



Local
History
Federation
ancashire

LANCASHIRE LOCAL HISTORY FEDERATION

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NO. 18 FEBRUARY 2017

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Telephone: 0161 256 6585 email: m.edwards309@btinternet.com

***DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: MAY 15TH, 2017**

***PLEASE NOTE REMAINING DEADLINES FOR 2017:**

MAY 15th; AUGUST 15th; NOVEMBER 15th

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|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------|--|
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*** The Editor cordially invites you to submit your Society information,
and your own news, notes, reports and articles.***

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View from the Chair

Once again we have a newsletter packed with useful and interesting information. For this we offer warm thanks to the editor, Margaret Edwards, who hunts down and co-ordinates news items from across the county palatine and further afield. Margaret has indicated that she wishes to relinquish this valuable task by the end of the year. We would very much like to hear from anyone who would like to take on the role, for which we would give plenty of support.

On 6th of May, we are to have an 'At Home' hosted by Stockport Local History Society. There will be an interesting morning of talks about the area, and the opportunity in the afternoon to visit some of the local historical venues. More details about the day will soon be available.

At lunchtime there will be the very short Federation AGM, at which the officers and committee will be elected. I would like you to consider becoming a member of the committee, for which we have up to three vacancies including the editorship mentioned above. I can honestly say we are a very friendly and productive group; and a further point to note is that, apart from giving general support, the committee members attend only four meetings a year.

If you feel you would like to consider either of the two remaining committee positions please do not hesitate to contact me. My contact details are set out at the top of this page.

With very best wishes,
Marianne.



OUR FEDERATION STUDY DAY

**Saturday 18 February 2017 at the Preston Masonic Hall, Saul Street PR1 2QU
(Ample pay-&-display car parking in vicinity)**

TOIL & STRIFE: WORKING CONDITIONS IN THE NORTH WEST

Child labour in Lancashire in C19 Working mothers in Preston

The pitbrow women of Wigan coalfield The farm workers of the North West before 1914

Dr Michael Winstanley Dr Elizabeth Roberts Alan Davies Dr Stephen Caunce

NOTE LAST DATE FOR BOOKING: 10 FEBRUARY 2017.

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BOOKING FORM FOR DAY SCHOOL : FILL IN AND SEND TO:

Zoë Lawson, Rose Lea, Goosnargh, PRESTON PR3 2JX

Telephone: 01772 865347

email: zoe.lawson@talktalk.net

Please reserve me place(s) for Day School. I do / do not require a map of the location.

Please reserve me place(s) for LUNCH : CHOOSE Cottage Pie OR Cheese & Onion Pie

NAME(S) :

ADDRESS:

..... POSTCODE:

TELEPHONE: EMAIL:

I enclose a cheque for £..... made out to LLHF **OR**

I wish to pay by BCAS. Please transfer funds to the following account:

Sort Code 01-05-31 Account No. 32603983. Ensure you give your surname as reference.

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Sex and Sin in Seventeenth Century Lancashire - a talk by Dr Alan Crosby

Friday 17 February 2017 at 7.30pm

in St Michael and All Angels Church, Egerton Road, Ashton on Ribble, Preston

The 17th century was a time of moral disapproval, as the Puritans tried to discipline the behaviour of parishioners and to enforce higher standards of personal conduct. It didn't work. But the records of Church courts and Quarter Sessions courts reveal all sorts of doubtful goings-on, from bastardy and fornication to slander and marital disharmony. This talk uses contemporary documents to illustrate a wide range of 'real life' cases, lifting the lid on the lives of at least some of the people of mid-Lancashire 350 years ago. It reveals that, while the world may have changed beyond recognition, human nature stays largely unaltered. Vivid, fascinating and personal, these documents tell us so much about people in the past – and Alan Crosby explains their world and their – often quite colourful – lives!

Admission £5 (pay at the door). For further information please phone 01772 827835

LANCASHIRE'S ROMAN ROADS - A LIDAR UPDATE

David Ratledge

The site of the Roman bridge at Ribchester over the River Ribble has been the subject of much speculation. Perhaps with the advent of Lidar we can now make an informed guess as to where it could have been located.

The route of the road down to the Ribble valley from Manchester and that of the road to York are visible in the Lidar data, giving strong clues as to the bridge's possible location. Also visible is the probable linking road from Ribchester near Beech House. Note there is no evidence for the road from Manchester bypassing Ribchester and continuing on towards Jeffrey Hill. To get to Jeffrey Hill then a diversion into Ribchester was evidently necessary.

