



LANCASHIRE LOCAL HISTORY FEDERATION

NEWSLETTER ISSUE NO. 38, FEBRUARY 2022

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View from the Chair

Will we or won't we? Can we or can't we? Should we or shouldn't we? All those confusing mixed messages about reopening and holding live meetings again are causing headaches for programme organisers, venue bookers, secretaries and (by no means least) speakers. I have had a couple of cancellations (or, to be accurate, postponements) already this year, but other societies are pressing ahead with resuming real events, while others are doing zoom meetings. That has its benefits for me as a speaker, no matter how much I enjoy giving talks to a live audience – at the beginning of February I'm zooming to Cocker mouth, not up the M6 and the A66 but via the ether, which is much more practical on a cold winter night than driving through Cumbria. And then there are the talks attended by people in California or New Zealand, the enthusiastic souls who get up at 2.30 in the morning to hear me give an on-screen talk ... and who seem to think it's been worthwhile (which is of course a great compliment). Meanwhile I am going through my diary and calendar, crossing out covid-wrecked engagements and booking new ones for the – let us hope – post-covid days this coming autumn and well into 2023. Fingers crossed ...

And now the greatest blessing that online meetings have brought ... they can solve that perpetual problem, the curse of almost all societies, namely "what do we do about the AGM"? The dreaded acronym used to be a guarantee of a poor

attendance, a small group of hardy stalwarts – mostly committee members – who felt obliged to turn up. A dreary agenda, the inevitable appeal for willing volunteers to step forward, the silence at “any other business” (unless it was old Joe who always wanted his penn’orth and raised some pointless irrelevance). Now, simply get a good speaker, have a brief AGM with people muted as much as possible, done and dusted in ten or fifteen minutes, and then sit back and enjoy the talk, all in the comfort of your own home. No room hire and room fee, no small number of people rattling around in a draughty hall ... here, my friends, we are seeing the future! But for me, you can’t beat a real talk to real people.

Alan Crosby

The Federation AGM will take place over Zoom – so there is plenty of room for all!

Following a short meeting, we will be treated to an engaging and intriguing talk by Dr Mike Winstanley:

**Did Shakespeare spend his ‘lost years’
as a teenager in Lancashire?’**

Please reserve the evening of **Tuesday 22 March**: the papers will be sent out nearer the time.

ADVANCE NOTICE FOR 14 MAY

Do you want to learn about one of the worst ever mining disasters in Britain? Or the burning of a mill by Luddites? One of our member societies, Westhoughton Local History Group, is hosting our annual ‘At Home’. They have worked enthusiastically to produce a fascinating programme of talks about the local area. This is an opportunity to learn about a part of the county you may not be familiar with, and to meet other people interested in local history from across the area. You will find the application form below. Do join us!



Lancashire Local History Federation Conference

At Home in Westhoughton

Saturday 14th May 2022

At Westhoughton High School,

Bolton Road, Westhoughton BL53DN

Programme

09.30 – 10.00 Assemble and coffee

10.00 – 10.15 Introduction

10.15 – 11.00 Westhoughton's History – Pam Wood, Anne Hodgson, Garth Ratcliffe

11.00 – 11.20 Short break/refreshments

11.20 – 12.30 Pretoria Pit Disaster (1910) – Alan Davies

12.30 – 13.45 Buffet Lunch

13.45 – 14.45 The History of the Bolton – Leigh Railway (1828) – Phil Wood, WLHG

14.45 – 15.00 Short break

15.00 – 15.45 The Burning of Westhoughton Mill by Luddites (1812) – Garth Ratcliffe and Colin Gradwell

Fee - £19 (to include lunch and all drinks)

There is free car parking at the venue. A link to the venue is <http://www.maphill.com/united-kingdom/england/north-west/bolton/westhoughton/detailed-maps/road-map/>

Applications must be received by 14th April 2022

Booking form for Lancashire Local History Federation "At Home in Westhoughton"

Please complete and return to Val Chadwick, 16 Dale Lee, Westhoughton, BL53YE. Tel 07908123397

e-mail valichad@gmail.com Please reserve me---- places.

Name(s) -----

Address -----

Telephone----- Email -----PRINT PLEASE

I enclose a cheque for -----made out to Westhoughton Local History Group

Or I wish to pay by BACS. Please transfer funds to the following account title Westhoughton Local History Group, Sort code 60-23-30 Account number 80542522. Ensure that you give your surname as reference.

NEWS FROM ARCHIVES

A farewell message from Jacquie Crosby

This is the last news you'll have from me as retirement looms on 31 March, but I'm delighted to announce that I will be replaced on 1 April by Alex Miller, who has transformed Wigan Archives over the last 15 years, and comes to Lancashire with a brilliant track record.

The pandemic is still casting a shadow over Lancashire Archives, but researchers continue to come into the record office and work through a large quantity of documents. Advance ordering works for most of them, and for us too, although we are still happy - staff numbers permitting - to produce additional items if information you uncover leads you in a different direction of research. In April the statistics will show that again more people are making enquiries and requesting copies. Our talks however continue to be virtual, hosted by the Friends of Lancashire Archives on Zoom. Details are published in *News from the Archives* which can be emailed to you each month if you contact archives@lancashire.gov.uk. The audience for our podcasts is worldwide, and the Federation chairman's Christmas contribution was especially popular: <https://bit.ly/3AtpTzq>

The temporary archive cataloguing post funded by the Friends of Lancashire Archives has, in 10 months, revealed the contents of 2857 uncatalogued boxes, and made them more accessible for research. Why not have a look on LANCAT? Roz Williamson, the archivist who started on the project last March, has just left for a permanent post at Arundel Castle and we are currently recruiting for her replacement.

In November we learned that we had been successful in securing a grant of £6,030 from the National Manuscripts Conservation Trust for the conservation of 9 volumes of accounts from the Shuttleworth family of Gawthorpe Hall, 1582-1621. The Friends of Lancashire Archives and the Friends of Gawthorpe have each generously contributed a further £500 towards the costs of this project. Work will begin in February, with an exhibition at Gawthorpe Hall in due course. Transcription of the diaries is also uncovering new and exciting information about that period of Lancashire's history.

I plan to attend the Federation AGM on 22 March, my last meeting, and I hope to see the Federation go from strength to strength in the future.

Jacquie Crosby

[We cannot do justice here to Jacquie's outstanding contribution to the Archives, and to her beneficial links with the Federation, so a fuller appreciation will follow in a later edition of the newsletter. Meanwhile we wish her a happy and fulfilling retirement – Ed.]

LANCASHIRE ARCHIVES TALKS **via Zoom**

Wednesday 23 February 14.15: Protest and community action. Victoria McCann explores items in the Archives which shed light on these crucial topics.

