeanygate, Leyland Lane, and Dunkirk Lane.

It will follow the normal route back to Preston and will no longer serve Fishwick's

Golden Hill Lane terminal between the Leyland Lane traffic lights and Tuer Street, Stagecoach said.

The future of the 119 service to Runshaw College is among those now in doubt, although this week is half-term and college bosses have moved to reassure students.

A spokesperson for the college said: "We will make sure all the routes Fishwick's run for us – there are seven at the moment – are covered if needed.

"The students will get to and from college."

The spokesperson said students would be kept informed, adding: "We will tweet, Facebook and text them if we need to."

Chorley MP Lindsay Hoyle said: "I was extremely concerned to hear rumours over the future of Fishwick's.

"The company provided a number of services in the Chorley area, including school bus services.

"My aim is to ensure local services are protected and we need to make sure that alter-

native arrangements are put in place through other providers."

A spokesman from the British Commercial Vehicle Museum, in King Street, Leyland, said: "Fishwick's is part of Leyland. It will be sad to see the green buses disappear.

"I was talking to people and lots of them took pictures on Saturday because they won't see them any more."

The museum has an Olympia single-decker bus, now privately owned but still painted in the iconic Fishwick's livery, which dates back to the late 60s.

"We often explain that it's part of Leyland's heritage and part of our community, the spokesman said. "It's a family as well as a company and it's part of our heritage."

Fishwick's was up for sale and faced three scenarios heading into the weekend, The Post understands.

They included a buyer being found and the firm continuing to provide its regular services, a buyer being found but services changed, and if no buyer was found, the company closing.

Fishwick's said very little about the situation prior to Stagecoach's own announcement on Friday, and it is still not clear how many jobs have been lost.

Jim Hustler, a manager at the firm, told the Post on Friday: "At this moment in time we're operating our stage carriage services as normal." He was unable to comment over the weekend.

A Lancashire County Council spokesman said it would help find alternative solutions for commuters if needed.

Allen Hill

Edward Almond

The rivalry between Lancashire and Yorkshire has long been known perhaps beginning with the Wars of the Roses; the House of Lancaster against the House of York vying for the right to the throne of England. Nowadays, any Battles of the Roses is confined to the cricket field but the banter between a Lancastrian and a Yorkshireman still continues though not to the same degree as in former days.

Buried in St Andrew's parish church graveyard is a Yorkshireman who transcends the old rivalry between Lancashire and Yorkshire. That man was Allen Hill. Born in Newton, Kirk Heaton, Huddersfield on November 11th 1843 to Francis and Elizabeth Hill (nee Thornton), who were married in 1825. Francis was a handloom weaver and in 1851 the family, eight in total, was living at Shaw Cross. Ten years later, only Francis, Elizabeth and Allen, aged 17, were together as a family and living in Chessborough Fold. Allen was described as a Fancy Weaver.



He showed early promise on the cricket field and began playing for his home town and later for Lascelles Hall, noted as a nursery for Yorkshire cricketers.

In 'Talks with Old Yorkshire Cricketers' by Old Ebor, Hill is quoted: 'We were all weavers and spent half our time in playing cricket. The time we spent in practising in the daytime we made up for by sticking to the loom at night.' Lascelles Hall was not immune to the cotton crisis caused by the Civil War in America and John Jessop, the secretary of the club stated: '...we felt its effects at Lascelles Hall for practically all the looms were stopped because there was nothing to do.'

The players seemingly would have had more time to practise but the secret of their success was attributed to their work as handloom weavers in that '...hand and eye were being constantly trained, and feet kept in active motion. Between shuttle and pick and treadle, a weaver had his power of sight, smartness and endurance very considerably sharpened and thus the groundwork was laid for that remarkable quick timing of the ball and general activity in the field for which most of the Lascelles Hall cricketers became famous'.

Hill was prominently a fast right-hand bowler who bowled with a purely round arm action with his hand about shoulder height. He became a professional cricketer at an early age when engaged by Dewsbury, playing on Saturday afternoons for half-a-crown which was later upped to five shillings a match.

Upon joining Mirfield Old Club in West Yorkshire on a weekly wage of between fifteen and sixteen shillings, he was expected to be on duty from 4pm each day. No doubt this in a combined player/groundsman capacity. From there he was employed at Stonyhurst College as coach and groundsman. There seems to be a some discrepancy as to the date he started as Hill

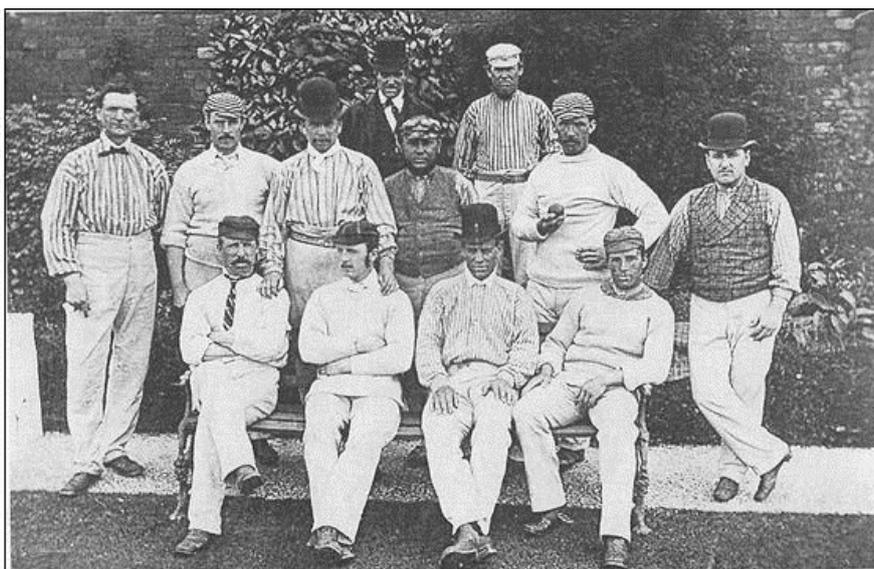
is quoted in 1897 as saying that this 'was 33 years ago last summer' i.e. 1864. However, other sources give the date as 1867. Considering that the former date is from a book of reprints from *The Yorkshire Evening Post*, which refer to him throughout as ALLAN and gives two dates, 1842 and 1845, for when he was born. I am inclined to take the latter date, 1867, as accurate. In 1897, Hill would have been fifty-four when interviewed, not an old man by today's standards and perhaps his memory was not as clear as it once was.

After two years at Stonyhurst, he joined the ground staff of the Lancashire County Cricket Club, based at Old Trafford; in another two years he is employed by Burnley as their professional. However, he now had other responsibilities for in 1868 he had married Ellen Jessop, who might well have been related to John Jessop, Secretary to Lascelles Hall, and a year later their son Frank was born.

Meanwhile, Yorkshire County Cricket Club had been taking notice and later that year (1871) he got his first opportunity to play for the county of his birth. Yorkshire had a policy of only playing cricketers who were born in Yorkshire. Due to his commitment to Burnley, it meant he was limited in his appearances for the county. He was reluctantly released for the match against Surrey at the Oval and his performance was outstanding. He took twelve wickets for 59 runs and was the highest scorer in Yorkshire's first innings. This introduction to the county game so impressed one Yorkshire fan living in the south that he presented him with a silver cup.

In 1872 his daughter Alice was born and just as his family was increasing so was his reputation as an extremely quick bowler off a short run up. Wisden (cricket's annual review) declared 'his action was one of the best of its kind'.

During the next three seasons he enhanced his outstanding ability. At Bradford, in 1874, playing against the United South of England, he achieved a hat-trick (3 wickets in 3 successive balls). Playing in this match was the great W. G. Grace, whom Hill would meet again the following year in the North versus South match, when he bowled out W. G. Grace with his first ball, took another wicket with his second and with his fourth ball dismissed Grace's brother. This performance so impressed Grace that he makes mention of the occasion in one of his books.



The Yorkshire team which met Surrey at Sheffield on June 14, 15 and 16 in 1875 was captained by Joseph Rowbotham
Back row: G. Martin (umpire), John Thewlis.
Centre: George Pinder, George Ulyett, Tom Armitage, Joseph Rowbotham, Allen Hill, Andrew Greenwood
Front row: Tom Emmett, John Hicks, Ephraim Lockwood, Charlie Ullathorne

1876 was a bitter-sweet year for Hill as during the course of the year his seven year old son, Frank, died. In his professional role he made his highest first class score of 49 and he attracted the attention of the game's administrators who chose him to be a member of the James Lillywhite team to tour Australia in the winter of 1876-87. This was an official team representing England.