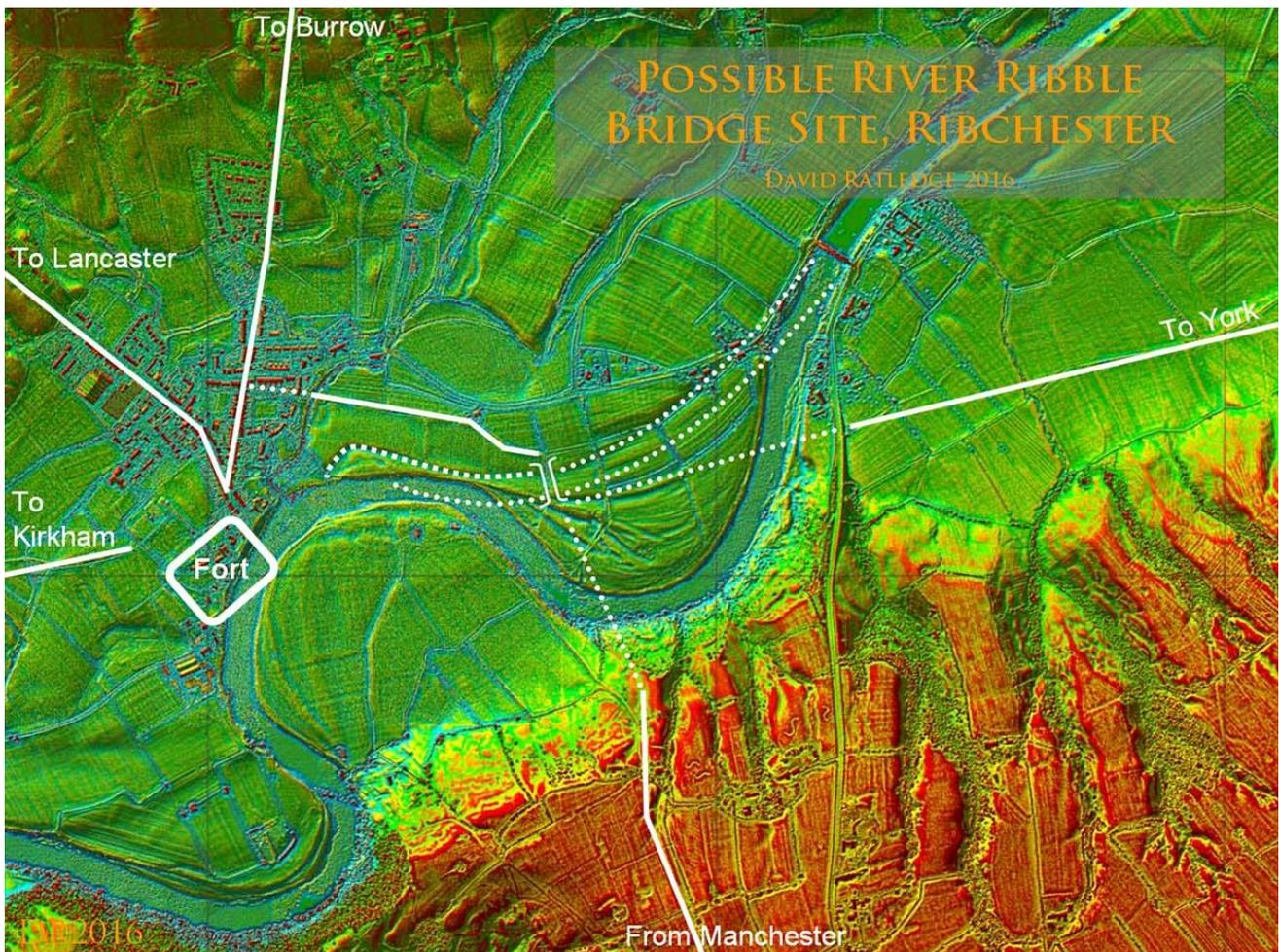


Figure 1: The location of the approach roads to Ribchester and the surmised position of the Roman Bridge

Despite these clear indications of the roads approaching the bridge site, the big unknown remained - where precisely was the river? Clearly it has moved over the centuries - witness the destruction of around 1/3 of the fort itself. However, also visible in Lidar are earlier courses of the river, perhaps those dating from Roman times. Given that the roads would have been aligned on the bridge then its position can be surmised and figure 1 could therefore represent a possible location for the Roman Bridge. Given the southwards movement of the river, then the northern abutment would represent the best chance for survival. But would there be any supporting evidence on the ground?

Fortunately the opportunity arose during a watching brief at Beech House to explore the possible locations. Thanks are due to Nigel Neil and the landowner Mr Paul for their help and assistance.



Figure 2; The features around Beech House as seen November 2016

There were traces of an agger at two spots and where the possible bridge was surmised there was a large assemblage of stones including one dressed sandstone block. There were none elsewhere. Does one dressed stone make a bridge? Probably not, but it is a logical position for a bridge bearing in mind the alignment of the roads and the possible old river course there. The coordinates of the possible bridge's north abutment would be SD6566 3522.

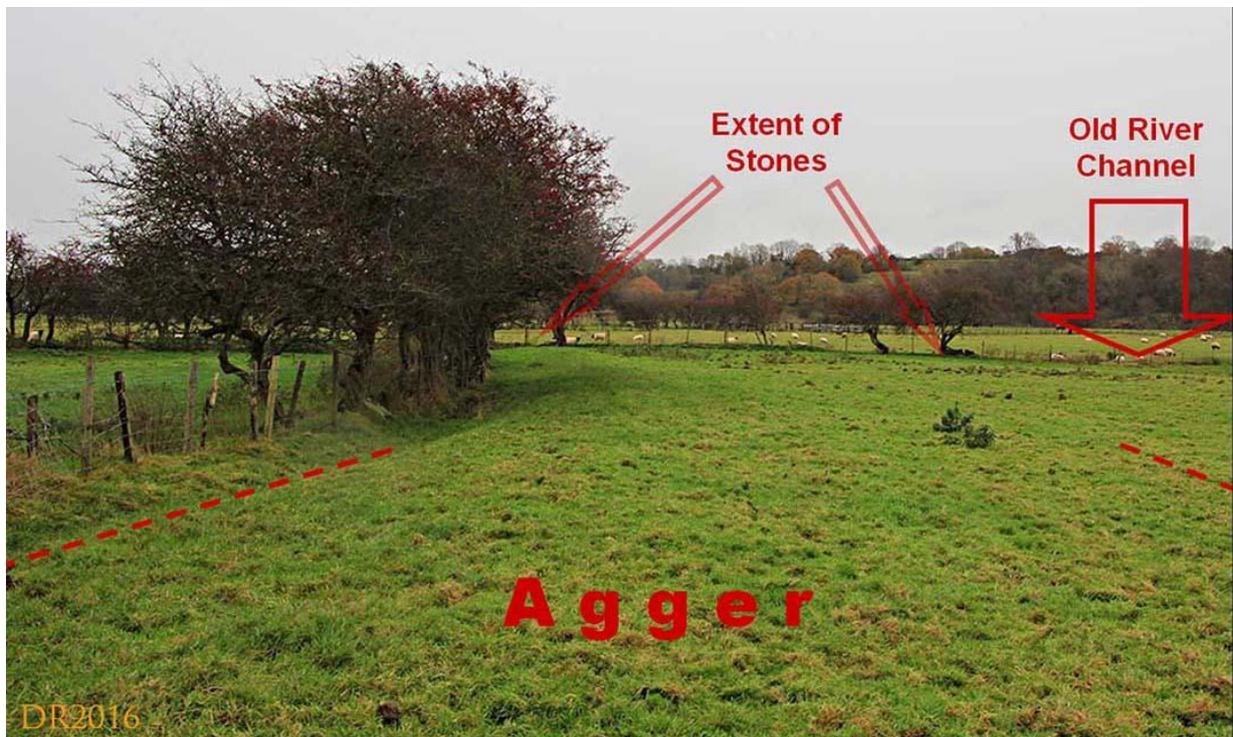


Figure 3: Looking east towards the possible bridge location, east of Beech House

Website: *Roman Roads in Lancashire*: <http://www.romanroads.org/gazetteer/lancspages.html>

AN UNIDENTIFIED SEVENTEENTH CENTURY HOUSE

In 1952, a bundle of papers was discovered, in Towneley Hall, Burnley, which on examination turned out to be a set of maps and plans (now in Lancashire Archives, DDX 194/ 1-53). In all, there were 53 papers, mostly written on both sides, comprising the working papers for several different surveys, including Lancashire's roads from Warrington to beyond Lancaster, together with some other roads into the Fylde: a survey of the Cartmel Peninsula: detailed street plans of Lancaster and Preston; and two plans of houses and gardens, one of which is Wrightington Hall. The other is unidentified – **but I am hoping one or more of the readers of the LLHF Newsletter will be able to come up with a location for this mystery place.**

Internal evidence dates some at least of these plans to 1685, and the surveyor is usually assumed to be the Lancashire antiquary Dr Richard Kuerden – though the identification is not absolutely certain. I am currently studying this corpus, together with the eleven volumes of manuscript notes left by the doctor, much of which relates to his proposed but unpublished History of Lancashire. Eight of these volumes are in the College of Arms, two are in Chetham's Library, Manchester, and one is in the British Library.