Wednesday 23 March 14.15: Aspects of women's history. Keri Nicholson will explore this topic as part of Women's History Month.

Email archives@lancashire.gov.uk for details of how to log on.

NEWS FROM MEMBER SOCIETIES

MANCHESTER VICTORIAN SOCIETY

Saturday 19 February 14.00 for 14.15. Digging the Bridgewater Canal: recent research at Worsley Green Workshops and Worsley Delph - Dr Michael Nevell, Industrial Heritage Support Officer for England at the Ironbridge Gorge Museum.

Cost £7 - please pay on the day. Stretford Public Hall, Chester Road, Stretford M32 OLG (the new venue for the Society's meetings).

Sunday 20 March, 14.00. The villas of Edgerton, Huddersfield: a guided walk led by author and local historian, David Griffiths. Cost £7 - please pay on the day.

Saturday 30 April, 14.00 for 14.15. Marching to Zion: Non-Conformist Chapels and Meeting Houses of the North West - Dr Roger Holden. independent historian and council member of the Chapel Society. Cost £7 - please pay on the day.

Please book in advance so that the Society can plan for the number of attendees. For further details and to book, contact anne.hodgson@hotmail.com

The **December edition of the newsletter** is full of interesting articles such as the history of the Society's new meetings venue, Stretford Public Hall, (by Richard Bond), and lost chapels on Stockport's Wellington Road (by Richard Fletcher).

There is a delightful piece by Neil Darlington concerning a controversy about angels. In 1896 the Middleton Arts and Crafts architect Edgar Wood produced a design for (an un-named) rural church in North Lancashire. The interior perspective, showing a wonderful hammerbeam roof supported by angels, was published in the *British Architect* of June 1896. Its publication sparked an unexpected controversy in the correspondence pages because the angels were seated! That was the beginning of a discussion (which some participants seemed to take seriously) which continued for some time without resolution.

The Society is very keen to retain existing members, and to recruit new members, especially since income has been reduced because of Covid. The battle to save Victorian and Edwardian buildings is ceaseless and depends on people to campaign. The website www.victoriansociety.org.uk gives further details, as well as a video by Griff Rhys Jones.

PENDLE HERITAGE

Saturday 12 February 10.30 Upstairs in the Gallery in the Barn: The Finds Liaison Officer for the Portable Antiquities Scheme will speak about artefact finds from all eras in the north west over the past year.

Tuesday 15 February 14.00 Nowt but a lad - Steve Williams talks about his eventful Lancashire life.

Thursday 17 March 19.00: Cotton Town Chronicles. Multimedia presentation with music and folk song. A synopsis of the time when cotton and coal were king.

Friday 25 March. Meet at 11.00 for a tour of Whalley Abbey: vernacular aspects of the lay brothers' dormitory, the old gatehouse and the ruins. Sandwich lunch £8.50 in the Abbey and tour of the Parish Church in the afternoon.

Please book in advance by emailing info@foph.co.uk

REGIONAL HERITAGE CENTRE [Regional Heritage Centre | Lancaster University](#)

Saturday 5 March: Annual Archaeology Forum – online. Presentations will be posted online leading up to the live Q&A, and will remain available for some weeks afterwards. Topics include:

- Discoveries at the Roman baths in Carlisle – Frank Giecco (Wardell Armstrong)
- Viking Age finds in the Isle of Man – Allison Fox
- A buried Victorian bath house in Manchester

Saturday 2 April. Study Day: Outsiders looking in: visitors impressions of the north west, presented by Dr Alan Crosby. This will be a hybrid event. Some of the presentations will be pre-recorded so that they can be watched in advance, or within the venue during the morning; then Alan will present the rest of the programme live and in person during the afternoon. This will be broadcast live for everyone joining online. It is hoped to record these sessions to make them available for anyone who enrolls but cannot be present on the day in person or online.

The current **Postgraduate Certificate in Regional and Local History** on the topic of 'The Northerners: the making of a region, 1000-1500' is fully subscribed, but applications are now being accepted for the next course commencing in October 2022. More details can be found at <https://bit.ly/3mFj7kv>.

SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Meetings are held on Wednesdays at Saddleworth Museum & Art Gallery, High Street, Uppermill, OL3 6HS. Members free; guests £3.

9 February 19.30: Northerners from the Ice Age to the present day – Brian Green

9 March 19.30: A history of the South Pennine landscape – Rob Vincent

13 April 19.30: Edward Elgar: the real enigma – Geoffrey Scargill

For further details contact the programme secretary, John T Curnow
johntravorcurnow@gmail.com

SKELMERSDALE HERITAGE SOCIETY

Three members of the society visited St Edmund's RC primary school in November to talk to Year 1 & 2 pupils about the history and heritage of the town. Pictures and artefacts depicting life in the old and new town brought history to life for the children and led to some interesting discussions about life in Skelmersdale then and now.



Topics ranged from what Skelmersdale was like in the past - Viking times, farming, the railway, and the town's mining history - to the development of the new town and what life is like for today's children in the town.

Asked what they would put in a new town if they had to plan one, most children opted for the same things which Skelmersdale Development Corporation proposed back in the 1960s. Shops, churches, schools, a swimming pool and play spaces were first choices, with the addition of fast food restaurants such as KFC and McDonalds. Skelmersdale Heritage Society hopes their experience of this visit will assist with a planned project to develop resources for use by both primary and secondary schools in the area.

Contact Skelmersdaleheritage@gmail.com or secretary Carol Fenlon 07748244711 if you would like tips on preparing for a school visit.

[If any other societies visit schools to talk about the history of their area, the editor would be pleased to highlight this in a future newsletter.]

WARRINGTON LITERARY AND PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

Please check with the Society whether the meetings will be over Zoom or in person [Warrington Literary & Philosophical Society: Homepage \(warringtonlitandphil.org.uk\)](http://warringtonlitandphil.org.uk)

Monday 7 February: The Philosophy of the Law - Andrew Grantham QC. What is the place of law in society? - what is law, what should it be, and do we have any moral obligation to comply with its requirements.

Monday 7 March: The cultural history of public transport and its current place in British life - Lynsey Hanley. Lynsey teaches at Liverpool John Moores University and is a writer: the author of *Estates: an intimate history* and *Respectable: crossing the class divide*. She has recently written on the current question of the North / South divide and regularly writes for *The Guardian*.

Monday 4 April: Machiavelli and the princes of Renaissance Europe - Dr Stella Fletcher. Niccolò Machiavelli (1469–1527) enjoyed an active career in public service but an accusation of involvement in a political conspiracy forced him into premature retirement and he channelled his energies into writing. Early in his career he had been employed as secretary to Florentine diplomatic missions. This allowed him to witness and reflect on the actions of rulers of non-republican states, resulting in the publication of *The Prince*. Stella will identify the individuals to whom Machiavelli alludes and explore the recent history behind his text.