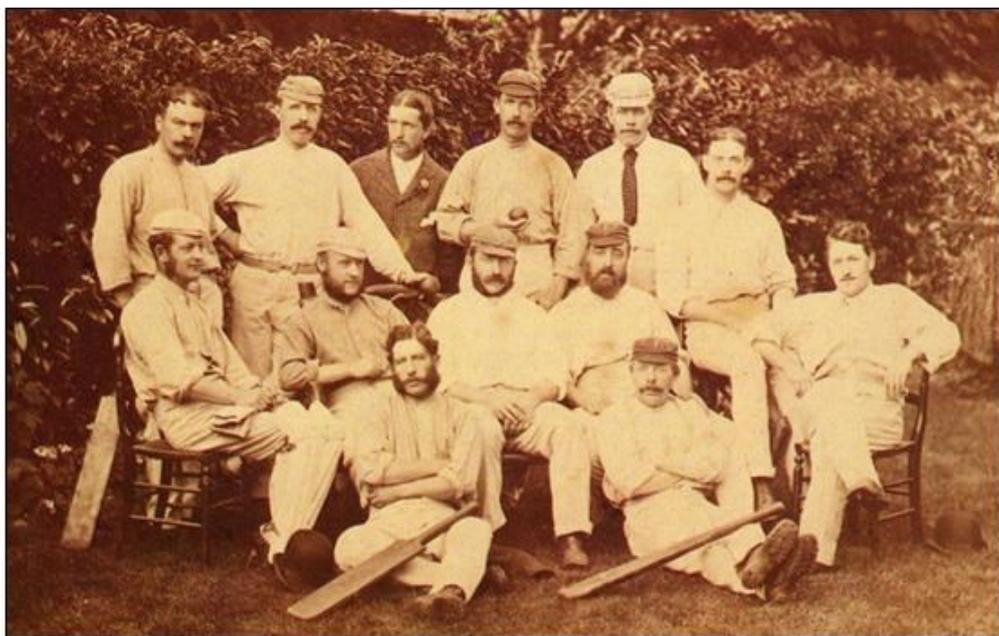
On 15th March, 1877, the first ever Test Match took place at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. Hill had the distinction of taking the first test wicket when he dismissed Nathaniel Thomas. Later in the innings he took the first catch in a test match to dispose of Thomas Horan.

Allen Hill's gravestone in the Leyland Parish Church graveyard describes Allen as an England and Yorkshire Cricketer but makes no mention of his place in cricketing history.

The statistics for the two tests played in Australia would indicate that he was a better batsman than a bowler as his average of 50.5 was an excellent performance for someone best known for their bowling. In fact, among Yorkshire-born cricketers, only Len Hutton and Herbert Sutcliffe have a better average in test matches. Hill's average is better than Geoffrey Boycott's! His bowling average is superior to Fred Trueman's.

Of course, statistics can be skewed and to be fair to the other great players, Hill played in considerable fewer test matches; no doubt had he been selected for further tests his bowling figures would probably have improved. For his efforts in Australia he was paid £200 with board and travel expenses.

Like most sportsmen, especially those who have an explosive action, he was not unsusceptible to injury. During 1879 his knee gave way but he ploughed on and was rewarded with another hat-trick with the last three balls of the game against Surrey to win the match. Perhaps his injury gave him more time to spend with his family for his second daughter, Kathleen Mary, was born that year. Another daughter, Gertrude, was born in 1881 and possibly his growing family was instrumental in him announcing his retirement from Yorkshire in the



The 1876-77 squad which played the first Test against Australia at Melbourne in March 1877 pictured shortly before they left England

**Back: Harry Jupp, Tom Emmett, Alfred Hogben (a sponsor of the trip), Allan Hill, Tom Armitage
Front: Ted Pooley, James Southerton, James Lillywhite jnr, Alfred Shaw, George Ulyett, Andrew Greenwood
On ground: Harry Charlwood, John Selby.**

follow year. Allen continued playing cricket until an accident in which he broke his collar bone, cut short his first-class career. That same year, 1884, Yorkshire staged a benefit match (fittingly against Lancashire) at Bramhall Lane, Sheffield, which had a total attendance of 6000 spectators. A collection raised £376 15s 9d. The money would prove useful as his fourth daughter, Mabel, was born during the year. His involvement with cricket did not end as he turned to officiating as an umpire. His status improved so he was appointed as one of the umpires for the first Test at Lord's in 1890 which was against the old enemy, Australia.

Success for Allen again mingled with tragedy for in 1889 his wife, Elizabeth, died leaving him a widower with four daughters under the age of eighteen.

Allen had attracted the attention of John Stanning whose life-long interest in cricket involved him in employing ex-professional cricketers. Old Ebor writes of Stanning:

Mr Stanning is careful to cultivate the serious and social sides of the cricketers that he gathers around him; a man is not a bowler or a batsman and nothing more. Thus it is that men like Allen Hill, Albert Ward, A. Pike, A. and H. Tinsley, J. l'Anson, George Nash and others are, or have been, in comfortable employment under Mr. Stanning, at Leyland, playing and teaching cricket in summer and earning a steady livelihood by suitable work in winter.

The 1891 census reveals that Hill was living at No. 3, Stanley Street (Goulding Terrace) and described as a Professional Cricketer. His daughters are all living with him. In the census of ten years later, Hill's circumstances have changed for he is now shown as living at No. 12, Fox Lane, with a new wife, Margaret, daughter of James Whittle and his wife, Ann (Mills) - whom he had married in 1900. Margaret was eighteen years his junior. Only two of his children, Gertrude and Mabel, were with him, as well as a grandson, Frank, born in 1901. A further addition to the family occurred in 1903 with the birth of his son, James Allen Hill.

Allen died in Leyland on 28th August, 1910, and was buried in St Andrew's Parish graveyard on the 31st August.

In the archives of St. Mary's Church, Leyland, there is a letter written by Father Placid Corlett, the rector (parish priest) which implies that Allen had been ill for some time. It was written to Allen's widow on 6th September, 1910, and was sent from Ampleforth Abbey:

Dear Mrs Hill,

I was sorry that I could not see you before I left home as I wished to offer you my most sincere condolences on the death of poor Allen. He had a very hard struggle and I am sure that he accepted all with a most cheerful heart. God will shorten his purgatory and give him eternal rest.



IN LOVING MEMORY
OF
ALLEN HILL
ENGLAND AND YORKSHIRE CRICKETER
BORN KIRKHEATON, YORKS 14TH NOV 1845
DIED LEYLAND 28TH AUG 1910 AGED 64 YRS
MARGARET HILL NEE WHITTLE
HIS BELOVED WIFE
DIED 23RD NOV 1949 AGED 88 YEARS
JANIE WHITTLE
DIED 8TH JAN 1945 AGED 67 YRS.
JAMES WHITTLE HER HUSBAND
DIED 29TH JUNE 1954 AGED 78 YRS.
LORD HAVE MERCY + CHRIST HAVE MERCY

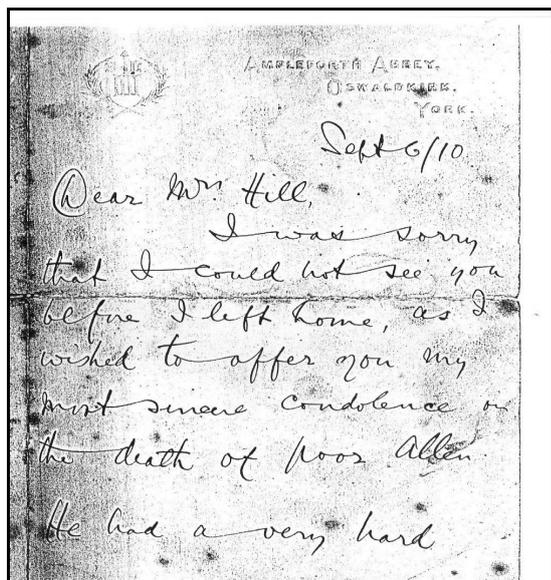
The Fathers here remember the fame of Allen as the great Yorkshire bowler and they will not forget to pray for him.

I hope little Allen will grow up a joy and comfort to you and a real help in life.

Praying God to bless you, I remain,

Yours very sincerely

R. P. Corlett



A copy of Father Corlett's letter to Allen's widow, Margaret

a very hard struggle and I am sure that as he accepted all with a most cheerful heart - God will shorten his purgatory and give him eternal rest.

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Praying God to bless you - I remain

Yours very sincerely
R. P. Corlett.

Father Corlett had only been appointed rector in January, 1910, and he wasn't long in Leyland as he died in 1912 whilst visiting the Canary Islands.

Allen Hill's playing career for Leyland

In a book commissioned by John Stanning to record the history of Leyland Cricket Club the entry for 13th April, 1882, reads: 'Leyland (with Allen Hill) v. an eleven of Preston'.

This is the first mention of Hill playing cricket for Leyland and it implies that Hill was being employed as a professional player. In this match he scored twenty runs and took seven wickets: it is not stated for how many runs but as Preston's total was just sixteen all out, his figures must have been highly impressive.

The following year, on 16th April, the record reads: 'Leyland (with Ulyett and Allen Hill) v. Lascelles Hall'. It must have been strange for Hill to be playing against his former team. It was a two-day match and Hill's batting scores were 18 and 43. He also took one wicket in both innings and took one catch.

Later in the year he was included in Leyland's annual tour of Yorkshire on 5th August. He only played in the first match and scored 32 and 6 and took a total of eight wickets.

