



LANCASHIRE LOCAL HISTORY FEDERATION

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FEDERATION 50TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT



The Federation is celebrating its 50th anniversary at Lancashire Archives, Preston on Friday 27 October



The event will start at 5 pm with a talk from one of our longest standing members, Dr Paul Booth, on *A tale of two places: Liverpool and Toxteth Park*. There will then be a buffet followed by a tour of the archives, finishing around 8 pm. There will also be a chance to see the new exhibition on display at the archives:

Shaping the future: Lancashire women's lives 1950-1980.



This event is free to all members but as numbers are limited it is essential to book a place by contacting Zoë Lawson at elizoelaw@gmail.com or phone 07471908077.



We hope to see you there.

VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

Older and more 'popular' local history books often make a point of describing the important or famous people who were born in or near a particular place. There tends to be an implication that these native daughters or sons somehow, simply by virtue of the place of their birth, contributed to its history – a debatable point I think, although there is surely no doubt that in some circumstances the context of their birth and family background is part of one aspect of local history. For example, Margaret Thatcher was born in Grantham, an event which in itself did not directly change the town's history. But the significance of her father, Alderman Roberts, as a leading small town figure, and the importance of his political, social and economic philosophies in shaping his daughter's outlook, are clearly significant.

I was looking at the birthplaces of prime ministers, and was intrigued to note that four of them came from Lancashire, and that all four were of outstanding political importance – each of them can be counted among the most significant figures in British politics in the past 200 years.

The first was **Sir Robert Peel** (born Bury, 1788). He was not only PM in some of the most turbulent years of the 19th century (1834-1835 & 1841-1846) but was the first person to hold that office to come from an industrial and commercial background, rather than the aristocracy. His Lancashire heritage, and his Lancashire-derived textile wealth, were certainly significant in shaping his approach to government.

The second was **Edward Stanley, 14th Earl of Derby**, (born Knowsley, 1799), and PM three times (1852; 1858-1859; and 1866-1868). Generally regarded by historians as undeservedly neglected and under-estimated, he was a highly influential politician for several decades, and was one of the creators of the modern Conservative Party (or at least, the one which we knew until a few years ago!). From the top ranks of the landed aristocracy, he was one of the great patrician lords whose influence would be increasingly challenged in the decades after his death in 1869.

Our third prime minister was **William Ewart Gladstone**, that towering figure of the second half of the 19th century. He was born in Rodney Street, Liverpool, in 1809, although his parents were both Scottish, as was his ancestry. Deeply embedded in the Liverpool commercial world, including major slaving interests, the Gladstones were also politically ambitious, their excellent social and economic connections proving very advantageous in pursuing that goal.

Finally, and surely very improbably, **David Lloyd George** was our fourth prime minister. Here's a good pub quiz question: which British PM was born in Manchester? Yes, the very same – the 'Welsh Wizard' himself was born there (at Chorlton-on-Medlock to be precise) in January 1863. When he was only two months old his family returned to Pembrokeshire, his ailing father's native county, and in 1864 his now widowed mother moved with her children (including young David) to her birthplace, Caernarfonshire. Two months in Manchester was not sufficient to imprint a Lancastrian stamp upon Lloyd George, and of course his Welshness in every sense was profound ... but I wonder how things might have turned out if the family had stayed in the big city?

So, four great prime ministers were born in our county. For the record, there were also four from Yorkshire but, unsurprisingly, the largest single group were from

London and Middlesex. Only one was born outside Britain – one Alexander Boris de Pfeffel Johnson (New York, 1964). Let's not dwell on him. But we haven't had a Lancashire-born PM since 1922, when Lloyd George resigned, engulfed by scandal.

On the other hand, the Yorkshireman, Harold Wilson (born Huddersfield, 1916), was MP first for Ormskirk, and then Huyton from 1945 to 1983, including his entire time as prime minister. And then there's the curious case of Winston Churchill, who from 1900 to 1906 was MP for Oldham (first as a Conservative, before defecting to the Liberals), and then from 1906 to 1908 was Liberal MP for Manchester North West. So Churchill began his parliamentary career as MP for Oldham, 40 years before he became prime minister. There is a very informative paper on the relationship between Churchill and Oldham at <https://tinyurl.com/Churchill-and-Oldham>. Lancashire played a major part in shaping the story of the man consistently voted 'Greatest Briton'.

REPORT FROM 'AT HOME' AT RIBCHESTER

On 10 June Ribchester Local History Society hosted an 'At Home'. Each year the Federation invites a member society to host a day in which they arrange the programme to showcase more of the history of the area. This year's event proved to be very popular and a great success. Ribchester is beautiful, but seems even more attractive for having some of its fascinating history revealed.

In the morning the two speakers in the village hall gave contrasting talks about different eras in the history of the village.