NEWS ROUNDUP

DIGITAL SKILLS FOR HERITAGE

The National Lottery Heritage Fund hosts a wide range of resources to help organisations with all things digital and online. Topics (some in great detail) include:

- Online security and privacy
- Getting started in online learning
- Make online content accessible to all

These pages are well worth investigating, for societies which are new to the whole area, or for those which wish to further develop their online presence.

[Digital Skills for Heritage | The National Lottery Heritage Fund](#) . From the website you can sign up to the newsletter with more information about digital resources.

MANCHESTER HISTORY PODCASTS www.manlitphil.ac.uk/podcasts/mcr-history-talks

Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society hosts a series of podcasts, free to download, about different aspects of the history of Manchester. The two participants, Adam Waddingham and Jessica White, are both PhD history candidates at the University of Manchester. The three current topics are:

- Alcohol and drinking cultures in the north west
- Tourism, travel and heritage in Manchester, past and present
- Health history in Manchester

THE ATKINSON, Southport's premier museum and cultural centre, recently hosted a lecture by Dr Clare Downham about Viking settlement on the Wirral and the Battle of Brunanburh. The livestream was ticketed to raise funds for the museum, but the lecture is now freely available to watch [here](#).

LANCASHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY The venue for talks is now St Margaret's Church Hall, Ingol, Preston, PR2 3ZU. They start at 7.30. **Some will be held via Zoom** – please check the website <https://bit.ly/34HvuWB> or the society's Facebook pages before attending a meeting. New members very welcome.

Friday 18 February: Life and death in the early Mediaeval period: the Bamburgh Research Project - Graeme Young, project Director.

Friday 18 March: The religious landscapes of Hadrian's Wall - Dr Eleri Cousins, Lecturer in Roman History at Lancaster University.

Friday 22 April: Archaeology, antiquarians and anchorites: a new methodology for studying anchorism - Dr Victoria Yuskaitis, Academic Skills Officer, University of Southampton.

First ever mini conference: Sickness, Disease and Death (via Zoom)

Saturday 12 February 09.30 – 13.00.

Tickets £12. Tickets sales close 12:00 11 February 2022. Book via Eventbrite <https://bit.ly/31PMJUE>. Tickets provide access for one laptop or other device only.

Cancellation available up to 7 days before the event but Eventbrite's fee of £1.52 is non-refundable.

The programme consists of three enticing talks outlining new research in the region:

- Investigating Sickness, Disease and Death - Prof Geoff Timmins from UCLan. In this session Geoff will cover the lure of the physical evidence - local gravestone and monument inscriptions; the public health dimension - local public health reports and counting corpses: identifying and explaining local population crises.
- A talk about Norton Priory in Cheshire. Norton Priory is an excavated priory with a large collection of skeletal remains of patrons and monks. The talk will focus on new research into diseases and diet of the inhabitants.
- Post excavation skeletal analysis completed on St Peters Church Blackburn - Suzanne McGalliard of Headland Archaeology. Suzanne was the osteoarchaeologist at the burial ground where she helped excavate and analyse 2,000 human remains. Before working at Headland Archaeology, Sue worked in Western Australia with Aboriginal communities and the mining sector, undertook the exhumation and analysis of the first Archbishop of Perth and is working on the HS2 project.

MANCHESTER HISTORIES

ADVANCE NOTICE!

Manchester Histories Festival:
The History of Climate Change
Thursday 9 – Sunday 12 June 2022

Manchester Monastery
www.themonastery.co.uk will be the host venue for the festival, which will take place in locations across the city.

More details from
www.manchesterhistories.co.uk



SALFORD HISTORIES FESTIVAL Alexandra Mitchell

Saturday 30 October 2021 saw the return of the annual Salford Histories Festival following the two-year hiatus caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. Spread across Fletcher Hall and St Peter's Church, Swinton, the day was clear evidence not only

that Salford has an active local history scene but also that there is no shortage of audiences with an interest in and eagerness to learn about the heritage on their doorstep.

The day was officially opened by former councillor and local history enthusiast Derek Antrobus with an introduction from The Link's very own Don Rainger. Derek had worked as a journalist on local newspapers in Bolton and Salford and for the Open University as an associate lecturer in the Faculty of Social Science. In 1997 he published *A Guiltless feast: the Salford Bible Christian Church and rise of the modern vegetarian movement*, as he wanted to redress the imbalance of Salford landscapes created by L S Lowry, Walter Greenwood, Shelagh Delaney and Robert Roberts, and reclaim the image of the city as a 'place of poets and philosophers...[and] enlightened municipal endeavour'.

Stalls in Fletcher Hall included the Manchester Region Industrial Archaeology Society, Manchester and Lancashire Family History Society, Eccles and District History Society and Altrincham History Society, all of which had publications for sale. A broad range of Alan Godfrey maps was available to purchase from Chris Makepeace, antiquarian books from Bob Dobson and the distinctive Neil Richardson Publications about local history. The Friends of Salford Museum were in attendance as was the Salford Link magazine, from whom visitors could purchase back copies.

The author and historian Richard Lysons was selling copies of his recent publication *Were you there? Popular music at Manchester's Free Trade Hall, 1951-1996* (published 2020), in which he has delved into the Free Trade Hall archives held by Manchester Archives+, to provide commentary on the headline acts which played at the venue. Brian Carline was promoting three of his books, all of which have a comedy slant about the 'hard but happy days' of growing up in Lancashire and specifically Salford.

The Irwell Valley Mining Project had as always an impressive collection of artefacts and publications on display. A stall from the Manchester Bolton & Bury Canal Society provided information about the part-restoration of the canal. Opened in 1797, the Salford Arm ran north from the Oldfield Road terminus on the river Irwell to Prestolee near Little Lever. In 2012 the Society built a Meccano bridge at Nob End in Little Lever, designed by Liam Curtin. There were photographs and a model of the brightly coloured bridge on display. The FRECCLES (Friends of Eccles Station) and FROPS (Friends of Patricroft Station) stall was advertising heritage walking tours of the Bridgewater Canal.

A highlight was the Swinton Lions/Swinton's Supporters' Trust, whose stall featured original historic team photographs, shirts and tickets stubs. The stall was complemented by a talk by Steve Wild about the Lions with a focus on the grounds where they played over their 155-year history, from Burying Lane to Stoneacre and Chorley Road, and some of the teams they encountered.

The other talks which took place were by Derek Antrobus about the clergyman Hugh Stowell, incumbent at St Stephen's followed by Christ Church, Acton Square; John Garrard on 'Salford's problem with Manchester'; 'Looking back at old Swinton and Pendlebury Journals' by David Roughley and 'Salford locos' by George Dawes.