The attached sketch is based upon the unidentified house plan.



note continued next page.....

The original includes a large number of measurements, as well as indications of where trees had been planted. The house is approached via 'Green Court', then through a pair of Gate Houses into a 'Flagged Court'. The house itself appears to comprise a cross hall with two end wings. The surveyor has given us extensive measurements of every feature in the plan, and from this we can see the house width is 164. He does not state the unit, but it is probably a link from the surveyor's chain, 22 yards long, such that one link is 7.92 inches, and 164 links would be 108 feet. Beyond the house is the 'Parler Garden'. Other grounds are not given names but there appears to be a formal garden to the right, and maybe another, or an orchard, at the top of the image. To the left of the house are probably farm buildings, the largest of which is possibly a barn. The overall layout is not unlike Hoghton Tower, but there is one additional element which prevents that identification – the presence of a moat ('mote') between the house and the farm buildings, though there is no indication whether it was actually full of water, or whether the moat is supposed to be the feature which extends round two sides of the house before continuing to the top of the page.

Apart from the moat, the only hint which may help identify the place is on the other side of the sheet of paper, where the grounds appear to continue to a 'kiln'. Assuming this is a lime kiln rather than, say, a corn-drying kiln, then this might suggest the house was somewhere in or near the limestone country of east or north Lancashire. I would be grateful for any thoughts from readers as to where this place might be, as it might help with the identification of the surveyor. Dr Kuerden claimed some connection with the Dicconsens, the family that lived in Wroughtington Hall, featured in the other house plan – so it may be that the unidentified house also has some connection with the doctor.

Bill Shannon

bill_shannon@msn.com

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LANCASHIRE PLACE NAME SURVEY

LPNS is recruiting new volunteers to track down early place name forms across Lancashire from 1300-1600, as was announced in the December 2016 Newsletter of Lancashire Archives.

Professor John Insley of the University of Heidelberg is working on a new edition of *The Origins of Lancashire Place Names* for the English Place-Name Society and needs more data to assist in completing the first volume of major place names.

Volunteers need no expertise in reading medieval writing - just to spend a little time in the record office searchroom exploring specific catalogues and recording accurately the spellings of place names before 1600.

For further information please see the LPNS website:

[Lancashire Place Name Survey - Lancashire Place Name Survey](#)

Readers interested in volunteering for this interesting project should contact the LPNS Co-ordinator, Jacque Crosby: email - jacque.crosby@lancashire.gov.uk

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LANCASHIRE ARCHIVES

2017 is the 50th anniversary of the Sexual Offences Act (1967) and February is LGBT History Month. It is often forgotten that Burnley was a battleground for gay and lesbian rights. Two ground-breaking public struggles of national significance took place in Burnley in the 1970s. Lancashire Archives December Newsletter outlined events planned to focus on this chapter in UK history.

Two new plays about the events will be presented on

Saturday 18 February, at Burnley Library at 12pm and 2pm.

There is no charge for attending the performances and **no booking is required.**

On **Sat 25 February, from 10am to 3pm, Lancashire Archives is the venue** for a range of activities organised by Schools Out UK: OUTing the Past: Preston. These include a creative writing workshop inspired by LGBT- related archives material as well as talks, readings and music. Refreshments will be available. **PLACES AT THESE LA EVENTS MUST BE BOOKED.** Further information from the Lancashire Archives website or from Kathryn Rooke at LA: 01772 533033.

FOUR RESEARCH MATTERS

1. CO-OPERATION IN CHORLEY 1830-1880: A FALSE DAWN?

John Harrison, a member of Chorley Historical and Archaeological Society, is currently researching and writing up the history of three relatively short lived but different co-operative ventures under the above working title:

- *The Co-operative Society of Silk and Calico Printers, at Birkacre, was an Owenite venture sponsored by the Block Printers Union.
- *The Chorley Pilot Industrial Co-operative Society was a retail society on the Rochdale Model.
- *The Chorley Co-operative Spinning and Manufacturing Company was a weaving mill with joint stock shareholders.

The latter two were contemporaneous and, although under separate management, had some common members.

John would be very interested to hear from anyone also researching co-operatives in Lancashire in this period. He can be contacted at cejeharrison@btinternet.com

2. WANTED: A LEAD TO CATHERINE ROTHWELL

Robert Wright, JP is a member of the Rotary Club of Fleetwood, which meets at the town's North Euston Hotel. Robert has conducted tours of the Hotel's cellars and compiled a short presentation on the history of the hotel. After delivering the latter recently, a member of his audience reported having seen 'a treatise' which Catherine Rothwell had written on the hotel. Robert would like to be put in touch with Catherine. Any reader who could supply a lead should contact him by email at: pdgrobert@gmail.com

3. THE GODDESS AERFEN OR THE RIVER DEE

Daniel Hunt has encountered difficulty while trying to find information, with sources cited, on his current research (see above) and has approached the Lancashire & Cheshire Antiquarian Society for help. The LCAS Secretary, Alice Lock, has suggested he should contact the Record Office, and has passed on his query to LLHF. Any LLHF reader who can help should contact Alice at: malicelock@hotmail.com

4. IDENTIFYING BADGES IN A COLLECTION LINKED WITH STEPHEN SIMPSON'S GOLD THREAD WORKS IN AVENHAM, PRESTON.

The January issue of the Newsletter published by Lancashire Archives recorded receipt of an interesting collection of items (including documents, photographs and an interview transcript) relating to Mrs. Ivy Norcross, formerly a hand embroiderer for Simpson's. DDX 2528/4 includes the badges on view below. Any reader who can identify any of them is requested to contact L.A.: EMAIL: record.office@lancashire.gov.uk OR TEL.: 01772 533039



BACKBONE OF THE SOCIETIES: THE SPEAKERS

Our member Bob Dobson.....

*Maintains a list of those available as speakers at meetings arranged by our member societies and other similar organisations. He has acted on requests from our members for a copy of the list and hopes that others will ask to receive it. He asks that the Speakers Secretaries reading this will send him contact details for any speakers of whom they are aware, and the titles of their talks, so that the list can be continually enlarged.

*Now reports that he has been informed that Colne Local History Society has closed.

Bob can be contacted at: landypublishing@yahoo.co.uk

GARSTANG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Meetings are held at the Garstang United Reformed Church on the second Wednesday of the month from September until April, starting at 7.30pm. All attending are welcome to join us in the church hall after the lectures for complimentary coffee or tea and biscuits.

PROGRAMME

March 8: Annual Meal. Speaker: *Mr Brian Halliwell* on 'The golden age of Northern comedy.'

April 12: The history of felt hat making in the Lune and Wyre valleys. *Dr Chris Workman*.
(Preceded by annual general meeting).

ST JOHN'S (WATERLOO) LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

We meet at St John's Parish Centre (at the rear of St John's Primary School), Denmark Street, Waterloo, Merseyside, L22 9RG

on the first Tuesday of the month, from 2 pm to 3.30 pm.