Dr Jim Morris, Senior Lecturer in Archaeology at UCLan, gave an account of the five-year archaeological excavation carried out in Ribchester. The dig involved a great many people; some of the students went on to pursue careers in archaeology. In addition, local people gave thousands of volunteer hours, and wholehearted support to the team. Local schools were involved, as well as scouts and guides.



The project entailed digging back through centuries of occupation, and revealed that the area had been used in the iron and bronze ages, through the four centuries of Roman occupation, and beyond.

Excavations show that a wooden structure was followed by stone buildings. The area had been used as a military base, housing soldiers in barracks with their horses in stalls behind their rooms.

Photo courtesy of UCLan

Over 40,000 artefacts were recovered. They are being analysed in different places, but will eventually be returned to the Roman museum in the village. Covid brought an end to the dig, but there is much more to be discovered.

Sir Peter Openshaw, who has researched many aspects of the local history of the area, took as his theme the history of St Saviours Stydd church, and the myth that the Catholic martyr, Margaret Clitherow, is buried there.

The church is in an isolated position. Although there is no evidence of earlier buildings, in Roman times it would have stood at a fairly major crossroads. The present building dates from the medieval period. A document in Latin in the mid thirteenth century refers to a hospital 'under the long ridge'. It seems there was a small religious foundation on the site, but it is not clear to which order it belonged.

Wikimedia Commons



By 1292 - after the fall of Acre - The Order of Knights of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem (The Knights Hospitaller) had acquired the site and surrounding land. It could perhaps have been a leper hospital. Sir Peter traced the ownership through intervening centuries, including the depredations of Henry VIII and its subsequent private ownership.

In 1789 St Peter & St Paul Catholic church was built. This is the oldest building in use in the Salford diocese; its interior is in the Georgian style, and remarkably different from most other Catholic churches. The Stydd church then fell into decay. It now comes under St Wilfrid's parish church, and has been beautifully – and plainly - restored and holds services in the summer and at Christmas. One anomaly about the church is that some of the Catholic priests who officiated there were buried in the Anglican parish church.

Sir Peter then outlined the life of Margaret Clitherow, who was born in York in 1546, and was martyred there for her Catholic faith on 25 March 1586, and canonized in 1970. He mentioned several sources for Margaret's life in order to examine the legend that she is buried at Stydd, but has come to the firm conclusion that there is no factual basis for this belief.

Afternoon visits and tour After lunch the attendees were assigned to smaller groups and led on a tour of the village, guided by local people and a very informative, illustrated leaflet. We visited the three churches and Ribchester Roman Museum, and saw other landmarks from different historical periods.

The day could not have been better organised, and thanks are due to those who spent such a lot of time in order to ensure its success.

Marianne Howell

LANCASHIRE ARCHIVES & LOCAL HISTORY

LANCASHIRE ARCHIVES & LOCAL HISTORY ON FACEBOOK!

We're delighted to let you know that Lancashire Archives & Local History now has a Facebook page! Please have a look and follow us at:

<https://www.facebook.com/lancsarchives>

You can also follow us on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/LancsArchives>

KEEPING EAST LANCASHIRE IN THE PICTURE



This exciting project will bring together thousands of people in East Lancashire, of different backgrounds and ages, to make the amazing collections of historic photographs in their libraries more accessible, inclusive and sustainable.

With a budget of £222,000 (£192,000 of which comes from the National Lottery Heritage Fund), the 2-year project (2023-2025) will see schools, community groups and individuals in Burnley, Pendle and Hyndburn invited and encouraged to:

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

An inclusive volunteering programme, starting in September 2023, will be at the heart of what we do, with 75 digitisation and research opportunities created across four project hubs based in the libraries in Accrington, Burnley, Nelson and Colne.

A key project aim is to ensure that the library photographic collections reflect the diversity of the communities in East Lancashire. For example, 15% of people in Burnley and Hyndburn are of South Asian heritage, and in Pendle it's 27%, but this is not reflected in the collections - the project will help redress this imbalance.

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

Thanks to National Lottery players.

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

CLARETS COLLECTED: A FOOTBALL TOWN ARCHIVE AT BURNLEY LIBRARY

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

Running until August 2025, a core collection has already arrived at the library from a small group of Burnley fans who have generously donated their personal collections of match programmes, fanzines, photographs and memorabilia.

The project has been generously supported by [Friends of Lancashire Archives](#) and private donations and will invite further fundraising. We will be working closely with the National Football Museum and the club's charity, Burnley FC in the Community.

A 2-year development plan will include: cataloguing and growing the collection; working with volunteers; creating a new gallery space with an exhibition and events programme; delivering schools sessions.



You can find out more about the project at:

<https://www.flarchives.co.uk/category/resources/clarets-collected>

SPEAKERS' CORNER

We are inviting speakers who wish to publicise their talks to contact the newsletter so that their details can be included to reach a wide audience. If you would like to do so, please emailing the following details to the editor mariannerh@hotmail.co.uk :

- 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.