He did not play for Leyland again until 24th April, 1886, when Werneth were the opposition. He scored nine runs but was unsuccessful in the bowling department.

There followed a four year gap before Hill played for Leyland again with two games in 1890. After that he was a regular player for Leyland.

In 1891 he played in 20 games; 1892: 29 games; 1894: 25 games; 1895: 14 and 1896: 5.

Allen's last recorded match was on 18th July, 1896, against Oldham at Oldham where he scored 10 not out.

Bibliography

- Old Ebor [pseudonym of Alfred William Pullin] *Talks with Old Yorkshire Cricketers* (Reprinted from *Yorkshire Evening Post*). (1898)
A Century of Yorkshire Cricket. *Yorkshire Post* (1963).
Paine, Philip Anthony. *Innings Complete - Vol 8: The first resting places of some of those associated with cricket*. (2004)
Firth, Grenville. *Yorkshire's Cricketing Legends: Yorkshire-born Test Cricketers*. (2009)
St Mary's Church archives, Leyland
History of Leyland Cricket Club
Various websites.

Since the millennium, I have been searching for postcards or cigarette cards depicting Allen Hill but without success. In fact, when I have enquired at second-hand book fairs with cricket book dealers, very few seem to have even heard of him and his special place in cricketing history. E.A.

James Allen Hill

Edward Almond

'Little Allen', as referred to in Father Corlett's letter of September 1910, did grow up to give joy and comfort to his mother and to many others. He gained fame, not in cricket or sport, but in a more genteel activity - the creative field of art.

David Hunt in *The History of Leyland and District*, states that Allen Hill's son '...was to be one of the town's most accomplished artists...'



According to the website of St Teresa and St Mary Magdalen's Church, Penwortham, Allen junior '...began painting as a young man and developed his natural talents influenced by S. J. Lamorne Birch, Royal Academician, and George B. Cookson, Clerk of Works at Leyland Motors' Foundry, in the 1920s. George himself was a talented artist.

In the archives of St Mary's Church, Leyland, there is a catalogue relating to an Exhibition of Modern Art by J. Allen Hill. This was held in the Assembly Hall at St. Mary's School on School Lane from 28th July to 4th August, 1934, from 2.30 pm to 9.00 pm, Sunday included.

In the Foreword to the catalogue, Father Anselm Parker, rector of St. Mary's, writes:

The forthcoming exhibition of pictures by J. Allen Hill has aroused my interest in the laws governing the transmission of hereditary qualities. For a glance at the "Times" of 30th August, 1910, reveals a long account of Allen Hill, "the famous Yorkshire cricketer". Many qualities, such as of eye and limb, were the natural expression of an inner skill of mind which, together with ambition and initiative, brought him to the forefront, so that in English cricket he was for a time considered our best fast bowler. His career as a first-class cricketer was from 1871 to 1883.

He died in Leyland; and his son inherits, together with ambition and initiative, many qualities similar, but displayed in a very different field. A trained eye, skill of hand, a sense of exactness-of-place, traits expressive of the mysterious 'feeling' of the artist, find their scope in oil and water-colour sketches.

After listing his previous exhibitions in galleries throughout the country, Father Parker writes:

...all show that he has already been long appreciated. We are proud that at last a large selection of his works should be on view in his own native Leyland.

How does a busy 'citizen' find the necessary leisure? Perhaps a certain recurrent and characteristic feature we observe in these beautiful things gives some clue, namely, the remarkable early-morning sky-effects. Allen, as his father before him, is an early riser. We admire the enterprise of this Exhibition.

Admission to the Exhibition was free and the catalogue was priced at 2d. There were 63 exhibits: 41 water colours and 22 oil and water colours. Ten pictures, previously sold, were on loan; four by a Miss Tuer of Leyland. Other Leyland purchasers were a Mr. Davenport and a

Lairland Chronicle No. 61

Mr. West (2). A further three belonged to a Mr. F. Storey of Lancaster.

Prices of the pieces varied from 10s 6d. to £40 with the majority being priced at 1 guinea (£1 1s. 0d.) and 2 guineas.

There were a substantial number of local scenes: 'Morning, Farington Moss'; 'Oaklands', Leyland; 'Near Midge Hall'; 'Bashalls Woods'; 'New Runshaw Hall'; 'Worden Hall'; 'Evening, Farington Hall Farm'; 'Bent Bridge'; 'Farington Moss' (2); 'Farington Steel Foundry'; and 'Old Corn Mill, Farington'.

There were also pictures depicting scenes in Whittle-le-Woods, Clayton-le-Woods and Rivington. Eleven paintings were of Cornish scenes and there were nine of County Kilkenny and County Wicklow.

Where are these paintings now? Some will be in private collections but others have been purchased by public galleries and museums.

A water colour, 'Passing Shower' was purchased in 1930 for the permanent collection at the Harris Museum in Preston. Another, a 'Panoramic View of Leyland and Farington', painted in oil in 1955, is at the South Ribble Museum and Exhibition Centre.

James Allen Hill was married to Brigid Mary who died in 1973 and he died at 'Newlyn' on Leyland Road, Penwortham on 28th August, 1985, aged 82. Fittingly, and coincidentally, it was the 75th anniversary of his father's death.

Acknowledgement

St Teresa and St Mary Magdalen's Church, Penwortham Website
St Mary's Church,
Leyland Archives



The above painting: *Panoramic View of Leyland and Farington* was painted in 1955. The painting is part of the South Ribble Museum and Exhibition Centre collection and can be seen at the Old Grammar School on Church Road. It is described as an unusually large painting by local artist James Allen Hill, showing the industrial town of Leyland, Lancashire, viewed from the Pennine foothills. This is a rare view of the town, exploring the strongly rural setting on the edge of the Lancashire plain.

Thank you to David Hunt, Curator of the Museum who kindly gave permission for a copy of the painting to be included in the *Chronicle*

WW1 MEDICAL SERVICES AND TRANSPORT

Joan Langford

During World War 1 survival of injuries on the battle field depended on prompt medical intervention, and very quickly after the British forces arrived in France and Belgium in 1914 chains of evacuation were established. The first point of help for the wounded soldier was the Regimental Aid Post where there was basic first aid treatment. These R.A.P's were set up within 200 – 300 yards of the front line, often in small spaces in communication trenches and the walking wounded made their own way there. The more serious cases were carried by comrades or stretcher bearers.

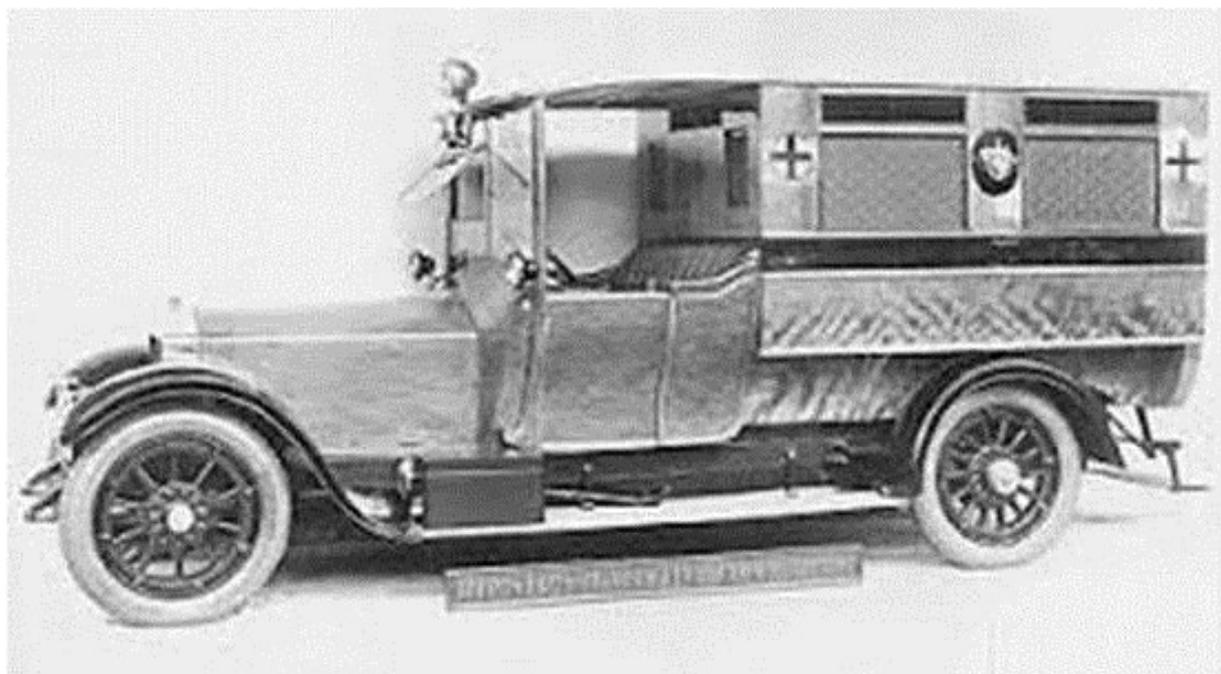
Once stabilised, casualties were then transported as quickly as possible, by Field Ambulance, to the Advanced Dressing Stations – non-vehicular mobile front line medical units. These Stations were usually several miles away, and it was often a dreadful journey by ambulance wagon or lorry. At three of the Advanced Dressing Stations the British sense of humour prevailed and they named them 'Mendingham', 'bandagingham' and 'Dozingham'. There is an official War Graves Cemetery named Mendingham.

