

# LEYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

(Founded 1968)

Registered Charity No. 1024919

## PRESIDENT

Mr W E Waring

## CHAIR

Mr P Houghton

## VICE-CHAIR

Mrs E F Shorrocks

## HONORARY SECRETARY

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## HONORARY TREASURER

Mr E Almond

## AIMS

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

## MEETINGS

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

at 7.30 pm

(Meeting date may be amended by statutory holidays)

in

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

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

Vice Presidents	£10.00 per annum
Members	£8.00 per annum
School Members	£0.50 per annum
Casual Visitors	£2.00 per meeting (except where indicated on programme)

**A MEMBER OF THE LANCASHIRE LOCAL HISTORY FEDERATION**

**THE HISTORIC SOCIETY OF LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE**

**and**

**THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR LOCAL HISTORY**

Visit the Leyland Historical Society's Website at  
<http://www.houghton59.fsnet.co.uk/Home%20Page.htm>



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## Editorial

Welcome to the fifty-third Leyland Chronicle.

Forty years on and the Leyland Historical Society has certainly come a long way and covered a great deal of literary ground since its inception in 1968. From a small hut on Turpin Green Lane to the Banqueting Suite in the Civic Centre, albeit our first season at this auspicious venue, it is pleasing to look back at its achievements and to look forward to another season of meetings and speakers. I am sure you will all wish me to put into print our thanks for the Chairman's leadership during this last year in rearranging venues at such short notice and his ongoing commitment to the Society in presenting to us this year's programme of events.

The 2007 to 2008 season has a great deal to offer our members. The programme put together for this celebratory year is not to be missed and added to that programme, in the month of January, 2008 the Historical Society is to hold an exhibition at the Leyland Museum and Exhibition Centre to celebrate. A pleasant evening at Alston Hall is planned for Saturday, 15 March with a meal and speaker; the annual coach trip takes us to Hadrian's Wall and Carlisle on Monday, 5 May, and then, just before our last meeting, we get together to hold a Celebration Dinner on 1st July in the Banqueting Suite, at the Civic Centre.

As always, contributors to the Chronicle have this year responded with a variety of articles and they take us back into the layers of time's woven threads which make up the backcloth on which the township of Leyland has developed. We start on a trip from Wymott via Ulnes Walton, Leyland Lane, Golden Hill Lane to Cuerden Hall in the first World War and back through Leyland Motors' Sports field to the resting place of James Sumner in St Andrews churchyard. Our Chairman continues in his quest in search of family members encouraging us to do likewise with our own family trees.

In present-day Leyland, that journey has, during the last few months, had its restrictions as Golden Hill Lane has received its long overdue resurfacing work and detours are, as we go to print, in place as we have been allowed to peer into the strata that makes up the railway bridge on Chapel Brow during its closure for major strengthening work.

The very rainy night last December when a dampened floor caused us to be evicted from Prospect House in Sandy Lane was perhaps a herald of the extreme weather conditions to come when in June thousands of people in Hull, the West Midlands and many southern counties were driven out of their homes for long periods having experienced flooding caused by the effect of excessive rainfall on their local rivers; in some cases something like two weeks' worth of rain falling in the space of forty-five minutes. Climate change?

The facilities in The Shield Room at the Civic Centre have been warmly praised by an enthusiastic committee and membership and as we happily celebrate the Society's Fortieth Anniversary we hope it will be home for many more Society meetings.

**Mary Longton**  
Editor

NOTE: Any opinions expressed in the contents of this journal are those of the individual contributor and do not necessarily represent the views of the Society.

Permission has been granted by the Ordnance Survey for the map scroll used on the cover.

## **Chairman's Report 2006 - 2007**

As we prepare to celebrate our fortieth anniversary season, it is good to look back on the most turbulent year in the society's history. As we said at the time, one day we will look back at this and laugh, but not just now; though as I write this after the first meeting in our new venue, there is a part of me that wishes it could have happened years ago as the new facilities at the South Ribble Civic Centre are vastly superior to those previously offered by Prospect House.

### **Monday 4th September**

#### ***"The Story of Leyland Motors" - Malcolm Tranter***

Our first meeting this season told the story of Leyland's most famous export and why the society still gets requests for bus parts from Australia. A local topic from Malcolm as he explained how the company rose from humble beginnings to be a world famous business; then charted its downfall until its recent revival.