One of the side rooms in Fletcher Hall was occupied by The Merry Trotter Mobile Museum of Memorabilia. Run by Domenico and Denise the museum had on display

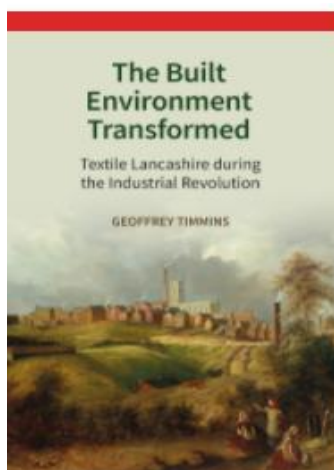
a vast array of objects and items from the past which they take into nursing and care homes for reminiscence and memory sessions. The idea started with a toasting fork at an antique fair where Domenico witnessed first-hand the power of objects and artefacts to help individuals with dementia to recall memories. One curious object was a tiny travel iron, probably from the mid-20th century, which was designed to plug into a light bulb socket!

The day gave the opportunity to showcase recent research, despite the limitations many have encountered in the last two years of getting access to local history library resources and archives. Age UK Swinton Local History and Heritage Group had on display maps and photographs, and the Friends of Salford Cemeteries had information about the forgotten lives of people who had been interred over the years, alongside advice about how to find graves.

A vintage bus, fleet number 254 painted in 'Salford Green' and dating from 1966 was situated outside St Peter's Church. It was a front-engine model from Manchester Transport Museum with a Metro-Cammell 'Orion' body and a Leyland 0.6000, 9.8 litre engine.

Stalls in St Peter's church included Friends of Buile Hill Park, St Mark's church Worsley, and art work by Salford Art Club and the Salford artist Tom Brown. St Peter's own stall provided information about the history of the building and its congregation and included some items from its own archives including a register of marriage banns from the early 20th century. A particular treat for this writer was the chance to climb the winding stone staircase of St Peter's clock tower to reach the bell ringing room.

PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST



The built environment transformed: textile Lancashire during the Industrial Revolution

Geoffrey Timmins

Historic England, 2021. ISBN 978-1800856530
Usual price £40, but members of the Federation can take advantage of a 30% reduction in the price by using the code TIMMINS30 via

www.liverpooluniversitypress.co.uk

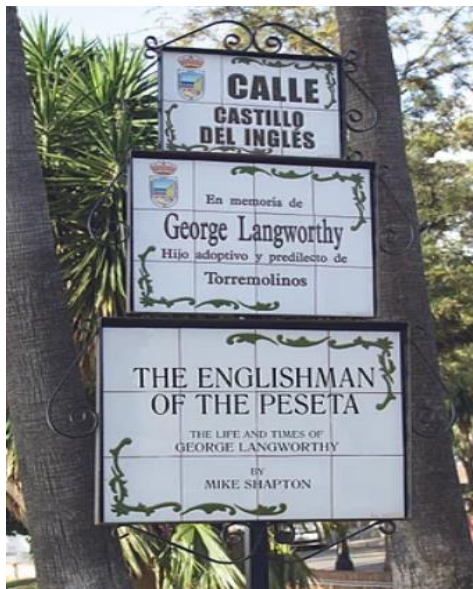
The book deals with the remarkable changes brought about to the built environment in Lancashire's main textile district – mainly in central and eastern districts – in the period c1780-c1850.

The case studies cover six different types of site, including a water-powered mill, a factory village and a former handloom weavers' colony. Locations include Bolton, Blackburn, Horwich, Edgworth, and others.

Emphasis is placed on interpreting physical evidence to show how the built environment was extended and striking new features added. The research is founded on various types of documentary sources, especially maps.

Insights are provided into the economic and social impact the changes brought, especially on the everyday lives that people led.

Geoffrey Timmins is Emeritus Professor in the School of Humanities, Language and Global Studies at the University of Central Lancashire.



THE ENGLISHMAN OF THE PESETA: The life and times of George Langworthy

Mike Shapton

£11.95 Aspect Design www.aspect-design-net

This biography (in English) outlines the life of George Langworthy, the adoptive son of Torremolinos whose house became the first hotel on the Costa del Sol. Mike Shapton became interested in the story after hearing about it when in Spain.

George Langworthy, from Salford, began the transformation of this stretch of Spanish coastline into the popular resort it is today.

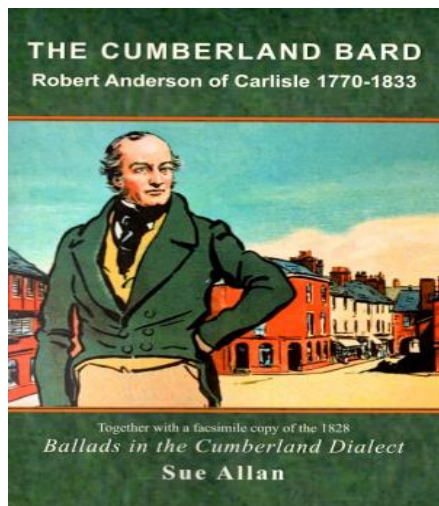
As a young man, George came into a huge fortune when his uncle, Edward Riley Langworthy, died in 1874, leaving him £35,000. (A ward in Salford is named after the Langworthy family.) George became a cavalry officer, spending several years in India before returning to the UK. After being seriously injured with his regiment during the Boer War, he and his wife Anne Margaret Roe (the daughter of the principal judge of the chief court of the Punjab) travelled to Spain where they created their own little paradise in a small fishing village called Torremolinos.

They renovated a villa called the Castillo Santa Clara, updating the enormous gardens of the property with picturesque views over the sea.

After Anne died at the age of 40 in 1913 George threw himself fully into supporting the church and helping the needy. Over the next few years he would become famous across Andalucía as 'El inglés de la peseta', the Englishman of the peseta, because, if visitors could recite a Bible verse, he would give them a silver peseta.

During his lifetime, the Salford-born former soldier gave away his vast fortune to the poor and needy around Torremolinos. He bequeathed his villa to his staff. To provide an income, they converted the estate into a hotel, the first on the Costa del Sol. Guests there have included Salvador Dalí.

George died in 1945 and is buried in the English cemetery in Málaga, next to his beloved wife. There is a memorial in his honour which still stands in Torremolinos today. He is remembered with gratitude and fondness in Spain – but probably forgotten in his birthplace.