The lack of motorised ambulances in the early stages of the war meant the Field Ambulances relied heavily on horses for transport, requiring a large establishment of animals to work the rubber tyred ambulance wagons and support vehicles.

In August 1914 horse drawn ambulance wagons were unable to cope with the volume of wounded from the Battle of Mons and to rectify the situation Lord Kitchener called for public donations towards the purchase of vehicles. By mid-October an appeal in The Times had raised enough money for the Red Cross to purchase 512 ambulances. During the war years some 2,500 of the ambulance drivers were women who had volunteered to go to the battle front and do what they could to help.



Above: an early English horse drawn ambulance in France



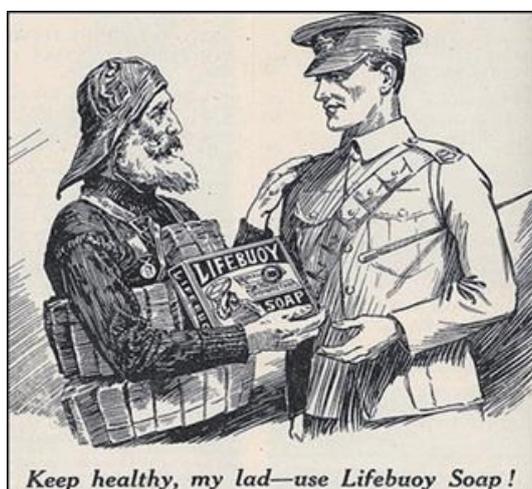
A motorised WW1 ambulance for service at the front

Horse drawn vehicles continued to play an important role throughout the war, carrying the seriously injured across otherwise inaccessible muddy and heavily cratered ground – which required a team of six horses rather than the usual two.

Mr Tom Hartley Roberts, owner of the Wood Milne Rubber Company, who lived at Farington House was one of the Farington people who responded to Lord Kitchener's appeal. An article in the Preston Guardian of 14th November 1914 reported that:

Mr T H Roberts, Farington House has had his 33-35 hp car converted into a motor ambulance with four stretchers, for the Red Cross Hospital which has been organised by Countess Helene Gleichen and Lady Eva Wemyss. The work of conversion has been carried out in accordance with the Red Cross Society's requirements by Messrs W Harding & Co Ltd of Preston. The hospital, the personnel of which will comprise three doctors and eight nurses, is being at once taken to the front, at the expense of Lady Wemyss.

Mr Robert's brother, Mr Norman Roberts, is having his car converted for a similar purpose, and intends taking it to the continent and driving himself.



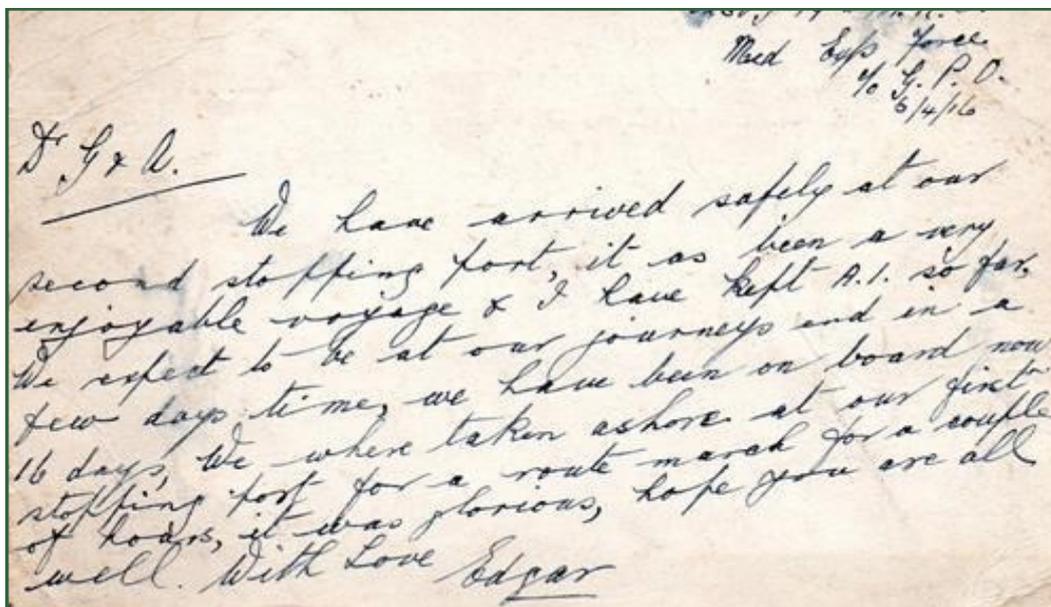
**EDGAR ETHERINGTON
135408 - WW1 AMBULANCE
DRIVER**

When, in October 1915, 28 years old Leyland bachelor Edgar Etherington went to Preston to enlist and 'do his bit' for the country, he was assigned to 626 Company 19th M.A.C. (part of the Army Service Corps – Motor Transport Division). On 21st March 1916, after thorough training in the south of England, he became part of the British expeditionary Force in the Mediterranean (Gallipoli) – as an ambulance driver.

However, a few days later, on 22nd April, 1916, when serious trouble flared up in German East Africa, he was transferred to that theatre of war where he continued driving ambulances until August 1918, when he contracted malaria and was admitted to hospital. Fortunately Edgar survived the war, and was eventually demobbed from the army in April 1919.



Edgar was an uncle of William and Humphrey Marsden, two young Farington men who sadly lost their lives on the Western Front, in France.



Above a card sent by Edgar to his sister in Leyland on 6th April 1916, very carefully not mentioning where he actually was at the time reads:

We have arrived safely at our second stopping port, it has been a very enjoyable voyage and I have kept A1 so far. We expect to be at our journey's end in a few days' time, we have been on board now 16 days. We were taken ashore at our first stopping port for a route march for a couple of hours, it was glorious. Hope you are all well. With Love Edgar.

The two previous articles are extracted from Joan Langford's excellent book, *We Will Remember Them*, which was published in May 2015. A copy of the book has been included in the time capsule buried in the plinth of the plaque which stands in the memorial peace garden in Farington Park. The plaque contains the names and details of all the fifty-five Farington men who died in the Great War.

At the dedication of the Farington Park World War 1 Commemorative Garden on Sunday, 27 September, 2015, the following prayers, led by the Reverend Duncan Clarke were taken from a service on 3rd January 1915 '*On behalf of the Nation and Empire in this Time of War*'. This service booklet belonged to the family of Tom Potter - one of the Farington men who lost their lives in the war:

Let us pray for all who suffer as a result of conflict, and ask that God may give us peace:

For the service men and women who have died in the violence of war, each one remembered by and known to God;

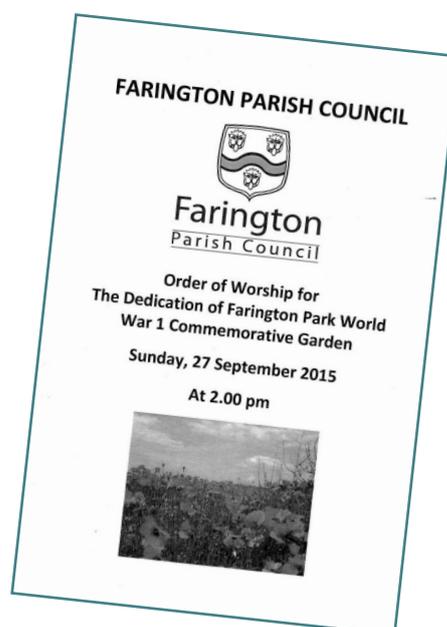
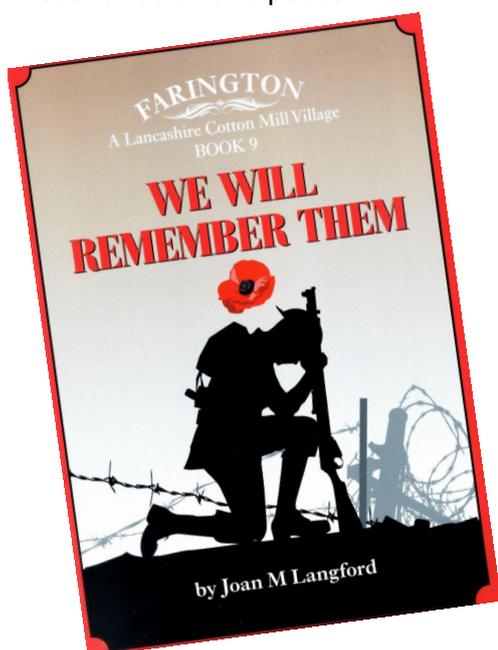
For those who love them in death as in life, offering the distress of our grief and the sadness of our loss;

For all members of the armed forces who are in danger this day, remembering family, friends and all who pray for their safe return;

For civilian women, children and men whose lives are disfigured by war or terror, calling to mind in penitence the anger and hatreds of humanity;

For peace-makers and peace-keepers, who seek to keep this world secure and free;

For all who bear the burden and privilege of leadership, political, military and religious; asking for gifts of wisdom and resolve in the search for reconciliation and peace.