For more information phone Paul Baker: 0151 474 2503

PROGRAMME

7th Feb 'Little Crosby: Historic Village': *Hugh Hollinghurst*
7th Mar 'How did Grandad earn his living?': *Joyce Culling*
4th Apr 'Rainhill: Lancashire's largest asylum': *Roger Hull*
2nd May 'Don't Forget your Ration Books': *Michael Murphy*
6th June 'Trenches, Torpedoes, Bombs and Bunkers: Merseyside at War': *Ken Pye*
4th July 'Liverpool Cowkeepers - A Family History': *Dave Joy*
1st Aug 'Origins of Liverpool: The original seven streets'. *WALK led by Ann Marshall*.
5th Sep 'Jesse Hartley, Liverpool's Dock Engineer': *David Hearn*
3rd Oct 'A Victorian Collector: Mrs Anne Goodison of Waterloo and her Egyptian Obsession':
Joanne Chamberlain
7th Nov 'Liverpool Women Pioneers: The Road to Equality': *Dianne Cox*
5th Dec 'A Grave Tale': *John Quirk*

MOURHOLME HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PROGRAMME

February 22nd : 'Civil Wars in Lancashire' by David Casserly
March 22nd : 'The Railways of Carnforth' by Clive Holden
April 26th : AGM; followed by a talk by Dr Awena Carter
'Postcard Messages; What they tell us about Silverdale, 1900-1950'

BOLTON ARCHAEOLOGY AND EGYPTOLOGY SOCIETY

PROGRAMME

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|----------------------|
| Tuesday 21 st February | Memphis and Sakkara in the Ramesside Period | Dr Stephen Snape |
| Tuesday 21 st March | Romans in the North West | Dr Mike Nevell |
| Tuesday 15 th April | TBC | TBC |
| Tuesday 16 th May | TBC | TBC |
| Tuesday 20 th June | Roman Frontiers in Egypt | Dr Birgitta Hoffmann |

OPEN DAYS 2017

(SATURDAY 10am – 1pm)

March 11th
10 years of Horwich Heritage Centre

~
April 8th
Family History

~
May 13th
St. Catherine's Church Exhibition

~
June 17th
Lost Businesses in Horwich

~
July 15th
Local Walks & Beauty Spots

~
August 12th
60 years since the last Steam
Loco built at Horwich Works

~
September 9th
FamilyHistory/Heritage Weekend

(All 'Open Days'
Admission – FREE)

MONTHLY MEETINGS

(TUESDAY ~ 7.30pm)

Horwich Resource Centre
January – June 2017 Programme

January 10th ~ Jonathan Ali
World War One Illustrated

February 14th ~ David Lloyd
Bolton 66 Tram Restoration

March 14th ~ Donna Hughes
Life & Times of Samuel Crompton

April 11th ~ Elaine Taylor
Astley – A Picturesque Park

May 9th ~ David Kaye
From Horwich to Hyderabad

June 13th ~ A.G.M.
Royal Occasions in Bolton & Horwich

Membership ...£10.00 per annum
Non – Members... £2.00 per meeting

Contacts:

Membership: 01204 694864
Programme: 01204 692930
Family History: 01204 845529
General Enquiries: 01204 847797

HORWICH HERITAGE CENTRE



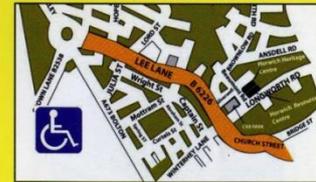
Beaumont Road, Horwich,
Bolton BL6 7BG
Charity Number : 1146434
www.horwichheritage.co.uk

OPENING TIMES

Monday ~ Friday 2pm ~ 4pm
Saturday 10am ~ 12.30pm

ADMISSION FREE

Group visits ~ by arrangement



Fully Wheelchair Accessible

REGIONAL HERITAGE CENTRE, HISTORY DEPT., LANCASTER UNIVERSITY

***Saturday 4 March 44th Annual Archaeology Forum.** Topics include Ribchester's Recent Excavation; Drones and LIDAR in Community Projects; Furness Abbey; Longhouses of the Duddon Valley; the Portable Antiquities Scheme in Lancashire and Cumbria; Roman Temples at Maryport; John Dobson - An Edwardian Archaeologist in Urswick. Optional lunch provided. REFER TO RHC WEBSITE FOR FURTHER INFORMATION. Please note that the closing date for bookings is Friday 24 February 2017.

***Friday 17 March Focus on the future of heritage in Lancaster.** RHC in conjunction with Lancaster Vision: Afternoon Event at the Friends' Meeting House in Lancaster: Contributions from representatives of Lancashire County Council, Lancaster City Council, the Friends of the Judges' Lodgings and (to be confirmed) Marketing Lancashire. REFER TO RHC WEBSITE FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

*** Saturday 28 April Kings and Vikings: North-West England and the Irish Sea Region in the Early Middle Ages.** Speakers all connected with 'The Irish Sea in the Middle Ages' Research Network. REFER TO RHC WEBSITE FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

[Same issue of RHC Newsletter publicises the following 'recent' book. Editor.]

Thomas Arthur Leonard and the Co-operative Holidays Association: Joy in widest commonalty spread by Douglas George Hope. Cambridge Scholars Publishing. Hb 281pp. Price £52.99. ISBN 978-1-4438-1267-2

Thomas Arthur Leonard, a Congregational Minister in Colne, Lancashire, in 1893 founded the Co-operative Holidays Association, which provided outdoor holidays until 2002. In 1913 he founded the Holiday Fellowship, which continues to trade as HF Holidays; in 1930 he was instrumental in setting up the Youth Hostels Association; and in 1935 he was involved in the formation of the Ramblers' Association.

LANCASHIRE & CHESHIRE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

1. The Society is extremely grateful to David French, who has created a new website to handle its affairs. It is clear to read and straightforward to use and our readers are invited to see what it has to offer. There are useful links to archives in the area and details of activities and publications, including off-prints.

2. ***VISIT TO WARDLEY HALL***



Photo: Keith Williamson via wikipedia

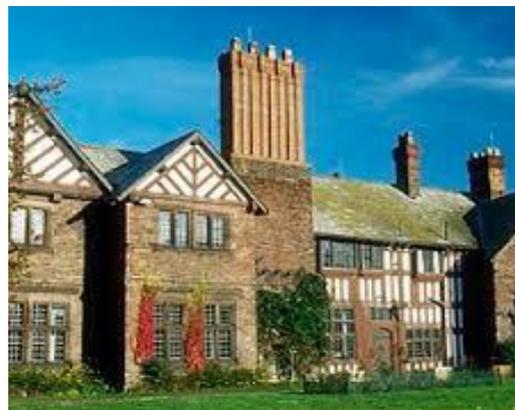


Photo: via dioceseofsalford.net

Wardley Hall is the official residence of the Roman Catholic Bishops of Salford, and is situated in a wooded estate at Worsley, near Manchester. The Society visited the Hall on Thursday 3 November 2016; our thanks to Fr. Steven Parkinson and Morris Garratt for arranging the event. There was a welcome drink on arrival and then we had a conducted tour.