THE CUMBERLAND BARD:

ROBERT ANDERSON OF CARLISLE 1770-1833

Sue Allan

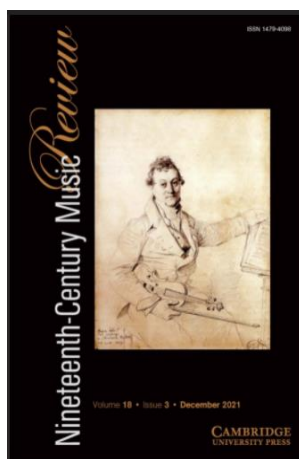
166pp. B&w ill. ISBN 9781912181353 £15

Pub. by Books Cumbria <https://bit.ly/3mtMkNU>

Robert Anderson of Carlisle 'the Cumberland Bard' was the most prolific of the 'multiplication of dialect versifiers' to be found in Cumberland in the nineteenth century, despite poverty and little formal education.

Nonetheless, he went on to publish a collection of poetry in standard English, and popular editions of Cumberland dialect ballads. Sue Allan explores his life and works and the insights he gives into life in north Cumberland at the start of the 19th century. His legacy includes songs written for London audiences and dialect ballads which have entered the folk tradition. The 1828 edition of 'Ballads in the Cumberland Dialect' is published here in facsimile. It is the first time Anderson has been in print for well over 100 years.

Sue Allan was born and bred in Cumbria. She researches and writes on the social history and folk music of the county, and is well known as a performer of its songs, tunes and dances.



From extraordinary success to no considerable results: Victorian music entrepreneurialism and the Crystal Palace Brass Band Competition 1860-1863

Phil Boardman

Nineteenth Century Music Review, vol. 18, issue 3,
December 2021. An open-access article via Cambridge
Core, which can be viewed and downloaded at
<https://doi.org/10.1017/S1479409821000446>

Bands from every part of the country, including the north west, converged on the Crystal Palace for brass bands contests in July 1860, organised by Enderby Jackson. A contemporary report stated it was 'the greatest meeting of brass instrument performers which has ever been assembled'. What seemed likely to be established as a long-term annual meeting ended in 1863 for obscure (but probably

financial) reasons. The events were attended by thousands of people; this well-researched article examines the extent of their success and the reasons for their abrupt termination.

Phil Boardman retired after over thirty years with Greater Manchester Police in a variety of roles. He then took a music degree, and is now working towards a PhD at the University of York, whilst still living close to his home town of Leigh, Lancashire. His research is on the subject of musical ensembles in the Lancashire area. He has played in and conducted a number of brass bands in the North West and Midlands. He is currently the conductor of the Greater Manchester Police Band and a local operatic company. He has recently started work as a criminal investigator for GMP. He believes his background 'helped me to think critically about the subject of my article using the ABC of policing; accept nothing, believe no one, check/challenge everything.'

Fear in the time of Covid-19

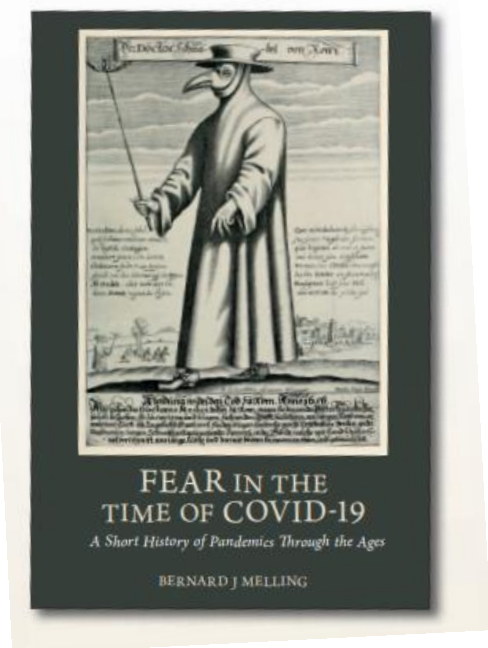
Bernard Melling

ISBN 9781399908085 Pbk. 230pp.

To order a copy for £14 inc. p&p (or £11.99 if collected in person) contact Bernard Melling

01257 or 07526326217 or
bjm164@gmail.com

The author examines the nature of viruses and bacteria, and looks back to previous pandemics – the fear created and the measures taken to mitigate their effects.



He looks at the global picture, but also the effects on places in Lancashire.

He warns that we need to learn lessons from Covid-19 as a harbinger of future pandemics.

REQUESTS

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED TO TRANSCRIBE RUSKIN'S NOTEBOOKS

The Ruskin Research Centre and Library at Lancaster University is calling for volunteers to join The Ruskin on Zooniverse, the world's largest platform for people-powered research, and help transcribe Ruskin's unpublished diary notebooks. The transcriptions produced by participants in this project, and images of the manuscript pages, will later be published online, providing unprecedented access to Ruskin's notebooks.

The notebook selected for this pilot run of the project is known as MS12 or the 'Rock book' (shown here). Ruskin mainly used this notebook between 1859 and 1863. In addition to accounts of his visits to Ireland and the Continent, the notebook contains historical and geological notes and diagrams.

Participants are welcome to transcribe as many pages as they wish.

Click [here](#) to find out more.



LANCASTER CYCLE CLUB

Edith Tracey-Smith is researching the club, as her husband's grandfather was the secretary in 1875.

His name was F W Smith; he was presented with a beautiful clock on his retirement, which is still with the family. Edith would be grateful for any images or information about F W Smith and the club. She can be contacted on deetraceysmith@aol.com



Migration Stories NW

Global Link is looking for volunteers interested in researching local histories of migration for a new community heritage project. The project is supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and aims to document stories of people who have moved in and out of our region from the Romans to the 20th century.

The stories will feature on an interactive online map and will also be used in school workshops and touring exhibitions. Both experienced and novice heritage researchers are welcome. Support and training will be provided for those who are new to this work and there will be opportunities for study visits and group meetings with other volunteers.

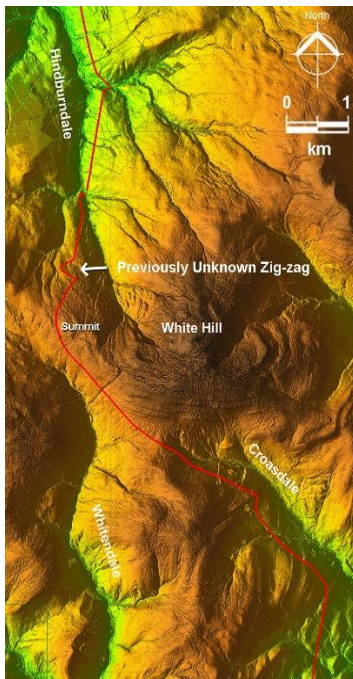
The project will take place from February to August 2022 with the option to take part in further activities after that.

If you are interested or would like to know more, please contact Alison at Global Link: a.loydwilliams@globalink.org.uk.