JOHN REGAN

Contact details: reganjf@outlook.com; Phone: 07771737101

Areas willing to travel: Based in Lancaster but happy to travel

Subjects:

- Thurnham Hall & The Dalton family
- The Ghosts of Thurnham Hall
- Bonnie Prince Charlie's Lodgings (76 Church Street, Lancaster)

DAVID HEARN

Contact details: email - davidp.hearn@talktalk.net Home number 0151 639 2826; mobile 07739 386367

Subjects covered: David has a very extensive and diverse list of talks: the main areas of his research are varied topics on the history of Liverpool from the 19th to the middle of the 20th centuries, when Liverpool was part of Lancashire and very much linked by canal, rail and, eventually, road, as well as economically. David also conducts walking tours connected with the themes of some of the talks. Email him to receive the complete list.

Areas willing to give talks: South & West Lancashire - probably no further north than Preston nor further east than, say, Bolton. Also pleased to deliver over **Zoom**.

MIKE COYLE

Contact details: mike.coyle@btinternet.com; 01253 761778

Subjects covered: Mike's talks cover a variety of topics; they include Blackpool's military history and the Courtfield hotel and catering school; and military history and war memorials in relation to family history research. Email Mike for a full list of talks.

Areas where you are willing to give talks: Across Lancashire & north west. Also willing to give talks over **Zoom**

Any other relevant information: Mike is an experienced family history researcher and presenter. He is a volunteer with Blackpool Heritage Services, and has a BA (Hons) in history and heritage management.

NEWS FROM MEMBER SOCIETIES

NOTE TO MEMBER SOCIETIES

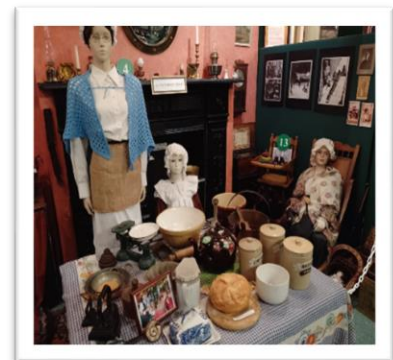
We are always pleased to receive news of events from member societies: however space in the newsletter is limited. Please send your programme of events to the Federation webmaster for inclusion on the website. You will see there an interactive map with the names of all societies. Clicking on each name takes you to news from each group www.lancashirehistory.org.

FEATURED MEMBER SOCIETY: HORWICH HERITAGE

Horwich Heritage was formed in 1985 in order to re-ignite a sense of local pride following the closure of the town's main employer, Horwich Loco Works, after 100 years of locomotive production. Our society was 'homeless' but quickly set about organising talks, walks, trips and a monthly newsletter. In 1991, we were fortunate to be offered a base for our activities in the newly-opened Horwich Resource Centre (a former barracks) where we could hold our monthly speaker meetings and committee meetings, and put on heritage exhibitions and displays. Our next 'big break' came in 2005, with Horwich Town Council's decision to open a further phase of the Resource Centre, creating a large additional space in what had been the old barrack's rifle range. We were offered the tenancy of this space in order to create a heritage centre - something we had dreamed about and been working towards for the previous 20 years!



Now the hard work really began - to transform this place to provide archive and research facilities, a shop, an AV viewing area and varied exhibitions on the rich and varied history of Horwich and the surrounding area.



Eighteen years later we are still going strong as a society and heritage centre. During that time we have put on over 100 exhibitions in the centre and produced over 30 films and 50 publications. We have a membership of 250 and still hold our monthly speaker meetings in the Resource Centre next door, as well as organising trips and heritage walks. It certainly keeps us busy - and after 38 years long may it continue!



Visitors are always welcome. We are open 2-4pm on weekdays and 10am -12.30pm on Saturdays. Admission is free. Our speaker and exhibition programme is available to view on our website www.horwichheritage.co.uk or you can follow us on Facebook [@horwichheritagecentre](https://www.facebook.com/horwichheritagecentre)

Stuart Whittle (Chairman, Horwich Heritage)

LANCASHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Saturday 2 September 1.15pm for 1.30 start: *Clitheroe Castle and Museum guided tour* Entrance Fee £7.00. There will be an archaeologically orientated tour of the castle with the guide for about an hour. This will be followed by tea or coffee with biscuits, courtesy of the museum. Afterwards you can see the key artefacts in the Museum. There will be plenty of time to browse. The museum closes at 4 pm.

Places are limited, so booking in advance is required - email lancsarchsoc@gmail.com to book and to enquire about accessibility and parking. There is no café at the castle, but plenty of places to eat in the town.

Friday 20 October 7.15pm: *Burscough Priory: a 21st century view of a 19th century excavation.* Talk by Paul Sherman, North West Heritage.
St Margaret's Church Hall, Ingol, Preston PR2 3ZU. Fee for visitors is £3.