### **Monday 2nd October**

#### ***"Mrs Brunel" - Mikron Theatre Company***

We welcomed back Mikron Theatre Company with "Mrs Brunel" as they told the story of Isambard Kingdom Brunel through the eyes of his long suffering wife, Mary. She lived through all the highs and lows of the great engineer, (so says Jeremy Clarkson no less).

With two actors playing the main roles from their early lives until Brunel's death, it was up to the other two actors to cover every other part, which they did wonderfully.

### **Monday 6th November**

#### ***"My Animals and Other Family - 13th Earl of Derby" - Dr Alan Crosby***

Doctor Crosby returned with an intriguing talk on life in the stately home when the incumbent was a few cards short of a full deck. The thirteenth Earl invented the wildlife safari park, before these were fashionable, for his own private study which put a large strain on both his finances and his relationship with the rest of his family.

### **Monday 4th December**

#### ***"Meet the Ancestors" - the BBC TV series - Julian Richards***

As promised and already mentioned on his website, Julian came to Leyland (Lancashire) to tell the background story of the many television programmes with which he has been involved over the years. As a television star he was very down to earth; how many speakers help to put out the chairs? As a speaker he spoke in a very understanding manner and showed how his enthusiasm on screen is for real and not an act - just like his mate, Mick Aston. He was also not fazed by only getting 140 in attendance, Mick beating him by ten.

### **End of an Era: the leaving of Prospect House**

As you may remember, it was a blustery and rainy night on Monday, 4th December, but Julian's insight into "Meet the Ancestors" gave us all a warm feeling of how, as members of an historical society, we can bring history to life for others. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped the Committee by putting out the chairs at the beginning of that meeting and putting their chairs back at the end of that meeting.

It was the responsibility of the Committee to pay for the hire of the room and to ensure that Society members followed the rules as laid out in our Agreement with Prospect House. Part of this Agreement was the setting up for our meetings and the cleaning of the room at their end. After our Christmas meeting, the Committee stayed behind to clean the room until they were asked to leave the hall by the Senior Citizens' Treasurer, at around 9.45 pm.

On 21st December 2006, the Historical Society received a solicitor's letter from the Senior

Citizens' Club to pay for the refurbishment of the floor of the hall and also to vacate Prospect House with effect from 5th February 2007: this after our having use of the premises for the past thirty-four years. The decision made at a special December committee meeting of the Senior Citizens' Committee did not include any warning to us, nor did they invite any representative from the Historical Society to their meeting.

The alleged damage we are accused of causing constituted nothing more than the normal wear and tear on the floor which one would expect on a wet autumn night. Our solicitors reviewed our Agreement with Prospect House and the solicitor's letter from the Senior Citizens' Club, commenting that they had used a sledge-hammer to crack a nut and they, the Senior Citizens' Club, had put the Historical Society in a very difficult position.

As the Society had booked and published our future meetings until the end of this season, it was a task to re-arrange and re-advertise these meetings. This we put to the Senior Citizens' Club via our solicitors suggesting a stay of execution until the end of the season. It was rejected out of hand by their solicitor without them even consulting their committee.

So, Saturday, 3rd February 2007, saw the committee and a few friends moving the Society's collection of books, chronicles, display boards, etc., to their new home as guests of the Leyland Model Railway Society on Farington Business Park, to whom we give our grateful thanks.

A solution to our venue problem was provided by hiring Farington Lodge for the March meeting and hiring the RAF Club for the following April, June and July meetings. Again, our grateful thanks to both of these venues for their help; and we are continuing to use the RAF Club for our committee meetings.

### **Monday 5th February**

#### ***"Cotton Mills of Preston" - Colin Dickinson***

For our last meeting at that place in Sandy Lane, we welcomed back Colin who told the members about the history of the cotton mills in our area. His knowledge, together with his collection of photographs, made for a most enjoyable evening.

### **Monday 5th March –**

#### ***"The Enigma Machine and Bletchley Park" - Dr Mark Baldwin***

Our Society's first meeting in Farington. We welcomed Dr Mark Baldwin and his wife who had travelled from Shropshire with their own Enigma machine to tell us the story of the code breakers. When your Chairman entered the Jubilee Suite with the speaker at 7 pm he was pleasantly surprised to see the venue half full already. When the meeting started we were pleased to report that 173 people had come to hear Dr Baldwin's talk.

Mark first explained how the Enigma machine was developed as a peace-time industrial tool before being refined for military use. He went through the principles of the workings of the machine, without losing his audience, then went on to explain its use in the war for army, air force and especially naval field of operations.