Peter Barrow R.I.P.

One of the past members of the Historical committee and a regular contributor to the *Lailand Chronicle* was Peter Barrow who died in 2002. Peter's daughter Karen has very kindly donated his personal drawings and the results of the projects and studies he undertook of Leyland's historic buildings to the Historical Society. Our Chairman is undertaking the task of committing the many documents to computer disc the result of which he hopes to share with members of the Historical Society with a presentation during its next season.

Our President, Bill Waring, paid tribute to his friend and fellow committee member in the No. 49 (2004-2005) *Chronicle* and an extract from his tribute is given below. Our thanks and gratitude to Karen for her kind gesture in donating these documents in memory of her father which will bring back many kind thoughts of Peter to those who knew and worked with him.

Peter Barrow (1923 - 2002)

Authority on Vernacular Architecture

A long-standing member of our Society, Peter was a prominent member of the committee in the mid-1970s serving as vice-chairman in 1974-5; the *Lailand Chronicle* gave him a useful outlet for his steady series of architectural studies which began to appear from January 1974.

It was around this time that Peter made his distinct contribution to the future of Leyland's history. With Newton Iddon holding a shaky ladder, he made his way through a 'brick curtain' and into the derelict Grammar School through an upper window. His detailed drawings of this Elizabethan structure would be very instrumental in the rescue of this building and its emergence as the town's museum. In terms of interest nothing could compare with a visit with Peter to such a structure; all concerns of personal danger were cast aside and if a falling brick should come close to ending one's career, well it had missed and what an interesting brick it was and good dating evidence for the chimney too!

Peter surveyed many such structures and his detailed drawings now provide a priceless study of a largely lost heritage. Particularly memorable group visits were made to Occleshaw House, Old Worden and Pickering's Farm. He was a close advisor during the restorations of many buildings including the Museum and the Worden Arts Centre. Yet Peter's antiquarian interest extended far across the historical landscape. One of his earliest projects was a study of the local patterns of soils, which he carefully related to the detailed eighteenth century maps contained in DDF 81¹. From this work he was able to develop an original model for the development of the town. All these efforts came to fruition, with the contributions of George Bolton and Elizabeth Shorrock and others at the two local history conferences held at Worden in the late 1980s, and which formed the basis of the 1990 *History of Leyland*.

Peter was Historian of the Year in 1977, 1979 and 1980 and was elected a Life Member of the Society in 1998.

1 The Farington Survey: Reference DDF 81: A survey of Manours of Norbrooke, Worden, Shaw Hall, & Littlewood within the Lordships of Leyland, Ulms-Walton, & Penwortham & Walton le Dale belonging to George Farington of Shaw Hall In the County of Lancaster Esqr. By Henry Banks of Winwick, Writing Master. This record is held by the Lancashire Archives.

The following is a reprint of the first of eighteen articles contributed by Peter Barrow to the *Lairland Chronicle*. It was printed in *Chronicle* No. 10 in January 1974.

Bricks

By P. F. Barrow

The mundane and ubiquitous brick has a very long history as mans first - and most successful - attempt at prefabricated construction.

Sun dried blocks of clay are known to have been used 5000 years ago in the area between the rivers Euphrates and Tigris and possibly as long as 10,000 years. This method is still used in some primitive countries with a suitable climate, although kiln fired bricks are almost as old as the sun dried variety.

From Babylon brick making methods spread eastwards to India and China and westwards to Egypt, the Mediterranean then to Rome and thus eventually to Britain.

The Roman bricks were more akin to tiles, about 1¼ inches thick and in varying sizes for different purposes, and after their departure were not manufactured here in significant quantities until Tudor times, although salvaged Roman bricks were occasionally used in a few Norman and even mediaeval buildings.

The word "Brick" is of Flemish origin and was unknown in this country until the 14/15th century, and most of the first bricks used here from the 14th century were imported from the Low Countries. One theory is that they were initially used as ballast and some enterprising sea captain discovered he could sell them, particularly in East Anglia where stone and timber were scarce.

England being will (sic) endowed with widespread deposits of suitable clays and brick earths, bricks began to be manufactured in the South East in Tudor times or about the 15th century. As timber became more scarce in the 16th century, the brick makers spread, but only to those areas not blessed with ample supplies of the traditional materials. In this part of Lancashire bricks do not appear much until the early 17th century, and even then due to their rough texture and irregular shape all quoins (external angles) were formed in stone. In the case of more expensive buildings, door and window openings were formed in stone but lesser ones had bricks cut and rendered to imitate masonry.

Mediaeval and Tudor bricks were burnt locally in a wide variety of colours on small brickfields or even individual sites and usually in "clamps" rather than kilns. The output of clamps is variable as there is no control over the firing or ventilation, resulting in many distortions and rejects, underburnt and overburnt bricks, but when walled the range of colours gives a most pleasing effect. The monotonous uniformity and harsher shades of the modern machine made can never achieve the mellow beauty of this old brickwork, surviving examples of which are still quite sound after four or even five centuries.

Up to about 1610, most bricks were made about 2" thick although a statute passed in 1571 fixed the size to 2¼" and the irregular Tudor type gave way to the smooth crimson coloured Georgian brick with paler "rubbers" for gauges arches and other decorative work. By the end of the 18th century the size had increased to 3" due to the brick tax which was levied by number irrespective of size.

Many old brick houses have been (and still are being) ruined by ignorant or unsympathetic repair work; external rendering which prevnents the bricks "breathing" and thus encourages rapid disintegration [which] is obvious in a number of local

examples and when re-pointing is necessary, it must be borne in mind that this is secondary to the bricks themselves. Because of their irregular shape old bricks were laid with very thick joints of lime mortar which is not hard and impervious like modern Portland Cement. It is absolutely imperative that any repointing is carried out with mortar that is softer and more porous than the bricks after thorough raking out, and recessed slightly from the wall face. More old brickwork has been ruined by using hard and impervious mortats (sic) under the mistaken belief that the stronger the better.

Below is a list of the eighteen subjects covered by Peter Barrow in previous *Chronicles*.

Lailand Chronicles

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2	26	9	Leyland	Barrow P. F.
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1	19	16	Road, Place and Field Names Of Leyland And The Neighbourhood (Part 1)	Barrow P. F.
1	20	18	Road, Place and Field Names Of Leyland And The Neighbourhood (Part 2)	Barrow P. F.
1	24	13	The Old Free Grammar School	Barrow P. F.
1	23	17	Windows	Barrow P. F.

RBL club razed to the ground

By GAYNOR CLARKE
gaynor.clarke@jpress.co.uk
@GaynorClarkeCG

Work is well underway to demolish Leyland's derelict Royal British Legion Club.

The building on School Lane closed in 2013 following financial problems and it was subject to two arson attacks in two weeks last month.

It had been open for more than 60 years.

The club is now being knocked down to make way for a multi-million pound development that will bring new affordable homes to Leyland.

A sod-cutting ceremony was held on the site in March and 12 two-bedroomed houses and eight one-bedroomed flats will be built there.

Progress Housing Group is developing the site and

the project is being funded through the Homes And Communities Agency's affordable homes programme, along with the support of South Ribble Council and building contractors Strategic Team Group.

It is hoped that the scheme will be completed by April next year.

The homes will be let to people with a connection to Leyland.



New homes are now in the process of being built on the corner of School Lane and Hague Avenue where the Royal British Legion Club and Bowling Green once stood. The design of the dwellings are in keeping with existing dwellings in that area and they will be let to people with Leyland connections.

(Leyland Guardian (21 April 2015))



The former Royal British Legion building in School Lane, Leyland, has been demolished to make way for houses

WW1 RELATED EXTRACTS FROM ST PAUL'S C.E. CHURCH FARINGTON NEWSLETTERS 1916-1920

Joan Langford

Whilst most of us know a fair amount about World War 1 through the channels of the media and numerous books written about the military experiences during the years 1914-1918 - the battles, the carnage, the bravery, the deprivations, etc., comparatively little is known of every-day life at home during those years.

Suddenly women became to active part of the community and workforce, rising to the challenge and making great sacrifices.

I have recently been given access to Farington St Paul's CE Church brief monthly newsletters for the years 1916-1920. Now very delicate and fragile, the yellowing pages give a good insight into life in the Church and that parish during the war years, and of how some things did, in fact, manage to carry on 'as normal'. (Unfortunately the information came to light after the book 'Lest We Forget' had gone to print but, as it is so appropriate for our 2015 project I have reproduced it in this form.)