RESEARCH ARTICLES

THE ROMAN ROAD OVER THE BOWLAND FELLS

There is no doubt that Lancashire's most spectacular Roman road is that which crosses over the Bowland Fells. To do so it first makes a long climb through Croasdale from above Slaidburn, skirts around White Hill, attaining a height of over 1400 feet, before descending into the upper reaches of the Hindburn Valley. The route was known with reasonable precision - or so we all thought. The very recent release of Lidar data by Defra for these fells has thrown up several corrections and one big surprise. A surprise that leaves anyone who has walked this route (me included) scratching their heads as to how we all missed it.



This road over the fells is part of what was probably the Romans' main route to the north on the west side of the Pennines. It runs from Manchester to Kirkby Thore in Cumbria via Ribchester, Burrow-with-Burrow and Low Borrowbridge. The part we are considering here is the central 10 miles or so of the Ribchester to Burrow section (fig.1 *left*).

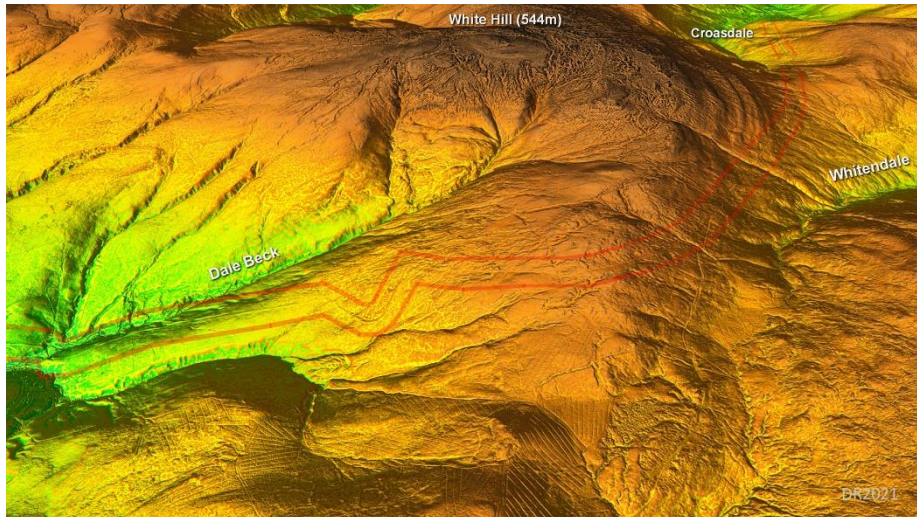
First those route corrections, which are on the long ascent from Croasdale. The Roman line is much more direct than the modern track, today usually referred to as the Hornby Road. There are 5 main deviations, at SD69050 55653, SD68724 55887, SD67967 56772, SD67255 57076 & SD66565 57520. The last named is by far the longest. Lidar, being precision height data, also gives an accurate summit height for the road of 1420 feet. It would have been higher had the Romans not excavated down for a level platform for their road.

But what about that big surprise? This occurs on the northern decent. After a curving change of direction at the summit the road heads down to the Hindburn Valley, and modern Ordnance Survey mapping shows a typically straight alignment.

How wrong could we be! There follows a totally unknown, superbly engineered, double zigzag (fig. 2 *below*).

First a very short one to the right (east) before immediately crossing sides for a huge zigzag to the left (west). This makes a short curving turn at its extremity before returning to the main straight alignment. Lidar indicates that the western zigzag has survived in excellent condition. It is perhaps the best I have come across. This is not to be confused with the known zigzag at the bottom of the descent. Well it was known to all except the Ordnance Survey.





In hindsight we should have realised that the "new" upper zigzag would have been needed to ease the gradient there (figure 3 above). It is by far the steepest section on the whole crossing - just walking up it was very hard work. Measurement of the slope shows that a straight line would have had a gradient of 1 in 6. We now know from elsewhere that a maximum gradient of around 1 in 10 was generally preferred for Roman traffic and the zigzag achieves this. My excuse for not spotting this previously is that at this altitude the road is masked in peat but I did miss a clue. A photo I took when walking this road years ago clearly hinted that the road was not on the accepted line, but I never thought such a huge deviation could have existed, particularly one that had not been spotted before.

The walk along this road is highly rewarding. I always used to recommend walking south to north, as going the other way involved that steep northern climb. Perhaps if you use the zigzag that recommendation is no longer valid! Many more images of this road and the new zig-zag are available on my website www.twithr.co.uk I have also made a video flyover of the crossing and this is available on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/BqfpFWtWqXY>

David Ratledge

MIDWIVES IN EIGHTEENTH CENTURY CHORLEY

Background

Historically, obstetrics was a female-managed area of medicine. Women relied on the services of midwives when expecting babies. Midwife means "with-woman"; in other words the woman who would be with the mother-to-be during the delivery of the infant. The midwife took charge and was therefore in a powerful position. Men were excluded. She would be remunerated for her services but the amount and nature of the remuneration would vary depending on the circumstances. Given the lack of effective contraception, women spent a large part of their married years pregnant and nursing infants. This meant that there was a constant flow of work for midwives.

Midwifery is generally a difficult area to research, as midwives being part time were usually elusive in surviving records. However, Episcopal Licensing, which had

originally been introduced for medical men and schoolmasters, was extended to include midwives and these records, which last until the mid-eighteenth century, are fruitful sources of information. At first it may appear strange that the licensing system should extend from professional men, usually with a background of education and training, to women who have traditionally been depicted as uneducated and even unskilled. The answer lies in the churches' concern for the manners and morals of its congregations and the fact that the evidence of the midwife could be vital in bastardy and paternity cases and thus help to save poor law costs for parishes.

Any unlicensed midwife was reported by local churchwardens and summoned by them to attend an Episcopal Visitation to obtain a licence. She would be accompanied by witnesses and possibly supported by testimonials. It is quite likely that records do not fully cover non-conformists and Roman Catholics.

Some midwives had a wider practice than others, and it would be they who would be licensed. Even so, they would hardly be overworked: Adrian Wilson, in his study of midwifery in the Diocese of Ely, suggested an average of one birth per midwife per month.

Chorley

Eighteenth century Chorley was a small town with a population of a few hundred so a licensed midwife's workload would not have been great. It appears that Chorley may have been served by one family of midwives throughout the eighteenth century. This would not be unusual as, although midwifery was largely learned through experience, daughters often picked up the practice from their mothers. In Chorley an Anna Leigh (Lea) was practising between 1701 and 1725. In 1738 Elizabeth Leigh (Lea) was listed twice in the Chester Diocesan records, either as the same or a different person, and was listed again in 1747.ⁱ The practice of Episcopal Licensing died out in the second half of the century, but in a 1793 trade directory Nancy Lee was listed as a Chorley midwifeⁱⁱ.