After a break, for the bar and tea, Mark spoke about Bletchley Park and the way the code breakers used more and more technology to enable the codes to be broken and read as soon as possible after transmission. This, of course, with the assistance of Alan Turing, led to the invention of the world's first programmable computer, 'Colossus'. There followed a question and answer session and then Mark proceeded to demonstrate his Enigma machine to very enthusiastic Society members and visitors until well after 11 o'clock.

### **Monday 2nd April**

#### ***"William Yates and the County Maps of Lancashire" - Dr Paul Hindle***

The April meeting at the RAF Club featured the welcome return of Dr Paul Hindle with a talk on the famous maps of Lancashire and what we can still learn from them today.

**Sunday 22nd April –**

***“Superstitions in Lancashire” – Peter Watson***

As usual at Alston Hall we had a lovely three-course meal followed by an interesting talk by one of our favourite speakers, Peter Watson, who probably gave us more questions to ponder on than answers.

**Monday 7th May -**

***“The Second Annual Historical Society Outing” - Ironbridge & Blists Hill Victorian Town***

Thirty-five members went on the second of our Historical Society outings by coach to Ironbridge. We left Leyland Tesco Supermarket car park at 9.00 o'clock, taking the M6 to Junction 12 where, after circumnavigating the Gailey roundabout, we headed down the A5, as built by Thomas Telford, towards the town of Telford.

Not long down the road we came to the British Waterways' reservoirs which feed the summit level of the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal. We passed over the canal, one of the oldest in the country: the first lock falls to the Trent valley and its junction with the Trent and Mersey Canal many miles away. Here the distinctive lock cottage is a tower to enable the lock-keeper to see oncoming boats from both directions.

This canal, and the Trent & Mersey, formed part of James Brindley's 'Grand Cross' to connect the Thames, Severn, Mersey and Trent rivers. Yes, I have been here for my holidays before, in case you are interested! The other three canals in the cross were the Bridgewater, Coventry and Oxford canals.

About five miles further and we went under the Thomas Telford built canal; originally called the Birmingham and Liverpool Junction Canal, but now more regularly called the Shropshire Union Canal. This aqueduct was opened in 1832, but the canal was not opened fully until 1835 as the battle of Shelmore Embankment drove Telford to an early grave; see the Mikron play coming to the society in October. As railways were coming on the site, this was the last main line canal built in England and its design owes more to railway planning than canal; large embankments and deep cuttings being the norm.

After travelling through the new town area of link roads, roundabouts and no buildings, we soon reached the edge of the gorge as we descended to almost river level. At 11.00 am we arrived in Ironbridge village, where we left the coach for a walk across the bridge to the toll house and a visit to the free museum, wherein the history of the bridge was shown.

We then walked through the village to the Museum of the Gorge where the coach was parked. The enterprise of the locals was well in evidence with my favourite being the shop where you can get dressed in the fashion of the Victorians and have your photo taken in sepia.

The coach then took the diverted route to the Blists Hill Victorian Town and we paid the group entry fee and went back to 1900. As the first building was a bank, you could change your money back to the days of silver three penny ("thrupp-nee") bits, pennies, half pennies and farthings. The exchange rate was 2½d (5p) to the £1.00.

We all went our own way around the many buildings on site; the street of shops from the bank included a chemist's, sweet shop, grocer's, plumber's, then the cobbler's shop and a very authentic public house. Some of the shops like the butcher's and the baker's, sold food to be eaten in the town as well. Heading on down a hill, the area becomes more industrial; a saw mill is passed followed by the wrought iron works, where the workers were producing iron ingots from scrap iron using the steam hammer and rolling mill.

Opposite the ironworks is one of the site's original buildings, the blast furnaces, which backed onto the Shropshire Canal on the hillside behind, (more about that soon). Taking the miners' track, you pass the squatters' cottage, closely followed by the Shelton Tollhouse, designed by Telford, which used to stand next to his A5 road. After the St Chad mission church, which is made out of corrugated iron, the path heads to the Hay Inclined Plane; this was an inclined rail connection between

the two parts of the Shropshire Canal. The steep path then takes you up to the canal level where the ruins of the engine house are still to be seen.

This canal, not to be confused with the Shropshire Union Canal, was a tub boat canal whose boats were more box-shaped for easy locking, working and transfer, through the various inclined planes from the junction with the national canal network at Wappenhall, where the only part of this system to be standard sized went off to Shrewsbury; the other line going via the Trench incline and through other canals until this level was reached; the Hay inclined plane being the last stage as the bottom of it ran into the Coalport Canal next to the River Severn at the bottom of the gorge.