CARRYING ON AS NORMAL

The Sunday services continued to be held morning, afternoon and evening, with the choir contributing greatly to the worship; the Girl Guides weekly meetings also continued. However, one area where church activity was struggling somewhat to carry on as normal was recorded in the March 1917 newsletter:- *"Owing to several members having joined H M Forces, the choir has been almost depleted of tenors and basses. We shall be glad to welcome anyone who would like to join."*

Interestingly the newsletters show that the numbers of Baptisms did not vary much during the war years or afterwards e.g. 1916 – 32 baptisms; 1917 – 39 baptisms, 1918 – 29 baptisms, 1919 – 29 baptisms.

The marriage details show that in 1916 there were 16 weddings, in 1917 – just 9; in 1918 – 16, and in 1919 an increase to 22. Going through the marriage records I wondered how many of these young Farington men were home on leave or about to be going off to join the army. For me the entry in April 1916 recording the marriage of William Ernest Meyler to Annie Wright was a particularly sad one as I know that William Meyler was killed in France just 9 months later.

The Church was very aware of how many local young men had gone to join up, and of how many families were left anxious and sometimes without their breadwinners, and several of the newsletters included a list of names of some of the men of the parish who had signed up. On the opposite page is copy of the list in the newsletter of February 1916. Tragically, of the 99 men named on that list at least 30 lost their lives on the battle front.

"FUND FOR COMFORTS FOR OUR SOLDIERS"

The list in that February newsletter was a spur for the ladies of St Paul's to take action. Hearing stories of the miserable cold, wet conditions their men were experiencing in the trenches, (and responding to national appeals) a church meeting was called as a result of which it was decided to establish a "Fund for Comforts for Our Soldiers". It was agreed that with the funds they would contribute to the war effort by purchasing wool and knitting socks and mufflers for "our boys". In March 1916 "our boys" meant *'all who have been members of the Congregation, Sunday School or Choir who, up to present, have left to answer their*

LIST OF SOLDIERS AND SAILORS FROM THIS PARISH AND DISTRICT.

Sidney Sharples, Thomas Ashcroft, Tom Alty, George Buck, Fred Buck, Harry Brundrett, Percy Bird, William Bird, Wm. T. Baxendale, Fred Ball, Edward Barnish, Fred Blackburn, Jack Beatson, Arthur Bleasdale, Matthias Blackwell, Peter Blackwell, Thomas Baldwin, James Carr, Robert Coyle, George Charnley, Henry Cookson, Ben Culshaw, Edward Clarkson, Albert Dawson, William Evans, James Fairclough, William Fershaw, Tom Frost, Wm. H. Goodburn, Harry Gibson, John Gleave, George Gidlow, Alfred Gidlow, Thomas Gregory, Joseph Hardman, Joseph Hayes, Thomas Higham, Harold Hewitt, Harry Halsall, William Hodson, John Ingham, John L. Jones, Richard Morris, John Morris, Thomas Morris, Joseph Moxam, Charlie Nutter, Jack Nelson, Stephen Parr, John Peters, Ernest Pilkington, James Parker, Robert Ratcliffe, Jack Ranger, James Rigby, William Rose, Fred Sholiker, Arthur Slater, Thomas Self, Thomas Sanderson, Herbert Smalley, Wm. E. Smith, Herbert Tinsley, Robert Turner, James Tuson, George Taylor, James Taylor, William Taylor, Edward Tyrer, Fred Wilson, Arthur Walton, William Wiggins, Thomas Wilding, Harry Youd, John Bennett, Alfred Prescott, Fred Beesley, Richard Beesley, Frank Cutler, Harry Eaves, Albert Brandwood, Thomas Culshaw, Thomas Wintrow, Geo. T. Prescott, Vincent M'Case, William G. Hicklin, Richard Ball, William Green, Harry Shaw, Fred Bamber, Arthur Gold, Edward Banister, Robert Heywood, Thomas Lancaster, Walter Bush, Thomas Bennett, Charles Gillett, Harry Gillett, also for A. J. McKinney.

Country's call.'

Above: a list of some of 'our boys' who have joined H M Forces' March 1916

One would expect fund raising to have been rather difficult during the war years, but immediately (small) donations of cash were forthcoming and a variety of fund raising activities such as raffles, whist drives and concerts, were organised, the proceeds being used to purchase wool for the knitters. It was the custom in the Church newsletters to list names of donors for all their fund raising activities and looking through the 'Local Fund' lists I saw names of several families whose sons/husbands later sadly lost their lives.

Just 5 months later, the July 1916 newsletter reported that "at present over 180 pairs of socks have been given to the boys, and many more will be needed." That month's expenditure consisted of £3.4s.8d on wool; 14s.7d on cigarettes; and 14s.3d on chocolate.

The list of donations to the fund in May 1917 includes amounts for raffles for '3 table centres', totalling £2.10s.9d which seemed quite ordinary until I read the details. "The table centres mentioned above were made and given by Pt. H Parker, Tanners Row, whilst in hospital, to whom we tender our grateful thanks for his kindly thought which was most highly appreciated by all."

These generous donations and activities continued right through to the end of the war, and by 31st January 1919 a total of £176.9s.10d had been raised, and by which time many hundreds of pairs of socks had been sent to the 'boys'. In January there were still 178 local lads away on war activities.

One local Soldier – Fred Snalam:-

September 1917: *“We hear that Lt F R Snalam sailed for France on August 16th, where his duties will constantly take him into the firing zone. I feel sure that I voice the sincere wishes of his numerous friends among the parishioners and the school children when I say that we all wish him God-speed and a safe return*

In September 1914 Fred Snalam had married Maud McPhail, and they set up their married home in Farington where Fred was an assistant master at Farington School. It is obvious from the church newsletters that the Snalam family – father Henry, mother Jane and Fred’s older sisters Elizabeth and Jane – were all very involved in the life of St Pauls, and the various fund raising efforts. Fred served as a Lieutenant with the Royal Field Artillery and fortunately survived his war years.

December 1918: A letter sent to St Paul’s Vicar read:

Dear Rev Huntington, I am enclosing notes to the value of £10 as a thanks offering to Farington Church for the victory and the merciful preservation of my son.....Mrs M Snalam.

On his return from active duty he was appointed, in October 1919, as Head Teacher at Farington School; in May 1920 he became the People’s Church Warden and was also Honorary Secretary of the Church Renovation Fund.

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CUERDEN HALL MILITARY HOSPITAL

Towards the end of 1915 Mr & Mrs Townley Parker opened their Cuerden Hall home as a Military Hospital for sick and wounded soldiers. When the parishioners at St Paul’s heard of this, ever aware of the needs of others, they decided to donate their Harvest Thanksgiving goods to the hospital, and continued to do so while the war lasted.

In the November 1916 the Vicar reported that he had received the following letter from the Matron of Cuerden Hospital:-

“Dear Sir, I feel I must write and thank you so much for the most kind gift of fruit, etc. from the Harvest Thanksgiving. We are most grateful for your remembrance of the hospital, and the soldiers have already enjoyed the apples and grapes. We have so many patients now, and fruit and veg seem rather scarce, so they are particularly acceptable. Yours faithfully, M. Hardcastle, Matron.”

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN’S GIFTS

It seems that the Sunday School children at St Paul’s were also encouraged to ‘do their bit’, and the newsletters regularly reported that the children had sent the men at Cuerden Hall hospital small gifts and presents – which were greatly appreciated.

May 1916 *“A collection was made in the Sunday School on May 30th, for the sick and wounded soldiers hospital (Cuerden Hall) and Moor Park Preston when the sum of £1.11s.0d was realised, together with gifts of cigarettes and eggs.”*

In September 1917 the following letters were received

“Dear Sir, Please accept our warmest thanks for the very kind gifts the children of your parish have collected for this hospital. The patients have asked me to send you the enclosed letter, which will show you how much they appreciate your kindness. Yours faithfully. M E Scott pp O/C

CUERDEN HALL MILITARY HOSPITAL

To the Children of Farington. The patients of the above hospital wish to express their heartfelt gratitude for the kindness of those who so generously gave us comforts. The same God who watches over us when in sickness and on the battlefield also looks down upon you and the Recording Angel will put down against your names "Well done".

We earnestly wish that any of your relations and friends who are suffering on account of this terrible war, may be so comforted and thought of, as you have thought of us."

A the end of the letter were the signatures of 23 patients at hospital, and which included Farington man Robert (Bob) Holmes – who sadly died in 1919 from wounds sustained on the battle field in both Gallipoli and France.

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In those cash-strapped hard times, in addition to the generosity of Harvest Festivals and regular donations to the knitting fund, the members of St Paul's Church (mainly ladies, of course), also organised socials to raise funds for the 'Prisoners of War Fund', the Church roof fund, Church general funds, and Girl Guides activities.