Established around 1190, Burscough Priory was hugely influential in the area, and its monks were given permission to hold a weekly outdoor market in Ormskirk in 1286. Its rich patrons, the first Earl of Derby, Sir Thomas Stanley, and Margaret Beaufort, his wife and the mother of Henry Tudor, contributed to its wealth and prestige. However, after the Dissolution of the Monasteries (1536 – 41) the priory was stripped of its valuables. Excavations in 1887 detailed its extensive plan, including a hospital building and the monastic cloisters, plus artefacts such as carved coffins and coffin lids. However, further archaeological investigations have revealed a very different story - come to the talk to learn more!

Membership: New members are always welcome. The annual renewal is in January – more details on the website [promoting archaeology within Lancashire \(wordpress.com\)](http://promotingarchaeologywithinlancashire.wordpress.com).

LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

Wednesday 13 September 2023 2pm: *Visit to Manchester Archives and Local Studies at Central Library.* A chance to see the wealth of material documenting the history of the city. Booking is required

Sunday 17 September 2023 2pm: *A stroll round St Ann's Square, Manchester, and its environs.* Led by Terry Wyke. The walk will take in the church and the Exchange. St Ann's Square is now a fashionable shopping district but was originally based around the church which was consecrated in 1712, and was the site of the cotton exchange from 1729; the present building dates from 1874. There will be a lot of standing and it will be outside so please take the weather into account! Meet at the church door, M2 7LF.

Saturday 28 October a conference is being planned to focus on new research in local history and archaeology. To be held at the Working Class Movement Library in Salford.

Save the date: We hope to hold a book launch for volume 114 of the Transactions which will be a “bumper edition” to mark our 140th anniversary. This will probably be at Manchester Central Library on Tuesday 5 September. An exhibition relating to the history of the society will be on display at Central Library in August and September. For details of all these events and more, visit www.landcas.org.uk.

FRIENDS OF PENDLE HERITAGE

Saturday 2nd September 40th anniversary celebration: The cruck barn at Park Hill, Barrowford. There will be a full day of talks and practical illustrations. This is a must for people keen on the history of cruck barns. The barn on site was moved from its original place at Towneley Farm, near Towneley Hall, in the 1980s, and is an excellent example of this type of structure. More details on the website.

Pendle Heritage Centre, Barrowford, BB9 6JQ.

Thursday 28th September 8pm. Visit to Little Savoy Community Cinema to learn the fascinating history of a film club created in a World War I Nissen hut. It was named after the Savoy Cinema in Colne and is a fascinating nugget of local social history. Followed by refreshments.

Meet in the foyer. The cinema is behind Trinity Baptist Church, Robert Street, Colne. BB8 0NW. Members £3; Non-members £5. Proceeds to be donated to the cinema.

For further information visit the website www.foph.co.uk email info@foph.co.uk or phone 07787 631078.

REGIONAL HERITAGE CENTRE

Would you like to deepen your knowledge of the history of the North West and develop your research skills? This course might be just right for you!

The Regional Heritage Centre at Lancaster University is now recruiting students for its part-time Postgraduate Certificate in Regional and Local History for October 2023. Taught online over 12 months, this programme offers an opportunity to study at your own pace with guidance from expert tutors as you work towards an award from a top UK university that is renowned for its expertise in this field and has significant experience in delivering high quality distance learning programmes.

Regional and local studies offer a well-defined way to approach important historical themes and techniques. Whether you are interested in rural areas or urban centres, counties or kingdoms, uplands or lowlands, this programme will equip you with the skills, knowledge and confidence that you need to conduct primary research of your own in this vibrant and varied field.

You will build up your knowledge and skills through two taught modules, one rooted in medieval history and the other at the dawn of the modern era. These modules will enhance your understanding of a broad sweep of history, develop your critical awareness in dealing with historical scholarship, and improve your ability to interpret

various types of historical sources. You will then have the chance to put these skills into practice, with the guidance of a tutor, in an independent research project.

The programme will appeal to anyone who is enthusiastic about history, particularly those who wish to deepen their awareness of the importance of local experience in shaping our understanding of national and international trends.

You will access a range of fascinating learning materials online and will be able to study at a time and place to suit you. A wide variety of primary sources will be introduced and discussed and you will be able to participate through our dedicated online learning platform. You will have frequent online contact with your course tutors and other students, and receive one-to-one supervision for your independent project.

The flexibility of this programme and the learning format is ideal for people who want to pursue their historical interests around family or work commitments; you can expect to spend around 10-15 hours a week on your studies. We are keen to support learners from a range of backgrounds, including those who have been out of formal education for many years and who may not have a first degree, so do contact us to discuss your personal circumstances.

The Regional Heritage Centre promotes and celebrates the rich social and cultural heritage of north west England by engaging with the regional community through a range of events and projects. Please visit our website for more information:

www.lancaster.ac.uk/rhc

POULTON HISTORICAL AND CIVIC SOCIETY

Friday 8 September: *Richard Cuerden (1623 -1702), Lancashire historian and map maker* with **Bill Shannon**

Friday 13 October: *The lost village of Singleton Thorpe* with **David Hampson**

Friday 10 November: *Catholics in Lancashire after the Reformation* with **Amanda Forshaw**

Meetings are held at Poulton Methodist church hall, Queensway, FY6 7ST, starting at 2pm. All are welcome; visitors pay £3.00.