Walking back along the canal towpath, the top of the blast furnaces are reached where the coal was shovelled straight from the wharf side into the steam engines running the site. Passing the mine with its winding engine, as seen and used by Fred Dibnah, you come to the scale model of the Iron Bridge as built by the army on BBC2 Timewatch to demonstrate how the bridge was constructed. On the other side of the canal, the remains of the brick and tile works are still in situ with a copy of Trevithick's Pen y Darren locomotive from 1804 running along the canal bank.

So, with numerous other attractions: actors playing parts from the 1900s and a steam fair being held on the day we were there, there was plenty to see and do and we packed a lot into our afternoon at the Blists Hill Victorian Town. We were back in the coach by five o'clock and heading back north to Leyland.

### **Monday 4th June –**

#### ***“Roman Walton le Dale” – Rachel Newman***

Rachel from the Oxford/Lancaster Archaeology Unit gave the members the latest findings and theories regarding the huge site that is now mostly covered by the Capitol Centre in Walton le Dale. The site covers the triangle of land between the junction of the River Ribble and the now canalised course of the River Darwen.

Bringing together both digs from the 1950s and recent times showed that the idea of a military/demilitarised industrial site serving the Roman Legions between Chester and Manchester to the south and the road to Carlisle and Hadrian's Wall, seems to be the best bet.

### **Monday 2nd July –**

#### ***“Another Side of Leyland”***

After a smooth run through the Annual General Meeting your Chairman showed a series of short films put together by Jack Winrow. These showed his collection of colour photographs taken in the 1960s and early '70s together with a brief look around the abandoned farmhouse on Dawson Lane and the work being done on Worden Old Hall on the former Royal Ordnance Factory site.

### **Website**

The website continues to grow: since its inception in December 1999, the number of visitors to the site is over **30,769**, with over 6,900 hits this year. Enquires have continued to flood in with over thirty requiring the committee's attention in the last twelve months.

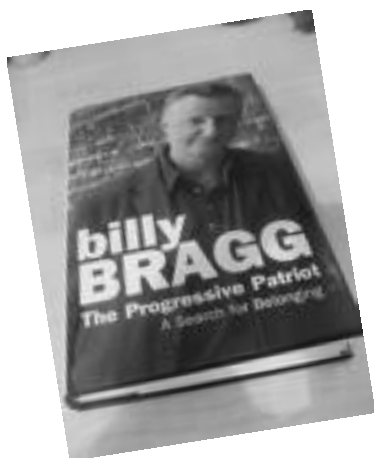
I would like to thank all the committee members for their assistance in the last fourteen years, especially in this, a most traumatic one, indeed. I hope they will continue to carry on with their good work in the future, especially Elizabeth with the planning applications and Mary editing the Chronicle.

**Peter Houghton**  
Chairman



## The Book Review

*An occasional series where the Chairman finds historical books which you may have overlooked.*



### **The Progressive Patriot – Billy Bragg**

Here is the first book by the solo artist Billy Bragg and whereas being a celebrity would usually have made him the centre of the autobiography, Billy uses history to tell his story.

With British history and, in particular, local history, as his guide, he shows how the area where he was brought up was developed; he then goes back into his family history to show how the Braggs came to be in Hackney, a former village and now a suburb of London. Bringing these threads together he goes on to explain how his songs and lyrics came from the world he grew up in and all the influences that led him to where he is today.



### **Pies and Prejudice – Stuart Maconie**

As a follow up to his book “Cider with Roadies”, about growing up in Wigan, this book subtitled “In Search of the North” has Stuart coming back up north to see what has changed since he headed south twenty years ago to earn a living writing and presenting programmes in London.

As well as covering the usual towns and cities, Manchester, Liverpool, Newcastle, Leeds he also visits real northern towns, Crewe, Wigan (of course), Warrington, Saddleworth, Oldham, Blackpool and many others before heading for the lakeland hills.

As a local he gives a realistic and very funny take on the area where we live. He also lets slip the best transport cafes location in the country. Miss it if you dare.



### **Give Me Ten Seconds – John Sergeant**

As a BBC man, John Sergeant could have been seen on the 6 pm news most nights for many years, though to read his autobiography you will wonder how he was not sidetracked on the way.