The background of the Leigh family is difficult to ascertain. The original Anna Leigh may well have been the wife of a relatively prosperous "husbandman", Joseph Leigh. Ann Leigh was recorded as being buried in Chorley on 27 September 1726, and her husband on 5 December the same year. The inventory to the will of Joseph Leigh, drawn up on 7 December 1726 is quite impressive, totalling £184 6s 2d. If this was the husband of Anna the midwife, the inventory would indicate that was a prosperous family. Perhaps therefore the practice of midwifery was not needed for financial reasons, but possibly simply an inherited practice and/or a means of attaining/maintaining social status in the community.

The origins of these early eighteenth-century Leighs are not known, although it is tantalising to note that Quarter Session records from 1701 and 1704 record a Martha Leigh, midwife in Manchester and Ormskirk.ⁱⁱⁱ There is a Leigh family memorial in St. Laurence's, the parish church in Chorley, which records three generations of the family in the eighteenth century.

In the latter half of that century, William and Edmund Leigh were major figures in the cotton trade in the town, and owned land and property in other townships, with

mining and quarrying interests. They took an active part in the affairs of the town through membership of the Vestry and supported Enclosures. Evidence of their social network can be seen in the number of wills of Chorley gentlemen and businessmen where Edmund and William Leigh are mentioned as executors. When parts of the Weld estate were sold off, they were buyers. The 1801 Land Tax Assessment shows that Edmund and William owned Nancy Leigh's farm. This was described in Thomas Weld's sale of 1797 to be over 8 acres, a messuage and tenement, leased by Ann Leigh. (Nancy Lee in 1781 and Nancy Leigh in 1791 Land Tax Assessments.)

As mentioned earlier, Nancy Lee was listed as a midwife in the 1793 directory. In 1782 Nancy Leigh was double-assessed for Land Tax, possibly indicating that she was a Catholic. She served as Overseer in Chorley from 1791-94. In the Land Tax Assessment of 1791, as well as being a Weld tenant, Miss Leigh was listed as a property owner (Stoops). Ann Leigh died in 1805, and was buried on 15 March. Her will described her as a spinster with an estate valued between £40 and £100. Ann Leigh was clearly an independent woman of means and stature, and just as Edmund and William re-enforced their social network through executorship of wills, Ann did the same through her practice of midwifery.

The fact that no other midwife has been identified in Chorley in the eighteenth century other than with the name Leigh or a variation thereof must surely indicate a family practice.

No similar family association has been found in the neighbouring townships, although there do appear to be long-serving midwives. In particular, Elizabeth Finch was notable having apparently served Rivington and Coppull (townships several miles apart). She was licensed in 1725 and, having been widowed, married Henry Ellison of Standish in 1729,^{iv} and was still listed as a midwife in Standish in 1747.^v Standish appears to have had several midwives licensed and active at the same time, particularly in 1747, but this may simply reflect the keenness of the local churchwardens.

The only other local township which had licensed midwives was Leyland, which has two in 1728 and one in 1742. The latter, Ann Ellat, had obtained a licence the previous year.^{vi} Her husband, like that of Ann Leigh, was a fairly prosperous man; he was a mason and on his death in 1771 left to his wife "yearly rents and profits of all those my lands, houses and tenements situate in Leyland."^{vii}

The information that we have about the Leigh midwives and Ann Ellat shows that they were women of "middling status" either the spouse of a yeoman, or a property owner herself who undertook her duties as a social responsibility or a charitable service.

Over such a distance in time, it is impossible to evaluate the technical competence of these midwives. The evidence that some plied their skills for many years must indicate a degree of consumer satisfaction. However, the consumers may not have been mainly concerned with technical skill. Instead, they might have been more

concerned with the nursing, post-natal care and support services offered by the midwife.

The majority of women in eighteenth century Chorley, being of lesser status, would be served during and after childbirth by a family member or neighbour who left no historical footprint, being unlicensed and unrecorded in any other way.

ⁱ Chester Diocese Call and Correction Books

ⁱⁱ The Universal British Directory of Trade and Commerce. Vol.2., 1793, London

ⁱⁱⁱ QSP/860/56 Ormskirk -- relief for Martha Leigh, midwife, aged 75. c1701; QSP/909/2 Manchester -- relief for Martha Leigh, midwife. c1704.; QSP/909/3 Manchester -- relief for Martha Leigh, midwife. c1704

^{iv} Standish Parish Registers

^v Call and Correction Books, *op. cit.*

^{vi} *Ibid*

^{vii} Chester Wills

LANCASTRIENSIS by Alan Crosby

On 12 August 1589 the Reverend Richard Chaplen, vicar of Little Clacton in Essex, was buried, having been the incumbent for some sixteen years. Little Clacton is now a suburbanising parish, just inland from the seaside resort of Clacton-on-Sea (which historically was Great Clacton). And what, you might not unreasonably wonder, does this have to do with Lancashire and its history?¹

The answer is rather unexpected. Almost a decade later Chaplen's successor, obeying a 1598 injunction of the synod of Canterbury, wrote out the entire parish register (in a fine clear hand) in a parchment volume, starting at the beginning in 1538 – sixty years of baptisms, marriages and burials. Most entries were copied exactly, but when he came to write out the entry which recorded the burial of Richard Chaplen nine years previously, he added an extra note:

Mr Richard Chaplen which had beene here vicar of litle Clackton about sixteene year was buried the xiith of August, in Anno Domini; 1589. Richard Schofield lancastriensis succeedinge him in December followinge, viz. in Anno Dom. 1589²

So, there's the reason for my interest – in the last years of the reign of Elizabeth the vicar of Little Clacton, far away beside the coast of Essex, was a man who proudly described himself as '**lancastriensis**', a man of Lancashire. Who was he, and how did he come to that obscure place? The answers to both parts of that question are as yet elusive, I'm afraid. The challenges of long-distance research and, more especially, the vagaries of archival survival, have frustrated some of my investigations. However, some pieces of the jigsaw have been put in place, and others seem now to be tantalisingly within reach. It's a work in progress.

¹ I should like to give my special thanks to my good friend Ian Beckwith, whose researches into aspects of 16th and 17th Essex uncovered the parish register entry which is the basis of this short article, and who has given me much valuable information.

² Essex Record Office D/P 80/1/1 St James Little Clacton Register (1538-1666)

First, something absolutely definite. By the 1580s it was usual, although no means invariable, for Church of England clergymen to have graduated from one of the two universities – especially those working in the southern dioceses. Checking in Venn's *Alumni Cantabrigienses*, which is now available as an online database, brought its reward.³ It records that Richard Schofield matriculated as sizar in Christ's College, Cambridge, in the Lent term of 1577/8. In other words, he went to Cambridge and was admitted to the college sometime after New Year 1578 (using our post-1752 notation). A 'sizar' was an undergraduate of low social and financial status ... a commoner, therefore. That is perhaps no surprise, as Lancashire was proverbially a poor, socially-conservative county with few elite connections.