SKELMERSDALE HERITAGE SOCIETY

Monday 2 October 7pm: *The Lancashire coalfields*, with author and ex-miner **Alan Davies.**

Upholland Labour Club, 286 Ormskirk Road, WN8 9AR. All welcome, guests £2 on the door.

FRIENDS OF WINCKLEY SQUARE



GALA IN THE GARDENS

**Winckley Square, Preston PR1 3LU
6 August 2023 12noon – 4pm**

The Friends of Winckley Square have organised an unforgettable afternoon for everyone, and it's all free of charge.

William Cross planned this square in 1799 as a pleasure ground, so it provides the perfect backdrop for an afternoon of fun and laughter, live music and entertainment.

The Friends are grateful to Preston city council and many social and commercial organisations for sponsorship.

WESTHOUGHTON LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Events to mark Heritage Open Days 8-17 September

This year's focus is on the 150th anniversary of Wingates Band. They have had a long and distinguished history, on several occasions being crowned national and international champions.

The photograph shows the band who played in St Paul's Cathedral on 7 May 1986, in the presence of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh.



There will be exhibitions in the upper level of Westhoughton Library (BL5 3AT), the home of the local history group. Periodic musical interludes will be provided by an ensemble from the band, and by Jim Berry, lead singer of the Houghton Weavers. A full programme of activities, including talks, is being produced. For more details,

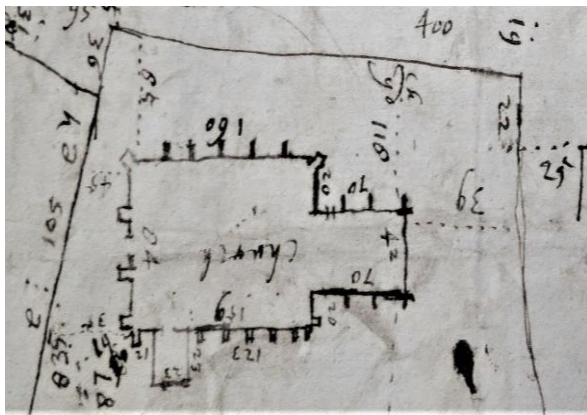
contact the Chairman, David Kaye, dkaye43@btinternet.com, or phone 10204 / 07970131460.

[David Kaye's comprehensive and fascinating history of the band *From Bible Class to World Class, 1873-2013*, was featured in newsletter no. 41, November 2022 – contact David for more information – Ed.]

PRESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Central Methodist Church, Lune Street, PR1 2NL. Visitors welcome - £5 per session.

Monday 4 September 7.15pm: *Richard Kuerden's map of Preston and planned history of the county* Dr Bill Shannon.



St John's Parish church. Preston

Richard Kuerden (1623-1703) was a doctor with an interest in topography. His 1685 survey of Preston was never published; neither was his projected 5-volume history of Lancashire. His extensive notes are held in important national and regional collections, casting detailed light on Preston and Lancashire in the late 17th century.

Monday 2 October 7.15pm: *Preston's Caribbean community: including the pain of enduring the Windrush scandal*, with Clinton Smith.

Clinton Smith is chair of Preston Black History Group, and was honoured in 2018 by Theresa May with a 'Points of Light' award for his work of over 40 years promoting cultural understanding and raising awareness of contributions made by African and African-Caribbean people. The talk tells of the pain experienced by the Preston community, of over 70 years' standing, because of the Windrush scandal.

VICTORIAN SOCIETY – MANCHESTER

Tuesday 22 August 6.30-8.30: *Manchester theatres walk* – with David Astbury

Book by emailing awdarlington@hotmail.co.uk. Cost £10 payable on the day.

The walk will pass through what was once the heart of the city's theatre district. Commencing at the Palace Theatre, the route will pass the Free Trade Hall, then along Oxford Street to St Peter's Square and Peter Street, with an option to continue to the Opera House if time allows. The sites of many theatres and the history of the buildings will be explained.

WARRINGTON LITERARY AND PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

Monday 2 October 7.30pm: 1648 – the road to Warrington. Dr Stephen Bull, military historian and author of *Bloody Preston*, will recount the Civil War 'Battle of Preston' – which was played out at Winwick, and which changed the face of English history.

Monday 6 November 7.30pm: *The science and mythology of trees*, with **Anthony Brandreth.** Anthony is a long-time tree conservator and specialist, whose talk will look at how trees work, how they communicate with each other, and the profound effects they have on human well-being.

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

NEWS ROUNDUP

WEAVERS UPRISING BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

A previous edition of the newsletter (No. 40, August 2022) contained an article about the Weavers' Uprising in East Lancashire 24-27 August 1826. The uprising arose after the mass starvation of tens of thousands of people due to low wages, unemployment, inflation and economic depression.