His family upbringing and their travels in war torn areas are a foretaste of John’s future life as a war correspondent. Whilst the News bosses were mad when he appeared on “Have I Got News for You” they only had to look back at who gave him a reference for his reporters job, it was only Alan Bennett! (John had a small part in his only TV series).

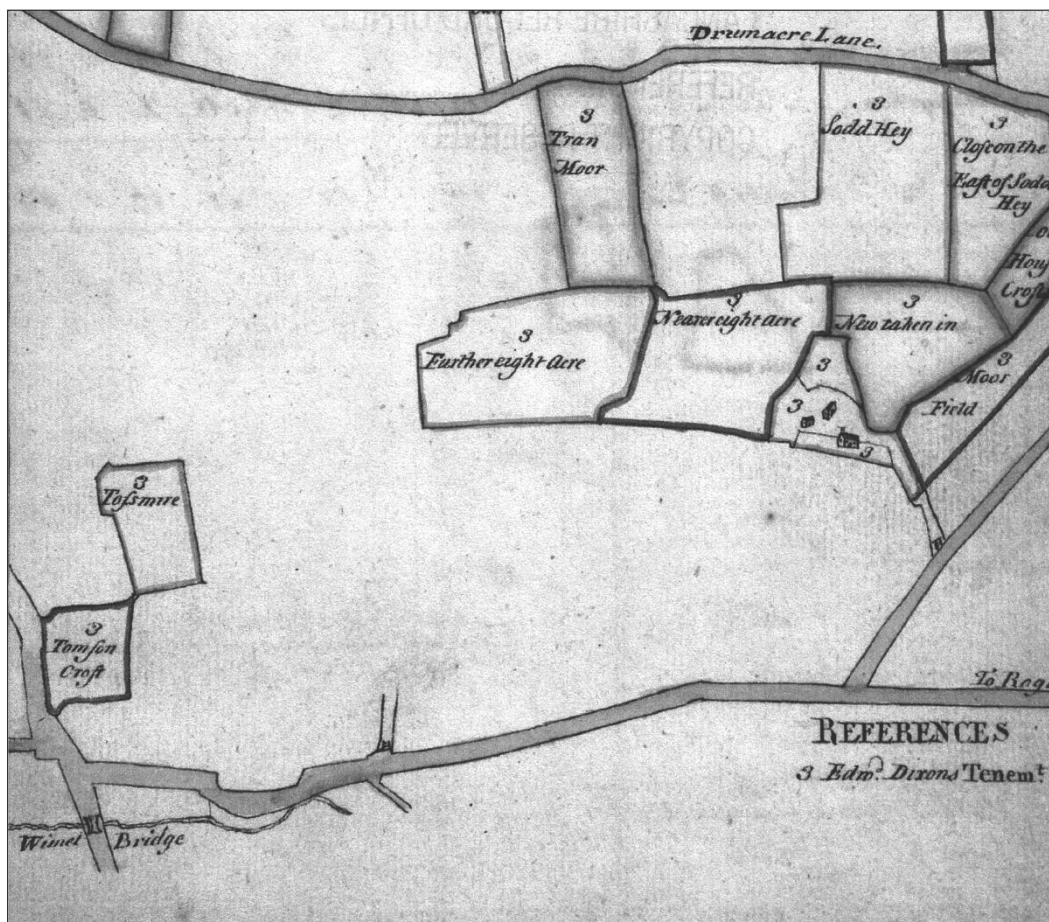
Of course, Maggie’s walk on part in Paris, prior to her resignation in which John featured strongly gets a rightful mention.

## More about Wymott

*Derek Wilkins continuing his research into the name 'Wymott'*

In my article in Chronicle No 51 reference was made to a map drawn in 1605 which showed three streams draining a moss area. This moss area extended from Penwortham in the north to Bretherton in the south and from Longton in the west to Leyland in the east. The streams were all named 'wimot' or 'wimote' and issued from features called 'cowbes' or similar. It was suggested that the origin of the name 'Wymott' was connected with this area of moss and its associated streams. A fourth stream, the modern day Wymott Brook, was not shown on this map. An earlier map of 1570 showed the same three sources but here named 'combe'. It now turns out that there was a fifth stream with the same, or similar, name draining the same area of moss.

The Trafford family owned a quarter of the manor of Longton in the 18th and 19th centuries and their estate documents have long been held in the Lancashire Record Office although, until recently, not fully calendared. Recent calendaring has revealed some previously unsuspected gems; amongst them a survey of Trafford lands in Longton, carried out in 1761<sup>1</sup>. The quality of its plans is on a par with the more famous Farington survey of Leyland in 1725, although the plans are not as extensive.