The site of the Hall has been in continuous occupation since c.1300. The present Hall was built by Thurstan Tyldesley during the reign of Edward VI (1547 – 1553) and was restored by John Douglas in 1894. Within the house, our guide pointed out a niche on the main staircase; this contains the skull of St. Ambrose Barlow, one of the Forty Martyrs of England and Wales.



Photo: Alice Lock

The members of the group were intrigued by this relic of the Saint and the story of his life; he was hanged, drawn and quartered at Lancaster on 10 September 1641. A portrait of him can be seen in the Chapel. Our guide also showed us the small chalices used in Ambrose's time; these could be taken apart and hidden in clothing so that priests could more easily escape detection.

Alice Lock

3.

DAY SCHOOL ON CATHOLIC HISTORY

Thanks to Morris Garratt, assisted by Fr. David Lannon, for a very interesting day looking at Catholic and Irish history in the North West. The event took place at the Salford Diocesan Archives on Saturday 12 November 2016.

The session started with David Lannon, the Salford Diocesan Archivist, looking at aspects of religious belief in Elizabethan Manchester. He described the parishes of the greater Manchester area and the varying levels of persecution of Catholics in the period, often depending on the whims of the bishops and local landowners. David was followed by Lawrence Gregory talking about the Trafford family of Trafford. Lawrence described this colourful family through the generations to their collapse in the 1920s as a result of gambling debts. He illustrated the talk with images of the lost halls of Trafford. Michael Herbert followed this with an account of the political history of the Irish in Manchester from the 1790s, which was very much linked with developments in Ireland. Many second and third generation members of the community still regarded themselves as Irish.

After a lovely home-cooked lunch provided by the ladies of St Augustine’s Church we heard Bernadette Hyland speaking about Mary Quaille, an Irish immigrant who seems to be largely forgotten today but who rose to become an important trades unionist, organising women workers through the Manchester and Salford Women’s Trades Council. David Lannon followed with an introduction to the Salford Diocesan Archives after which there was a chance to see the wealth of material held there.

The day finished with a look at the stunning modern church of St Augustine’s, designed by Desmond Williams Associates, with artwork by Robert Brumby.

Alice Lock



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WARRINGTON LITERARY AND PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY PROGRAMME

Monday March 6th 2017 *Ruskin and the Daguerreotype* by Professor Stephen Wildman, Lancaster University

[The Ruskin Library at Lancaster University, of which Professor Wildman is Director, holds 125 daguerreotypes – the first permanent photographic process – out of the 300 which formed John Ruskin’s collection by 1858. Ruskin’s interest in this new medium will be explained, illustrated in the range of subject matter which the images cover, chiefly architecture and landscape in France, Switzerland and Italy.]

Monday April 3rd 2017 *Manchester Broadside Ballads* by Jennifer Reid, Independent Scholar and Singer

[Jennifer Reid is a Lancashire folk enthusiast from Middleton, Manchester. Jennifer will perform broadside ballads from the collections housed in Manchester Central Library, Chetham’s Library and the Working Class Movement Library and will deliver a talk around the themes and historical content of the ballads. The ballads feature Lancashire dialect, working life during the Industrial Revolution and the bawdy nature of Victorian society.]

ST. HELENS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

'REFORMATION DAY'

Saturday March 25th 2017

10am to 3.30pm

This is the title which the Society's guest speaker,
Emeritus Professor Michael Mullett,
has chosen to help the Society mark

the 500 years since Martin Luther's outburst prompted the Reformation.

Initially Michael will discuss what caused Luther to act; then, after a buffet lunch,
he will consider what the consequences were.

To come and share the day with us please contact Norma Cresswell to obtain a ticket:
telephone: 01744 754962 or email: norma@talpae.co.uk

This will cost £3.50; in addition a buffet lunch costing £4.50 can be ordered.

Friends Meeting House * Church Street, St. Helens. WA10 1AJ

*5 minutes from St. Helens Central Station and 8 minutes from St. Helens Bus Station

LANCASHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY: MEMBERS' TALKS AFTER AGM

20 JANUARY 2017

The first talk was presented by our Secretary, Mavis Shannon, and was entitled 'Oats, Oats and More Oats'. Before potatoes became the staple diet in Lancashire oats were the staple diet. The reason for this is that oats were a less risky crop than wheat and barley, as it is more resistant to winds and heavy rains which can occur not infrequently in this area. Oats were not grown in the mossland, i.e. marshland areas, which covered a third of the county and were unsuitable for arable cultivation.

Mavis drew our attention to the place-name 'Haverthwaite' which is found in the Furness area; it is made up of the Old Norse components: *haver* meaning oats, *thwaite* meaning clearing. How were the oats processed? They were ground into groats, the coarsest grade and as fine as oatmeal flour. There were two main cooking methods for oats. First of all pottage was made, which is essentially the same dish as modern porridge, which could be made watery, milky or meaty depending on what one could afford. This would be cooked on an open peat fire in a big cooking pot. (Such pots, because of their value, were often family heirlooms.) The pottage was usually flavoured with salt, leeks and onions. The second way of cooking the oats was to make oatcakes or oat bread, both of which were cooked on a griddle or bakestone. There were three types: bannock, clapbread and jannock. Jannock could be a very large unleavened bread that was divided into thwacks or thwangs. Clapbread was often dried and could be stored for weeks. Oats were and still are used in haggis and black-pudding. However, cheap Canadian wheat drove out traditional oatbreads as lighter, wheat, yeast breads became the staple.

Margaret Edwards then gave us a talk about Lumley Castle, in Co. Durham, which stands above the River Wear near Chester-le-Street. The Lumleys flourished from C14, when Sir Ralph Lumley was a strong supporter of Richard II. Sir Ralph gained a licence to crenellate the family's manor house from both the Bishop of Durham and King Richard. The castle is gaunt and dramatic, standing in a strategic location bordering a ravine on the east. Each of its four sturdy towers housed a newel staircase extending from ground to roof levels. Pevsner dated its building to 1392 and thought the chapel was probably in the north-east tower. The main gate was in the east wall and it bore interesting displays of heraldry, presenting the shields and crests of the King, and of local families linked with the Lumleys, as well as those of the family itself.

continued.....

During the 1580s Sir John Lumley installed an ornate entrance, flanked by turrets and decorated with nine pairs of coats of arms, leading from the courtyard to the hall, which was in the west range of the castle. In the 1720s Sir John Vanburgh was engaged to remodel parts of the castle and he created a new west façade crowned by a cupola, which placed the main entrance in the castle's west range. In the same renovations a staircase, which projected into the courtyard, and corridors were inserted in the south range. Over several centuries the Lumley family was greatly ennobled and eventually rose to be Earls of Scarborough. The present Earl is the owner today and leases the castle to a company which runs it as a hotel, the family residing in its main castle, in Yorkshire.