Naturally, I wrote to the college archivist, Genny Silvanus, who responded by return of email – she regretted to report that the college records for this early date are very scanty, and the admission registers (which would probably have included the name of Richard's father and even his birthplace) do not begin until 1622. Venn compiled his earlier listings from other sources, and gives no more information. There is nothing more in the college archives to shed light on Richard, his background or origins. Genny was, however, delighted to receive my query, because – amazingly – she told me, “my mother grew up in Little Clacton and my granny's ashes (she was a keen churchgoer) are in the corner of the churchyard. It is certainly a small world!”

In the 1570s men often went up to university at what might seem to us a rather young age – 14 or 15 was not that uncommon. However, being cautious, the online version of Venn's *Alumni* suggests that Richard was born circa 1559, at the start of Elizabeth's reign. It could well have been a year or two later, but caution is wise. This means that he would have probably been ordained as a priest in about 1583, after three years as a student at Cambridge (roughly 1578-1581). The next stage was therefore to try to track down his ordination, and that is more problematic. There's a period of about six years before he arrived at Little Clacton in December 1589, and it's not clear where he was during that time.

Ordination was normally done by, or under the auspices of, a diocesan bishop. Cambridge was, and is, in the diocese of Ely, the records of which are held by Cambridge University Library and which have virtually no material for ordination or licensing of clergy in the reign of Elizabeth. There's a little for 1560-1580, but of course that is just too early for these purposes. Alternatively, Little Clacton was, like all of Essex, in the diocese of London in this period – a friend searched at London Metropolitan Archives on my behalf, looking through the bishop of London's ordination register 1550-1628,⁴ for the key period from 1578 to 1589. Sadly, she drew a blank – there was no entry for that surname or for any of its feasible variants.

³ <https://venn.lib.cam.ac.uk/> The printed volume from which the database entry was derived is *Alumni Cantabrigienses: A Biographical List of All Known Students, Graduates and Holders of Office at the University of Cambridge, from the Earliest Times to 1900 (pt.1 vol.4 Saal to Zuinglius)* published in 1927

⁴ DL/A/B/001/MS09535/001-002 ordination register 1550-1628

However, all is not completely lost. The London Metropolitan Archives also have the bishop's register covering 1559-1594,⁵ and it might give a clue. A bishop's register records all manner of transactions, actions and official business undertaken in a diocese by the bishop or in his name. Three hundred years ago an extraordinary man called Richard Newcourt was the principal registrar of the diocese of London for 27 years, and filled his apparently ample leisure time by compiling a monumental work on the ecclesiastical history of every parish in the diocese. Volume 2, printed and published in 1710, covered the archdeaconries of Essex, Colchester and Middlesex, and all the other weird and esoteric jurisdictions in the county.⁶ The section on 'Clacton Parva' names Richard Schofield and gives a page reference in Bishop Grindal's register – the one now in London Metropolitan Archives. That's my next port of call, but I am not yet putting any money on the results being useful. Not least, Richard might conceivably have been ordained in a quite different diocese, such as Norwich or even Chester, though that is much less likely.

Richard was probably married by the time he came to Little Clacton just before Christmas in 1589. He and his wife Margaret had several children whose baptisms their father recorded in the register: Susanna (1592), Richard (1596), Philip (1598 but died in infancy), Elinor (1601) and Elizabeth (1604). Richard himself died shortly after Elizabeth was born – the parish register states, 'Anno Domini 1604 Buried as followeth: Richard Schofield vicar of Clacton Parva was buried the 15th January 1604'. This is 1605 by our notation. Richard was probably about 45 or 46 years old. The surname continues in the parish registers of Little Clacton during the rest of the 17th century, but as yet no trace has been found of Margaret's burial, or indeed of her marriage to Richard sometime between, I guess, 1584 and 1590. A wider search of parish registers might provide the evidence.

Meanwhile, I have of course also been looking at the Lancashire end. Richard's surname is very distinctive – not only is it unquestionably a Lancashire name, but also historically it was particularly concentrated in the Rochdale area. This is not surprising, because Schofield is actually a place-name so this is therefore a medieval locative surname, derived from the place. It was in the township of Butterworth, where Schofield Hall was at Rakewood, at the south-east end of Hollingworth Lake, a site now almost in the shadow of the viaduct which carries the M62 over the valley of Longden End Brook. We can perhaps assume that, as a family which produced at least one Church of England clergyman - see below – Richard's forebears were fairly high up the social scale ... were they the Schofields of Schofield, perhaps?

I've been checking the probate records at Lancashire Archives. There are about two dozen of them from the period 1570 to 1620, and so far nothing has come up which might categorically link 'my' Richard with the names and families mentioned in the wills and administrations. There are similar names – but that is what I would expect from a period when Christian names tended to be chosen from a pretty short list. I

⁵ DL/A/A/006/MS09531/013/001

⁶ Richard Newcourt, *Repertorium Ecclesiasticum Parochiale Londoninse: An Ecclesiastical Parochial History of the Diocese of London ... vol.2 comprising all of the County of Essex* (1710)

should in other circumstances search baptism registers in Lancashire, but those for Rochdale St Chad, which is much the most likely parish, do not begin until 1582, over 20 years too late, and other outside possibilities such as Bury St Mary (1590) are even less helpful.

But there is something else that tantalises and prompts further queries. There was another Schofield at Christ's College at roughly the same time as Richard. Thomas Schofield matriculated there in the Easter term of 1577, not quite a year before Richard. They could well have been brothers, given the much greater flexibility of the age of admission 450 years ago, and I think that there can be no doubt at all that they were closely related. The name is exceptionally unusual in the annals of the University of Cambridge and indeed of Oxford – to find two occurrences in this way seems to me to mean that a family connection is a certainty.

This intrigues me even more, because the very fragmentary records relating to the small chapel at Holcombe in the township of Tottington Higher End (parish of Bury) include a reference in a diocesan visitation return to one Thomas Scholefield, who was curate there in 1609.⁷ Were there two sons of the family who went into the Church? So that is another possible line of enquiry, via the diocesan records which are held at Cheshire Archives and Local Studies. Again, I am not working on the assumption that anything will be forthcoming, but I live in hope!

Overall, therefore, I feel I'm closing in on some more promising discoveries but, as we all know, nothing is guaranteed in historical and archival research. I'd really like to find some answers, though, because I am fascinated by the story of the young man in late Elizabethan Essex who, having been away from his roots for well over a decade, was proud to label himself for posterity as 'lancastriensis'. And I also wonder whether his parishioners understood his Rochdale accent!

⁷W. Farrer and J. Brownbill (eds), *Victoria County History of Lancashire vol.5* (1911) 148