HARVEST FESTIVALS

I was a little surprised to see that "carrying on as normal" included harvest festivals and, fortunately, this largely agricultural area was able to continue to provide quantities of home grown produce each year. In 1917 the Festival was held on 30th September and very helpfully there is a list of **all** the harvest gifts and their donors, (next page)

PEACE

The end of hostilities in November 1918 brought huge relief to the nation, but it was some time before all the surviving soldiers were brought back home and de-mobbed. Peace was celebrated in a variety of ways in towns and villages throughout the country. In Farington the main celebration took place in September and was recorded in the November 1919 newsletter:-

"Peace Celebrations"

The above took place on Saturday September 6th and was favoured with beautiful weather. A representative committee, of which four members of the Farington Parish Council formed a part, had made all necessary arrangements previous to the event. The Parish Council, together with the Sunday School, undertook the expenses connected with the Celebration.

The procession, in which about 500 persons took part, started from the Endowed School about 2.30 in the afternoon. A large Union Jack was carried in front, and the outstanding features of the procession were the prettily dressed school children, the Girl Guides, Church Lads Brigade, Discharged and Demobilised Soldiers, and the Tableaux on lorries, representing 'Britannia, her Allies and Colonies', 'Peace', 'Angels of Mercy', and Welcome Home. The Farington Prize Band and the band of the Church Lads Brigade supplied the music.

After parading along School Lane, Coote Lane and Watkin Lane, the procession adjourned to a field kindly lent by Messrs Martin, where refreshments were served, and sports and dancing indulged in until dusk, when the proceedings closed with the National Anthem."

During the war years Church Lads Brigades were ordered by their Headquarters to close 'for the duration' so it was with great joy that St Paul's CLB were able to meet again in 1919 and

The special preachers were as follows :—The Rev. W. P. Lord, Rector of Mawdesley, on Thursday afternoon. The Rev. A. G. H. Pinhorne, Curate of St. Paul's, Preston, on Sunday Morning. The Rev. T. L. Webster, Vicar of Hoghton, in the afternoon, and the Rev. R. Gardiner, Rector of Bretherton, in the evening. On Monday evening, the Rev. G. H. Lunn, Vicar of All Saints', Preston, was the preacher.

The Collections at the various Services were as follows :—

Thursday Afternoon ...	£3	0	0
Sunday ...	£12	0	0
Monday ...	£3	6	6

	£18 6 6		

Below is appended a list of those who undertook the work of decoration, and also of those who sent gifts. If any names have been inadvertently omitted we shall be glad to know so that they may be mentioned in next month's magazine.

DECORATORS.

Chancel, including Sacarium, Communion Rails, Choir Stalls and Gas Standards—Mrs. Lonsdale and Miss D. Lonsdale, assisted by Mr. Barnes, who kindly lent and arranged a choice collection of plants in pots.

Reading Desks—Mrs. F. R. Snalam and Miss Snalam.

Lectern—Miss Maddock.

Pulpit—Mrs. Huntington.

Large Window by the Pulpit—Mrs. and Miss Blackburn and Mrs. Wilkinson.

1st Pair of Small Windows (one on each side)—Miss Bennett, Miss Pedder and Mr. W. Bamber.

2nd Pair—Miss Lily Keefe, and Miss Seddon.

3rd Pair—The Misses Bannister.

4th Pair—Miss K. Parker and Miss A. Bamber.

5th Pair—The Misses Livesey.

6th Window (north) and Front—Miss Coulthurst and Mr. Alcinus Coulthurst.

West Door Entrance—Mr. S. Critchley.

6th and 7th Window (south)—Miss Fish.

Lower Gallery Pillars—Miss E. A. Parker.

Inscription in front of Gallery—Miss K. Parker and Miss A. Bamber.

Gas Standards in Nave—The Misses Eaves.

HELPERS :—Mrs. Starkey, Mrs. Cain, Mrs. T. Norris, Mrs. Maddock, Mrs. W. Norris, Mrs. McCourt.

The Misses Hilda Barnish, Stopford, Lily Harrison, Maggie Thompson, Millie Tattersall, Annie Swarbrick, Lily Starkey, Alice Beardsworth, Alice Whittle, Katie Iddon, Eliz. Beardsworth, Evelyn

Hunt, Pricilla Bond, Mary Jane Bond, Edith Bond, Cissie Clarkson, Eliz. Hobin, Nellie Eaves, Gerrie Norris, Martha Fish, Alice Abram, Eaves (Charnock Moss).

Messrs. S. J. Starkey, J. Harrison, T. Norris, S. Critchley, J. Maddock, W. Norris, R. Beardsworth, J. Slater, A. F. Kirby, Ernest Harrison, W. Holden, J. Astley. Masters Victor and Stanley Miller, Frank Norris, Richard Fish.

Mr. R. Stopford kindly conveyed the fruit, etc., to Cuerden Hall for the sick and wounded soldiers.

Gifts of grain, fruit, flowers, vegetables, etc., were sent by the following :—

Mrs. Huntington, Flowers ; Miss Bennett, Wheat and Oats ; Mrs. Clayton (Sherdley), Fruit and Flowers ; Mrs. Bradshaw, Fruit and Flowers ; Mr. I. Seddon, Vegetable Marrows ; Mrs. Barnish, Grapes and Fruit ; Mrs. J. Norris, Bread and Fruit ; Mrs. Martin, Fruit and Vegetables ; Miss Winders, Flowers and Fruit ; Mrs. Cank (Turbary House), Flowers and Fruit ; Mr. Butcher (Fowler Lane), Wheat, Fruit and Vegetables ; Miss Thompson, Fruit ; Mrs. Sharples (Dardsley), Flowers and Fruit ; Mr. Clayton (Charnock Moss), Vegetables ; Miss Rimmer, Grapes ; Mrs. F. R. Snalam, Flowers ; Miss Snalam, Flowers ; Miss Yates, Fruit and Flowers ; Mrs. Armstrong, Grapes and Flowers ; Mrs. Snalam, Grapes and Apples ; Mrs. Gill, Fruit and Vegetables ; Miss Martin, Flowers ; Mrs. Martland, Bread ; Miss I. Hall, Flowers ; Miss Maddock, Flowers ; Mr. Beardsworth (Coote Lane), Vegetables ; Mrs. Clarkson, Fruit ; Mrs. Butcher (Anchor) Grapes and Apples ; Mrs. Robinson (Albert Terrace) Fruit and Vegetables ; Mrs. Eaves (Garfield Terrace), Grapes ; Mrs. Riding (School Lane), Fruit ; Mrs. Wm. Eaves (Charnock Moss), Flowers, Fruit and Vegetables and 2 Wreaths ; Mrs. Fish, Flowers, Fruit and Vegetables ; Mrs. Lonsdale, Flowers and Fruit ; Mrs. Critchley and Mrs. Taylor, Grapes ; Mrs. T. Norris, Flowers and Fruit ; Mrs. Jackson (Ward's New Row), Tomatoes, Vegetables and Flowers ; Mrs. John Bamber, Vegetables ; Mrs. S. Critchley, Fruit ; Mrs. Cottam, Fruit ; Mr. Wm. Bretherton, Fruit ; Mrs. R. Bamber and Mrs. Kellett, Flowers ; Mrs. Iddon and Mrs. Hall, Fruit, Vegetables and Flowers ; Mrs. Bond, Flowers ; Mrs. Oxendale, Fruit ; Mrs. Miller, Flowers ; Miss J. Ward (Charnock Moss), Fruit ; Miss Blackburn, Fruit and Flowers ; Mrs. Atkinson, Fruit ; Mrs. Starkey, Flowers and Grapes ; Mr. E. B. Sumner, Flowers ; Mr. Cookson, Vegetables ; Mrs. Tattersall, Flowers and Fruit ; Mrs. D. Parker, Flowers, Grapes and Fruit ; Mrs. S. Turner, Fruit ; Mrs. R. Swift, Grapes and Fruit ; Mrs. J. Astley, Grapes and Fruit ; Mrs. Nelson, Grapes and Fruit ; Mrs. Hibbert, Fruit and Vegetables ; Mrs. E. Clayton, Flowers, Fruit and Vegetables ; Mrs. Abram, Vegetables and Fruit ; Mrs. Dobson, Grapes and Fruit ; Mrs. W. Norris, Grapes and Fruit ; Mrs.

celebrated peace by having “a Route March followed by sports and games in a field loaned by Mr Martin.”

CHOIR ANNUAL OUTING

July 1919: “Members of the Choir this year had their annual outing on Whit Tuesday under pre-war conditions. It took the form of a char-a-banc trip to Longridge, Higher Hodder, Clitheroe and Whalley.

The party, numbering about 88, left about 9.30. Breaks were made at various places en route, in order to visit places of interest, two being Whalley Abbey and Clitheroe Castle. About 2 hours were spent at Longridge where lunch was partaken of.

At Whalley tea took the form of a picnic and was greatly enjoyed by all. The party left Whalley about 8.30 and arrived at Farington a little before 10.00 pm having spent a most enjoyable day under ideal conditions.”

WAR MEMORIAL WINDOW

Anyone attending a service at St Paul’s Church now who lets their eyes rise high above the altar, will see the beautiful stained glass War Memorial window. The church newsletters from 1919 give us the memorial’s story piece by piece, and record another marathon fund raising campaign to cover the cost of it.