The protest took place over four days from 23 to 27 April, beginning at Whinney Hill, Accrington, where thousands of weavers and residents gathered to protest against desperate poverty, and called for the destruction of all power looms in local mills.

On 26 April, soldiers of The 60th, Duke of York's Own Rifle Corps killed six people at Aitkens and Lords Mill, Chatterton. Many hundreds in east Lancashire also died in the two years that followed, because of starvation and related causes.

In April this year more than 50 people gathered in Rossendale to mark the 197th anniversary of the events. The Weavers Uprising Bicentennial Committee, chaired by Dr David Scott, is continuing with events and plans leading up to the bicentenary in 2026. For more information:

Facebook: <https://bit.ly/3I527NO>

Twitter: [@uprisingweavers](https://twitter.com/uprisingweavers)

Four blogs for the Open University: <https://bit.ly/3bxke2y>

True Level Media documentary: <https://youtu.be/wDXTYB0IZes>

PEOPLE'S HISTORY MUSEUM



The Manchester suffragette banner is on display in celebration of its 115th birthday this year. The banner celebrates the founding of the Women's Social & Political Union, which took place on 10 October 1903 at Emmeline Pankhurst's home in Manchester.

For the first time since the *Represent! Voices 100 Years On* exhibition in 2018, the banner is on display at the Museum until Sunday 7 January 2024.

The Museum, at Spinningfields, M3 3ER, is anxious to secure its finances so that it can remain open – further details on the website [People's History Museum: The national museum of democracy \(phm.org.uk\)](http://People's History Museum: The national museum of democracy (phm.org.uk))

FRIENDS OF SALFORD CEMETERIES TRUST

Tuesday 15 August 1.00pm: *Walkabout in Swinton cemetery*

Sunday 10 September 2.00pm: *Weaste cemetery guided tour*

For more details contact Pete Kilvert petekilvert@virginmedia.com

THEIR FINEST HOUR



Their Finest Hour is a University of Oxford project that aims to collect and digitally archive the everyday stories and objects of the Second World War that have been passed down the generations. They wish to make individuals and groups aware of the project and get them involved. The project's aim is simple: to collect and

digitally archive as many as possible of the stories and objects that have been passed down to us from the WW2 generation. The stories and digitised objects will be made available in a free-to-use online archive in June 2024. The primary method of collecting stories and objects is by training an army of volunteers from across the

UK to organise [Digital Collection Days](#) in their communities - in libraries, museums, places of worship, schools, universities, and so on. Members of the public can also directly upload stories and photos of objects to the online archive.

If you or your group would like to organise a Digital Collection Day, you can take advantage of free training sessions to equip you with all the skills and knowledge required to organise and run a day in your community. Or you can just go along to one of the Digital Collection Days with any Second World War-related stories and objects that have been passed down to you, to be digitised and uploaded to their online archive. More details can be found at [Events | Their Finest Hour \(ox.ac.uk\)](#).

WORKING CLASS MOVEMENT LIBRARY



Exhibition: 9 August - 30 December

‘That Impudent Little Party’: The Independent Labour Party 1893 - 1975

Founded in Bradford and described as ‘That impudent little party’ by a Conservative MP, the ILP sought to “secure the collective and communal ownership of the means of production, distribution and exchange”. The library houses the ILP archive and the exhibition

will display rare objects from the collection to examine the ILP’s demands for social reform, including free education, a minimum wage, a shorter working day and a reduction in unemployment. [WCML | Working Class Movement Library](#).

PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

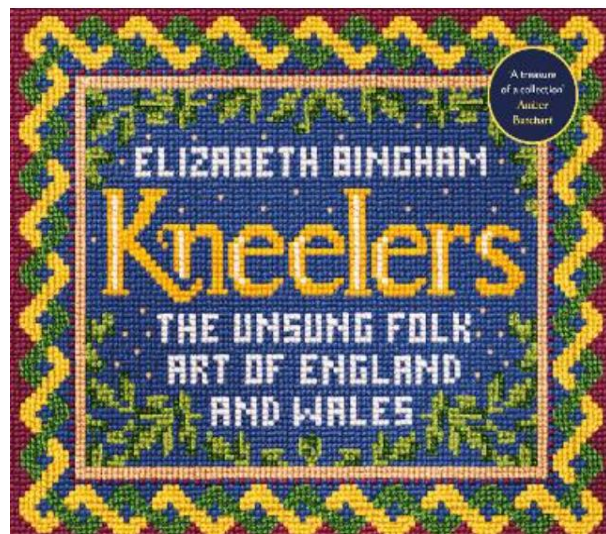
Kneelers: the unsung folk art of England and Wales

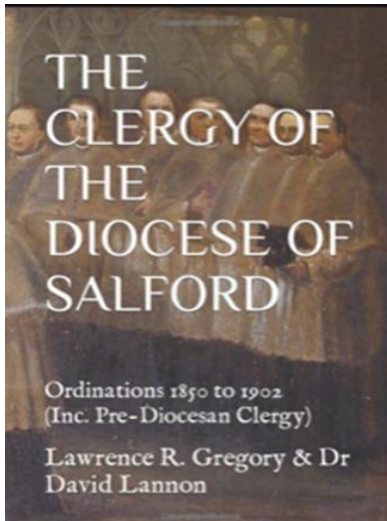
Elizabeth Bingham

ISBN: 9781784743963

Vintage House, 2023. £20.00 144pp.