Our next talk was entitled 'The Return of the Romans' but could have been entitled 'Defeating the Romans', because Derek Forrest demonstrated to us the composite bows used by Asiatic horse archers who defeated the Romans on a number of occasions. In 53BC Crassus and 20,000 legionaries were killed. Valerian was defeated by horse-archers in C3. These archers used a recurved bow made of bone and wood. A thumb ring with a groove (an example of which Derek circulated) enabled them to gain control of the bow whilst controlling the horse. These rings were made of wood or bone, or even gold and silver. The Japanese are still very keen on horse archery as a sport.

Our final talk was given by Dr. Bill Shannon on bronze castings he had witnessed being made near Semerwater in Yorkshire. He observed a re-creation of the casting of a bronze spearhead which had been discovered in the area. Once a day the demonstrator used the ancient 'lost wax' method; but for other castings he adopted a more modern technique consisting of using two pieces of wood, set in sand, with a plaster cast inside. Apparently the original spearhead is still more impressive; but this demonstration was nevertheless a very interesting example of experimental archaeology. The experimenter is Will Lord of Will Lord Prehistoric Experiences, Norfolk www.will-lord.co.uk

Jeanette Dobson



Photos: W.D. Shannon

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THE VICTORIAN SOCIETY IN MANCHESTER

The Winter Newsletter of 2016 carried an important note by Beryl Patten. Beryl reported that the Anglican Chapel of Agecroft Cemetery in Salford is once more on view resulting from the clearance of vegetation which has hidden it for some decades. A group of local volunteers has brought this about. The Agecroft Cemetery Chapel Restoration Group has adopted as its goal the restoration, and eventual re-use, of this fine Listed Grade II building, designed by Manchester architects Walter Sharp and Frederick Foster. It has not been used for more than thirty years. The Group raised funding from Neighbourhood Committees across Salford and was able to arrange a survey, which showed the Chapel was still sound and worthy of restoration. The funding also made the clearance of vegetation possible. In 2013 the Chapel was in the Victorian Society's list of ten most endangered buildings. This latest initiative may eventually alter that designation. For more information and interesting photographs see the VSM website. M.E.

FRIENDS OF FOXDENTON HALL AND PARK

Heather Luft has sent us this pleasing update of the Group's 2016. (Editor)

We had a successful Easter event in 2016, shortened by a sudden thunder storm near the end (see photo 1) and we cancelled our May event due to the sudden death of a local farmer whose family have always been involved in the running of the Hall & events in the park. In October we had a very successful Halloween event, which more than 200 people attended (see photo 2); then in December we held another 'Carols in the Park' event, which included Santa's grotto (see photo 3). The events were more successful because the Council gave us more access to our resources, which were locked in the Hall. The Hall, however, is still closed because of Health & Safety issues.



A federation of local community groups known as **CHADDERTON TOGETHER** has acquired a licence from the Council to explore renovation possibilities. The federation, which has held two events in the Park in 2016, and other events elsewhere in Chadderton, is hoping to see the process through to a full renovation, and we are working with it. So all in all there is a lot going on!

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AMONGST FARM HORSES ; THE HORSELADS OF EAST YORKSHIRE by Stephen Caunce. Second edition. (First published 1991 and now out of print.) Published by the author and available from Lulu Publishing (www.lulu.com). The text has been lightly revised and added to. 344pp., 63 photographs with informative captions, six figures and a glossary. Price: £9.09 (currently discounted by 30%).

Whilst the book is based on research carried out in East Yorkshire for the author's doctoral thesis, it is relevant to Lancashire, too – indeed to the whole of the North of England. In the main, the study is based on interviews with 'horselads' working in pre-tractor days, some of whom were born around 1890. They lived in the farm houses after agreeing yearly contracts at hiring fairs held in market towns.

This is a publication of high quality and value. The author quotes from many of the sources listed in the book's final nine pages preceding the Index, to give a rounded picture and confirm the accuracy of the oral evidence. The photographs can be viewed in high resolution format at the associated website. Coverage of the subject is wide and thorough, and the book will interest anyone with a liking for horses, as well as an interest in farming and social history. It clearly demonstrates the vitality and prosperity of northern farming down to 1920, and its continuing importance despite industrialisation.

Bob Dobson

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PLEASE NOTE: The subject of this book is one of several on which Dr Stephen Caunce, a retired history lecturer and museum curator, regularly speaks. He can be contacted by society secretaries and others at:

stephencounce.wordpress.com

TAMESIDE LOCAL HISTORY FORUM

Visit to Tower Mill, Dukinfield



Photos: Alice Lock

Thanks to Carolyn Blaine members of Tameside Local History Forum were given the chance to visit a working cotton mill in November 2016.

English Fine Cottons have declared a mission to bring cotton spinning back to its spiritual home in the North West of England and are hoping to launch as the only commercial cotton spinner in the UK through the multi-million pound restoration of Tower Mill. State-of-the-art equipment will be installed and more people recruited to help create a true 'Made in Britain' business, producing some of the finest quality cotton yarns to be found anywhere in the world.

Tower Mill was built by 1886 by Christian Koch, who already owned Tame Valley and River Mills; he came to employ five to six hundred people in Dukinfield. He was born in Switzerland, but educated in Italy where his father managed cotton mills. Christian came to Oldham as a young man to learn about cotton spinning and on his return to Italy modernised the mills there, leading to the loss of many jobs. He was said to be in fear of his life as a result. He returned to Oldham to marry and started his cotton spinning empire in Dukinfield. He was eventually elected to the Local Board and was a J.P., dying in 1895. Tower Mill continued in use, gradually moving from mule spinning to ring spinning, until 1955, when the building was put to other uses.

The visit was very popular and several groups were shown round the working mill. For those of us who have seen pictures of the mills of the early C20 it was an eerie experience to see the clean, dust-free atmosphere and the small number of people needed to keep the machines running. Perhaps the only thing that was similar was the noise, but the ear plugs available for workers were a sign of a new attitude to it. We were taken through all the processes and were able to see the large squares of raw cotton gradually transform into the high quality thread ready to go for weaving.

Alice Lock

CUMBERLAND & WESTMORLAND ANTIQUARIAN AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY CWAAS LIBRARY: ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2017 - FEBRUARY 2018

For some time the Library has been difficult to access. In order to make access easier, arrangements have been made to conduct an 'access experiment' with The University of Cumbria which will improve access arrangements and monitor usage of the Library. This will enable members to book any publication in the library and to consult this material by appointment. The CWAAS library of journals, printed books and newsletters dating from the late C19 onwards covers subject areas including: Local history, Archaeology, Genealogy, and Customs and traditions. CWAAS members, staff and students at the University of Cumbria, researchers, and members of public are invited to consult this material by appointment, in accordance with the call-up procedure. [The KEY to the success of this experiment is that potential users of the Library should consult the LIBRARY PAGE of cumbriapast.com where clear, easy-to-follow instructions are laid out. **MANY OF OUR READERS RESEARCH TOPICS RELATING TO LANCASHIRE-OVER-SANDS** and this facility could be of great usefulness to them. M.E.]