January 1919: “On Monday evening January 6th a meeting was held in the church to consider the proposal of a War Memorial to the memory of the brave men who were connected with the parish and congregation, and who have given their lives so freely and willingly in order that we might live in freedom.

The business before the meeting was

What form the memorial should take;

The best method or methods to be adopted to raise the necessary funds

With regards to (i) it was unanimously resolved that ‘A memorial for those who have fallen in the war shall take the form of a new East Window in the Church, in stained glass’. With regard to (ii) it was resolved that a Subscription List be opened immediately, and that a Social Evening be held on Saturday February 1st, the proceeds to go towards the Fund, which will be known as “The War Memorial Fund”.

The Vicar was appointed Honorary Treasurer, and Mr E B Sumner Honorary Secretary and a representative committee was appointed consisting of all the ladies present at the meeting, as well as all the Church Officers, and with power to add to their number.

April 1919: “The design for the proposed new East Window, submitted by Messrs Seward & Co, Lancaster has been accepted. The work will, we understand, be executed by them for the sum of £400.

By the end of September 1919, just 9 months after the Fund was launched, the sum of £460.19s.7d had been raised, through collections, donations, and socials.

April 1920:

“MEMORIAL WINDOW

There was a very large congregation on Palm Sunday afternoon when the Memorial Window was dedicated by the Venerable Archdeacon of Blackburn. The service was most impressive and the singing of the appropriate hymns most effective. The window bears the following inscription 'To the Glory of God, and in memory of the men from this Parish and district who fell during the Great War 1914-1918. The Window was erected by Parishioners and friends'. The following description is copied from the Preston Guardian:-

The window, which is the work of Messrs A Seward & Co. Ltd., the well-known Lancaster firm of stained-glass artists, is 16ft. high and 10ft. 6in. wide, and of choice design and workmanship. There are five main lights, with tracery. The centre light represents "The Great Sacrifice" and "I am the Vine", with the Holy Spirit, attended by seraphim's at the head of the light. At the foot is an ornamental tablet, supported by angels, and on this roll of honour appear 62 names of soldiers who fell in the Great War. The two left-hand lights depict incidents in the career of St Oswald, the Saxon King and martyr, and the two to the right refer to Gideon. The larger subject illustrates Judges, chapter vi, verses 11 and 12.

The inner lower subjects represent the death of St Oswald and Judges vii, 19-21. On the lower left-hand side is a British sailor, with the White Ensign forming the background, and on the opposite side a British soldier, and background composed of the Union Jack."

June 1920: The balance sheet for the War Memorial Fund showed

<i>Cash in Bank</i>	<i>£465.9s.7d</i>
<i>Cost of Window as per estimate</i>	<i>£400. 0s .0d</i>
<i>Extra for carriage by motor</i>	<i>2. 2s. 0d</i>
<i>Extra for Names on window</i>	<i>2.10s.0d</i>
<i>Out of pocket expenses Mr Seward</i>	<i>4. 4s 0d</i>
<i>Architect</i>	
	<i>Total £408.16s. 0d</i>
	<i>Surplus £ 56.13. 7d</i>

A congregational meeting was held in the School on Thursday evening, June 29th, to decide what should be done with the above named balance, when the following resolution was passed: That the balance be devoted to the insurance of the window, and that the matter be left in the hands of the Church Wardens.

Just one further snippet from Joan which is relevant to October 2015:

On this day, 25 October 1415, at least two ffarington men were serving their King and country at Agincourt:

John de ffarington was an archer to Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester under the command of Robert de Ros at the battle of Agincourt, and David de ffarington was a man at arms in the same battle in the retinue of Hugh, Lord Bouchiers



Joan M Langford, July 1915

Joan Langford's extracts from St Paul's newsletters, 1916-1920 which should have been included in her 2015 book *Lest we Forget*. We are happy to include these in this year's Chronicle. Ed.

Our annual Leyland Historical visit to Llandudno in May 2015

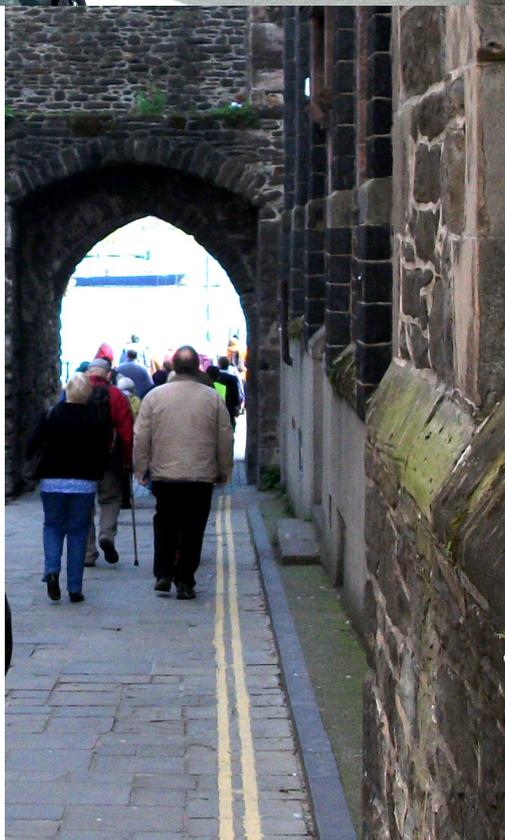
We started out on a beautiful May morning down the M6 motorway to Conwy in North Wales. Our first stop was outside the castle walls where we were met by our guides. Three groups of Society members were taken on a tour of Conwy although some members opted to tour the Castle.



The Black Lion Inn
A late 16th Century House - No. 11 Castle Street



Castle Hotel, High Street





The parish church in the centre of Conwy originated as the abbey church at Aberconwy Abbey, which was relocated to Maenan in the 1280s. The church was largely rebuilt at that time.

In the photograph below, the metal grave cover bears the words 'We are Seven'. The grave supposedly contains the remains of seven brothers and sisters and has long been associated with William Wordsworth's poem of that name. Local tradition has it that Wordsworth was inspired to write the poem after seeing the grave, although he stated that the poem had been inspired by a conversation with a little girl while visiting Goodrich Castle (near Ross on Wye) in 1793. The poem does contain two of the girls' siblings dwelling at Conwy, so that may be the origin of the tale.



Gravestone:

In Memory of three Sons of
WILLIAM JONES, Shipwright by
Catherine his wife.

William (an Infant),

Griffith, died May 1836

William, December 1846

Also the above WILLIAM JONES
who died November 15th,
1874, Aged 89



The Smallest House in Great Britain is also known as the Quay House and is a tourist attraction on the quay. The house measures 3.05 metres by 1.8 metres (10 feet by 6 feet) and was used as a residence from the 16th century until 1900. The house was lived in until 1900, when the owner was a 6ft 3 inch (1.9 metres) fisherman named Robert Jones. The rooms were too small for him to stand up in fully and he was eventually forced to move out when the council declared the house unfit for human habitation. ©[SH7877](#)



Strolling along Conwy Quay passing the mussel sculpture. The sculpture, made of Kilkenny Limestone, was commissioned for the quayside at Conwy. It was carved by Graeme Mitchelson. Conwy was once one of the most important pearl fisheries in the country. In the early 19th Century over 4 kilos of pearls from Conwy mussels were sent each week to jewellers in London. Mussels are still harvested today. © [Eirian Evans](#)

At the Thomas Telford Suspension Bridge - now owned by the National Trust



...then off to catch the bus to Llandudno



All the fun of the parade - The Bank Holiday Victorian themed procession through the centre of Llandudno



We didn't ride on this tram to the top of Great Orme but luckily we were all there on time for our reserved coach for the major event of the day

The **Great Orme Tramway** is in reality a two-section funicular. The lower section which, as shown, runs in the street, is operated using cars 4 and 5, which pass at the loop - the photograph of car 4 ascending was taken from the front of the descending car 5. The upper section of the tramway runs in open track using cars 6 and 7.

Leyland Historical Society

Programme 2015 - 2016

Meetings to be held in

**The Shield Room, Banqueting Suite, Civic Centre,
West Paddock, Leyland**

at 7.30 pm

2015

Monday, 7th September
Leyland – A Moment in Time
Peter Houghton

Monday, 5th October*
Raising Agents
100 Years of the Women's Institute
Mikron Theatre Company

Monday, 2nd November
Music in a Lancashire Country House
Rufford Hall in the 1730s
Alan Crosby

Monday, 7th December
Mother to the King
The First Countess of Derby
Lizzy Jones

2016

Monday, 4th January
Arkwright's Manchester Mill
Chris Wild

2016 (cont'd)

Monday, 1st February
A Lancashire Garland
Sid Calderbank

Monday, 7th March
The First World War
through the Magic Lantern
Andrew Gill

Monday, 4th April
My Work as a
Local History Detective
Steve Halliwell

Monday, 2nd May
Tenth
Annual Historical Society Trip
Lake District

Monday, 6th June
Agincourt 1715
Peter Cunliffe

*Meetings free to members – visitors £10.00