A history of the craft of embroidering kneeler cushions, with full-colour illustrations of some of the amazing designs. Many church collections are featured, including those in the Priory Church of St Mary in Lancaster.





**THE CLERGY OF THE DIOCESE OF SALFORD:
Ordinations 1850 to 1902
(Inc. Pre-Diocesan Clergy)**

Lawrence R Gregory & Dr David Lannon

ISBN: 9798391339076 243pp.

£30 (Amazon <https://tinyurl.com/diocese-of-salford>)

The Diocese of Salford was founded as a result of the 1850 Papal Bull, *Universalis Ecclesiae*, known as the Restoration of the Hierarchy. It was one of thirteen such new dioceses. Nicholas Wiseman was made cardinal, and was the first Archbishop of Westminster. William Turner was appointed as the first Bishop of Salford in June 1851; the Church of St John the Evangelist, Salford, was elevated to Cathedral status in June 1852, and the Diocesan Chapter was instituted in the following month.

The project to research into the lives and ministries of the early clergy of the diocese has been ongoing for many years and is now being brought to fruition in a projected two volume publication. This, the first volume, tells the story of the clergy who were ordained for, or arrived to minister in, the diocese from its formation in 1850 to the death of the third Bishop of Salford, John Bilsborrow, in March 1903. It also includes details of those priests who were ordained prior to the Restoration of the Hierarchy in 1850, but who ministered in the Lancashire District, and before that the Northern District, at churches which would later become part of the Diocese of Salford.

RESEARCH ARTICLES



Portrait by Laszlo – public domain

Princess Marina

**Lancashire's Cotton Queen
by Ashley Del Vecchio**

1934 was a year that would forever bind Princess Marina to Lancashire's cotton kingdom. For this was the year that launched the largely forgotten trade war between Lancashire's mills and those in Queensland, Australia.

The cruel 1930s had already seen key markets like Hong Kong, India, China and Japan taper off, leaving Lancashire's cotton machines eerily quiet and her workers dispirited and hungry. By the 1930s, Australia and India were the main buyers of Lancashire cotton outside the British Isles, meaning that the new embargo on Lancastrian cotton bound for Australia hit communities like Preston hard.

Newspapers of the day carried snippets of Lancashire's cotton recession alongside the news that the Greek princess was to wed the debonair George, Duke of Kent, that same year. Before Marina became Duchess of Kent, Lancashire's cotton problems were already emerging. Just one month before the 1934 wedding of the Greek princess to her English duke, Lancashire's weavers and cotton manufacturers were forced to introduce revised wages, complicating the livelihood of at least 150,000 workersⁱ. In that same year, the cotton 'war' with Australia had already seen millions of pounds lost and countless Lancastrians made jobless. The income of the Australian-Lancastrian cotton partnership should not be underestimated; in six years alone during the 1920s and 1930s, Australian purchases of British cotton sat at a revenue of £41,000,000ⁱⁱ ⁱⁱⁱ.

As the first foreign princess to marry into the British Royal Family in 425 years, Marina knew that all eyes would be upon her. The hardships of 1930s Lancashire did not escape her attention. When her husband asked her to make cotton fashionable to the aristocracy, for the sake of helping to keep the mills open, she did. In a move unprecedented for royalty, Marina turned this versatile fabric into fashion, keeping Lancashire's produce in the papers and on the backs of British fashionistas. She not only put Lancashire cotton back on the map but helped to place Scottish tweeds and Nottingham lace into British wardrobes. Women wanted "the Duchess look". A buyer for one of the West End's higher-end department stores made it clear that women not only wanted to copy Marina's style, but that these cotton reproductions accounted for a hefty chunk of the store's revenue^{iv}.

"As a result of the interest of the Duchess in various printed cottons, our orders were much larger than ever before". ^v

- Unnamed cotton merchant and designer speaking in 1937

Marina joined other royals in the 1938 "Cotton Frocks for Ascot" campaign. The idea was simple: England's most glittering occasion would see its female patrons dazzle in Lancastrian cotton frocks, to raise awareness of the fierce competition that was keeping Lancashire's cotton looms cold. Not only was 1938's Royal Ascot an enormous success for cotton's popularity, but British designers threw themselves into British-produced products; Nottingham lace, Cornish silk and Bradford crepe all adorned the socialites' gowns of the era, notably on a base of Lancastrian cotton^{vi}.