PLOVER SCAR LIGHTHOUSE: update

Repair and reconstruction work is continuing on the 169-year-old Plover Scar lighthouse in the Lune estuary (see article in the November 2016 issue of LLHF Newsletter).

The lighthouse off the north Lancashire coast (near Cockersand Abbey) was hit at night time by a large light (i.e. empty) cargo vessel en route to Glasson Dock in March last year. Substantial damage was caused by the impact. The upper section of stone wall was nudged/shifted a third of a metre off-centre and metal strengthening bands around the lighthouse snapped. The impact also left a gap in the stonework which in rough seas and high tides would have meant more stones being dislodged, further threatening the stability of the structure. An engineering inspection recommended the only method of repair to be the dismantling and rebuilding of a substantial part of the upper part of the structure - an exercise complicated both by the movement of tides and the need for approvals from environmental regulatory bodies and the procurement of a Marine Licence. Another issue which had to be considered was whether the work should be done using a spud barge (a specialised type of flat decked boat with legs, used for marine construction operations) or onshore. The latter option was chosen.

The lighthouse is owned and maintained by Lancaster Port Commission, based at Glasson Dock. Its website reports (January 4, 2017):

"The project is taking longer than originally anticipated for two reasons.

Firstly, due to the length of time it took to obtain the necessary licences and permissions, the contractors lost a considerable length of time when they could have been working during two low-tide periods per day in daylight, rather than the one they are now restricted to.

"Secondly, our only view into the internal structure before work began was through a hole created at the impact site. From this view, it had been assessed that the centre of the structure was loose stone rubble fill. This has turned out not to be the case, as the stone rubble was actually set in concrete, which has had to be jack-hammered loose before removal. All this fill material has had to be hand-shovelled into tote bags, which have then been lifted by crane onto the seabed, awaiting re-use as the structure is rebuilt."



Photo courtesy Lancaster Port Commission.

The lighthouse has been shrouded in scaffolding for the past few months, giving contractor MPM North West Ltd of Maryport the opportunity to carry out work when the tide is out.

Last October a crane carefully lifted off the cast iron lantern from the "top" of the lighthouse.

continued.....

The lantern has been taken by trailer to Maryport for restoration work. The lantern did not contain any old lighting gear, prism lenses, etc.. Equipment of that nature was vandalised many years ago, and the lighthouse has used battery/solar-powered lighting in more recent years. Similar lighting, to maintain the statutory requirement for a lit navigational aid for shipping in the estuary, is currently attached to the temporary scaffolding.



Photo courtesy Lancaster Port Commission.

Lancaster Port Commission says 229 stones have been removed from the structure, each of the stones being individually numbered before being lifted off. They have been laid out on the beach and dressed ready for re-use. The onshore work has been carried out in a specially created compound on the car park overlooking the estuary as well as on the beach.

A suggestion from one quarter, at an early stage of the post-impact discussions, was that the damaged lighthouse be completely dismantled and permanently removed, and replaced with a simple, concrete tower with a navigation light on top. That idea was firmly rejected by Lancaster Port Commission, which was determined to see the iconic structure restored to its pre-impact condition.

One interesting historic point discovered during pre-work research, and proved during the dismantling works, is that an extra casing of stones was added to the lower section wall nine years after the lighthouse was constructed in 1847. This extra stone casing actually formed the lower walkway.

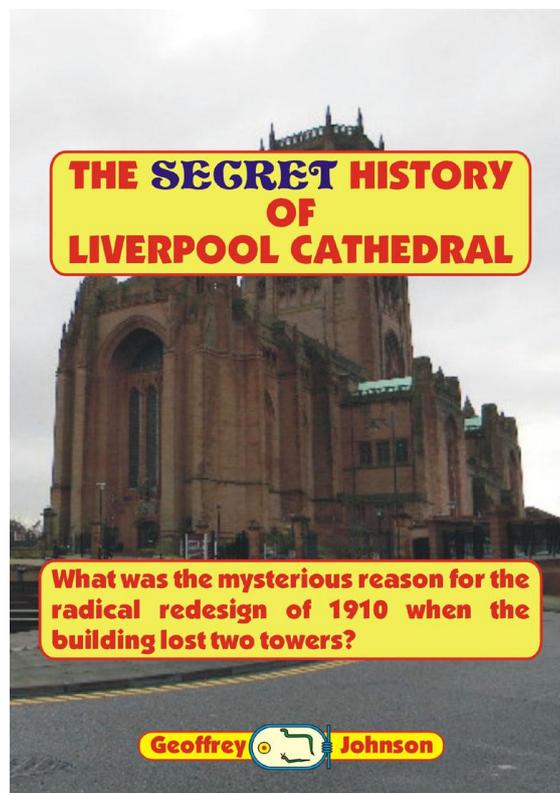
No definite date for completion of the current work has been announced, but Lancaster Port Commission is hoping it will be within the next two months.

The likely costs involved in the repair and reconstruction project have not yet been made public as legal and insurance issues have yet to be fully resolved.

Anthony Coppin, freelance journalist and vice-chair Garstang Historical Society.

* Thanks to Helen Loxam, CEO of Lancaster Port Commission, for assistance with this article.

* For more information about the ongoing work at the lighthouse visit www.lancasterport.org/news



GEOFFREY JOHNSON [<mailto:djefrej@yahoo.co.uk>] is the author of a paperback **book**, *The Secret History of Liverpool Cathedral*, which is available from Amazon or any bookshop. ISBN 978-1540621276. (See cover above.)

He also offers to local societies a **lecture** about Liverpool Cathedral, including intriguing matters such as why there was a dramatic change in the building of the cathedral (the original design included three towers). The reason was never given by the architect Sir Giles Gilbert Scott.

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LANCASHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY : 2017 PROGRAMME

- 17 Feb: **Uncovering Lost Roman Roads in Lancashire**
David Ratledge (Highways historian and Civil Engineer)
- 17 Mar: **The Rise and Fall of the Northumbrian Kingdom c.600-1100**
Dr Fiona Edmonds (Director, Regional Heritage Centre, Lancaster University)
- 21 Apr: **Ancient Pack Horse Trade Routes and Bridges**
Maggie Dickinson (Freelance historian and writer)
- 19 May: 7pm **ANNUAL DINNER** at The White Bull, Alston
- 20 Oct: **The Ribchester Roman Dig 2015**
Dr Jamie Morris (Lecturer in Archaeology, UCLan)
- 17 Nov: **Counting Culture: Uncovering Lancashire's Hidden History**
Heather Davis (Conservation Manager, Lancashire County Conservation Service)

NOTE: Visits have been, or are being, arranged for the summer period.