Marina's wardrobe appealed not only to the chicest in society, but also to the everyday housewife and mother. Only a few years into the decline of Lancashire's cotton economy, Marina knew that her public appeal could go a step further in bolstering a key export from the red rose county. By 1940, articles were beginning to circulate urging mothers to follow Marina's choice of simple cotton garments for their children. By consciously dressing the young Alexandra and Edward in English cotton, the appeal caught on with the middle classes^{vii}, a move that would aid the cotton houses that *did* remain open during the war. By 1941, 107 "Lancashire spinning factories" were closed due to a prioritized focus on wartime activities, meaning that the mills which did continue to trade, held greater responsibility^{viii}.

Marina's commitment to Lancashire cotton continued well into the post-war years. In April 1952, up to 180,000 Lancs mill workers were jobless^{ix}. By October, Marina was on the case. The Duchess again popularised the versatility of Lancashire cotton,

by opting for British crepe and cotton dresses for her trip to Malaya, the reviews of which were read by millions worldwide^x. Understanding the pressures that ordinary women faced in the early 1950s, a time when rationing was still the norm, Marina opted for “*the sort of wardrobe any woman could wear—and many of the dresses would sell at prices any woman could pay*”^{xi}. Newspapers caught on, encouraging British women to follow Marina and don British cotton!

In 1954, a disastrous trade agreement between Lancashire and Japan was unveiled, which not only sent waves of anger and anxiety through the mills but saw Lancastrian politicians siding with the discontented. With this disappointment in mind, Marina again made the informed choice of British cotton ensembles for her highly photographed tour of North America. Copies of these dresses became *en vogue* worldwide^{xii}. This publicity for British cotton came at the perfect moment, as within a year, Lancashire’s mills would again fall eerily silent. British Pathé reported that by 1955, cheaper products from India and Japan were making Lancashire’s mills less and less likely to remain open, with 150,000 jobs at stake across the region: from Hyde and Oldham, to Nelson and Preston. Unemployment skyrocketed.

Lancashire’s cotton sister, Australia, again aggravated the situation when she dropped imports of Lancashire produce by 40 million yards annually. Perhaps the biggest competition for Lancashire cotton was from within the Empire itself. Japanese cotton goods would make a stopover in Hong Kong, still a part of Britain at the time, and would therefore be stamped with the misleading label of “British made”^{xiii}.

Though many mills were forced to shut during the 1950s, the swinging sixties held better hope. Though the enormous Dunlop Mill in Rochdale burnt down in 1960, by 1961 profits for Lancashire cotton had experienced “*the most unexpected upturn in prosperity within living memory*”^{xiv}. Princess Marina’s love for British cotton was seemingly passed on to her daughter, Princess Alexandra, who married in 1963 (in only the second British Royal wedding to be televised). Acorns and oakleaves adorned Alexandra’s much-discussed gown which, to the delight of her mother, was made of British novel cotton lace^{xv}.

Princess Marina passed away in 1968. With her went at least two of Lancashire’s once thriving cotton houses, the Tulketh mill in Preston and The Daisyfield Mill in Blackburn. By the time of her death, the mills had been closing at a rate of almost one per week. Though Marina could never have saved them all, she certainly did try.

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Ashley Del Vecchio is studying for an MA in history, with a view to completing a PhD, and is interested in researching and writing about British royal history, World War II, northern culture and European-American affairs. Ashley has lived in several different countries and, in addition to pursuing an interest in history, is also a teacher.

Footnotes

ⁱ“Empire”. *Weekly Times*. Sat 17 October 1934, p.13

ⁱⁱLancashire Boycott. *The Narracan Shire Advocate and Yallourn Brown Coal Mine, Walhalla and Thorpdale Lines Echo*. Fri 30th November 1934. p.2

ⁱⁱⁱIbid.

^{iv}Really a Tragedy. *The Beaudesert Times*. Friday 9 Dec 1938, p.8

^v Ibid.

^{vi}Cotton Frocks for England's Ascot. *The Daily Telegraph*. Mon 23 May 1938, p.14

^{vii}Follow the example of the Duchess of Kent. *The Sydney Morning Herald*. Tue 13 Aug 1940, p.13

^{viii}The Cotton Industry. *The West Australian*. 3 July 1941, p.6

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- ^{ix}Cotton workers hit hard. *The Daily Telegraph*. Thu 17 April 1952, p.2
- ^xWill protect the Duchess. *The Courier Mail*. Mon 1 September 1952, p.1
- ^{xi}Duchess' wardrobe simple but elegant. *The Courier Mail*. Fri 26 Sep 1952, p. 8
- ^{xii}Designed for Duchess. *Women's News*. Sat 4 September 1954.p.13
- ^{xiii} British Pathé. Lancashire - Cotton Crisis (1955).
- ^{xiv}Manchester Chamber of Commerce president Roland Thomas for *The Canberra Times*.
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- ^{xv}Lace Motif for Gown. *The Canberra Times*. Thu 25 April 1963, p.5

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