- 1 July, 2pm visit to the Ribchester Dig
- Date TBA visit to Toad Hall (Blackden Trust), Holmes Chapel, Cheshire (a Sat. in June or Sept.)
- 23 Sept, 10am visit to the LCC Conservation Studios, Preston

It was decided at the AGM (20 January 2016) to increase
the Membership Subscription from £9 to £10 and
the Family Membership Subscription from £13 to £15.

Charges for Students and Visitors are to remain the same.

These changes will take effect from our next meeting, 17 Feb..

VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE NEWS AND EVENTS - 2017

Information assembled and submitted by Kevin Illingworth

Tuesday, 14th March 2017 at 7.30pm.

'Traditional Farmhouses and buildings of Lancashire and the Pennines'

A talk by Kevin Illingworth to the Pendle Forest Association of the National Trust at the Unitarian Chapel, Church Street, Padiham. BB12 8JH. Guests welcome. £2.

Contacts – 01282 613602 or 703080

Saturday, 18th March 2017. 10am – 4pm.

'Vernacular Interiors' - a Cumbria Vernacular Buildings Group study day with speakers, including folk-life specialist Peter Brears.

Venue: Swarthmoor Hall, Ulverston. Fee £15 including buffet lunch.

To join the Group contact Membership Secretary, Mike Kingsbury. Tel: 015242 76434. www.cvbg.co.uk

During 2017 the CVBG will be visiting Yanwath Hall, near Penrith (April): Honister Slate Quarry, Borrowdale (May): High Newton, Cartmel area (July): Dentdale farms/industry (August): Naworth Castle (September), and 3 more indoor events in the period until December.

Monday, 27th March 2017 at 7.30pm.

Harland Memorial Lecture - 'Vernacular Buildings in and around Craven and the Forest of Bowland'

A talk by Kevin Illingworth to Upper Wharfedale Field Society at the Octagon Theatre of the Devonshire Institute (Grassington Town Hall).

www.upperwharfedalefieldsociety.co.uk Contact – 01756 752196

Thursday, 6th April 2017 at 7.15pm.

'Weavers Cottages of North East Lancashire'

A talk by Kathy Fishwick to Burnley Historical Society at New Church, Briercliffe Road, Burnley.

Visitors £2. Contact 01254 201162

www.burnleyhistoricalsociety.com

Saturday, 17th June 2017

Bolton-by-Bowland vernacular buildings walk.

A walk led by Kevin Illingworth for the Yorkshire Vernacular Buildings Study Group.

Guests welcome, but YVBSG members will have priority. More details will appear in the YVBSG and LLHF newsletters in February and May.

Membership Secretary: Sue Southwell. Tel: 01609 776863.

Visit www.yvbsg.org.uk to join and see newsletters.

In the pipeline:

A visit to Wardley Hall, Worsley, near Salford (no date yet, but probably June/July onwards)

To be organised by Kevin Illingworth for the Calder Valley Historic Buildings Group.

Guests will be welcome, but CVHGB members will have priority.

Wardley Hall (c.1500) is the Catholic Bishop of Salford's residence.

Timber-framed with an irregular quadrangular plan, and still partly moated.

Further information will appear in forthcoming YVBSG and LLHF newsletters.

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LOOK OUT FOR...

a new book due to be published in the autumn 2017:

'The Man who Built the Town Hall: Abel Heywood, Manchester's Victorian Mayor' by Joanna Williams.

Joanna writes: *Abel Heywood oversaw minutely the building of Waterhouse's Town Hall as chair of the New Town Hall Committee. He had a fascinating and varied career, which took him from abject poverty to the top of civic society. A successful businessman as a newspaper distributor, publisher, printer, and wallpaper manufacturer, he was especially committed throughout his life to his work on the Manchester Council, becoming Mayor twice. He was only the third Freeman of the City, and the first from a humble background.*

Manchester: Making the Modern City, Edited by Alan Kidd and Terry Wyke

- Written by leading experts on Manchester's history to a general audience, and with numerous insights and unexpected stories, this profusely illustrated book is essential for an understanding of what Manchester has been and what it can become.
- Visually stunning publication with many rare images from the archives.
- Published to celebrate Manchester's contribution to the world and to mark Manchester as European City of Science in 2016.

Liverpool University Press extends a promotional offer: Enter the code CHRISTMAS50 on our website to receive 50% discount on the price of *Manchester: Making the Modern City*.

Enter this code to get the hardback edition for only £17.50 or the paperback for only £7.50!

SOUTH RIBBLE MUSEUM & EXHIBITION CENTRE

The Old Grammar School, Church Road, Leyland. PR25 3FJ. Tel. Preston 422041.

Sat 11 Feb **Winter Lecture Series 6** 11am.

'The history and evolution of bagpipes' - A musical journey with Stephen Watson

Sat 18 Feb Family History Workshop. 10:30am - 12:30pm.

Learn more about the story of YOUR family with members of the Preston Family History Group.

Thurs 2 Mar **Winter Lecture Series 8** 2pm.

'William Suddell, The Invincibles and the making of Preston North End FC'

Illustrated talk by David Hunt.

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WARRINGTON HISTORY SOCIETY is over 50 years old and adopted this shortened name only in 2015. It has a lively website. An end-of-year feature which was posted on it was entitled 'Five facts about Warrington'. Each of its five illustrated snippets had emerged from lectures included in the year's programme. Another interesting aspect of the website is a collection of illustrated articles, contributed by members, about an aspect of the town's history. Titles include The 'Rostherne' goblet; St John's Chapel, Warwick St.; Lewis Carroll Through The Window; and A History of Warrington's Libraries. 'Orford Tannery' is the most recent post and it is introduced as follows:

Orford Tannery Posted on December 20, 2016

Tanning (the process of converting animal skin into leather by soaking it in acid) has long been associated with Warrington. At one time (in 1927) the concentration of tanneries in the town was the highest in the country with an astonishing 7% of the UK's 300 tanneries located here. Winwick Street, Mersey Street, Tannery Lane, Latchford, Penketh, and Orford were just some of the areas where tanning took place. In one year alone a reported 20,000 hides passed through the town's tanneries. In this article Warrington History Society's Peter Warburton recalls the history of Orford Tannery before ex-worker Mave Donelan recalls what life was like working there in the 1950s.

The Society's Secretary, Anna Alexander, writes: *I am pleased to be able to give you the address of our new website, created by our Chairman Andy Green. The address is not mistyped as it does not have 'co' before 'uk'. The link is <http://warringtonhistorysociety.uk>*

I've included this item here as it might inspire members of other history societies to make more of their websites. This is something which the Federation is keen to promote.

The WHS Spring Programme follows.

Margaret Edwards

20 February 2017

The Great War 1914-1918

- Madelaine Kirk

20 March 2017

'Abandon Hope' - Life in the workhouse

- Peter Watson

24 April 2017

AGM followed by

History of Friars Green Chapel

- David McDonald