1 'Wimet Bridge' LRO DDTR 137/6

Fig

Two of the plans are relevant to this discussion since they both include the name 'Wimet'. The first (Fig 1) shows the cross roads in Walmer Bridge, on the boundary of Longton and Little Hoole, with a bridge across a stream named, 'Wimet Bridge'. (It is not suggested that this is the origin of the name Walmer Bridge which seems to be of very early origin and quite separate from Wymott).

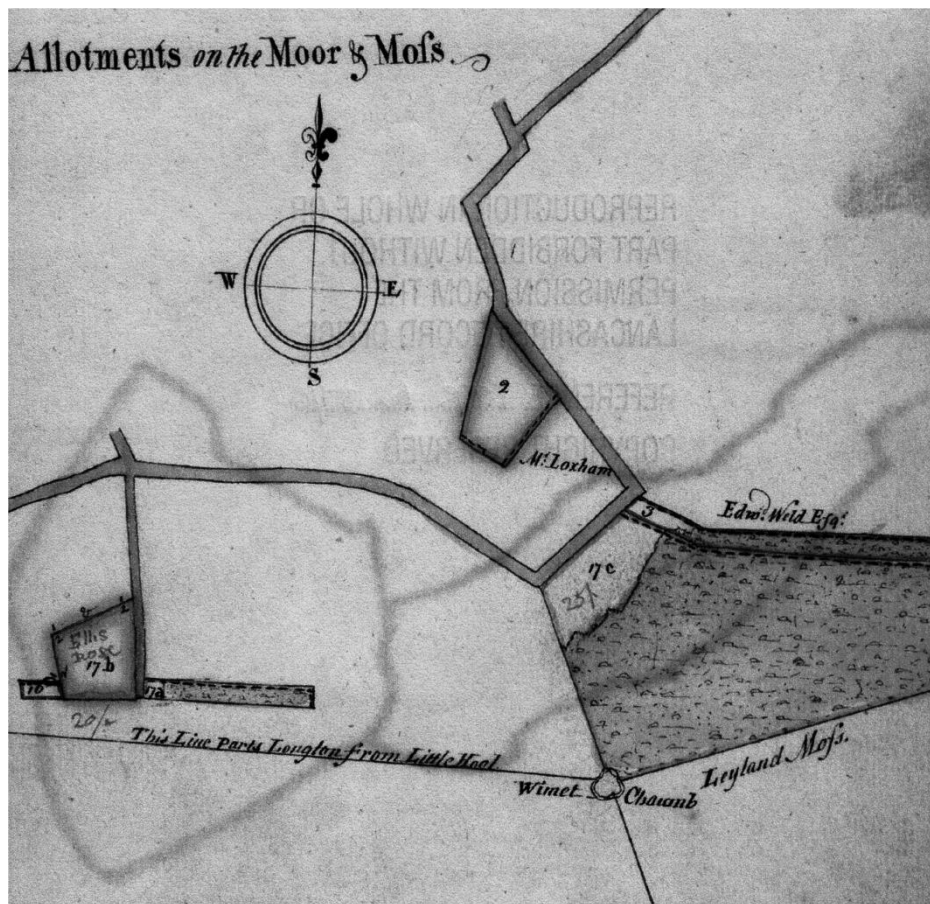


Fig 2: 'Wimet Chawmb' LRO DDTR 137/6

The second (Fig 2) shows the point where Longton, Leyland and Little Hoole meet (the present day 'Curlew corner') on the road from Midge Hall to Longton which was constructed in the 1830's. It is at the head of the stream which eventually runs under 'Wimet Bridge' in Fig 1 and is named 'Wimet Chawmb'. The Oxford English Dictionary gives one meaning of chawm or chaum as a chasm, crevice or crack in the ground and it seems to be used here to mean a spring issuing from the ground and is presumably another variant of cowbe, combe and their variants used on the earlier maps.

George Hennes's map of 1830 was drawn on the eve of the final stage of the reclamation of our local mosses and is a particularly useful framework for depicting the locations, relative to the mosses, of the five streams and the four springs referred to above and in the earlier article. The locations of fields containing the name Wymott on the relevant Tithe Map are also shown, (Fig 3). This shows, graphically, how the name Wymott extended throughout this whole moss area. The various names used from the 12th century to the present day are listed after Fig 3.

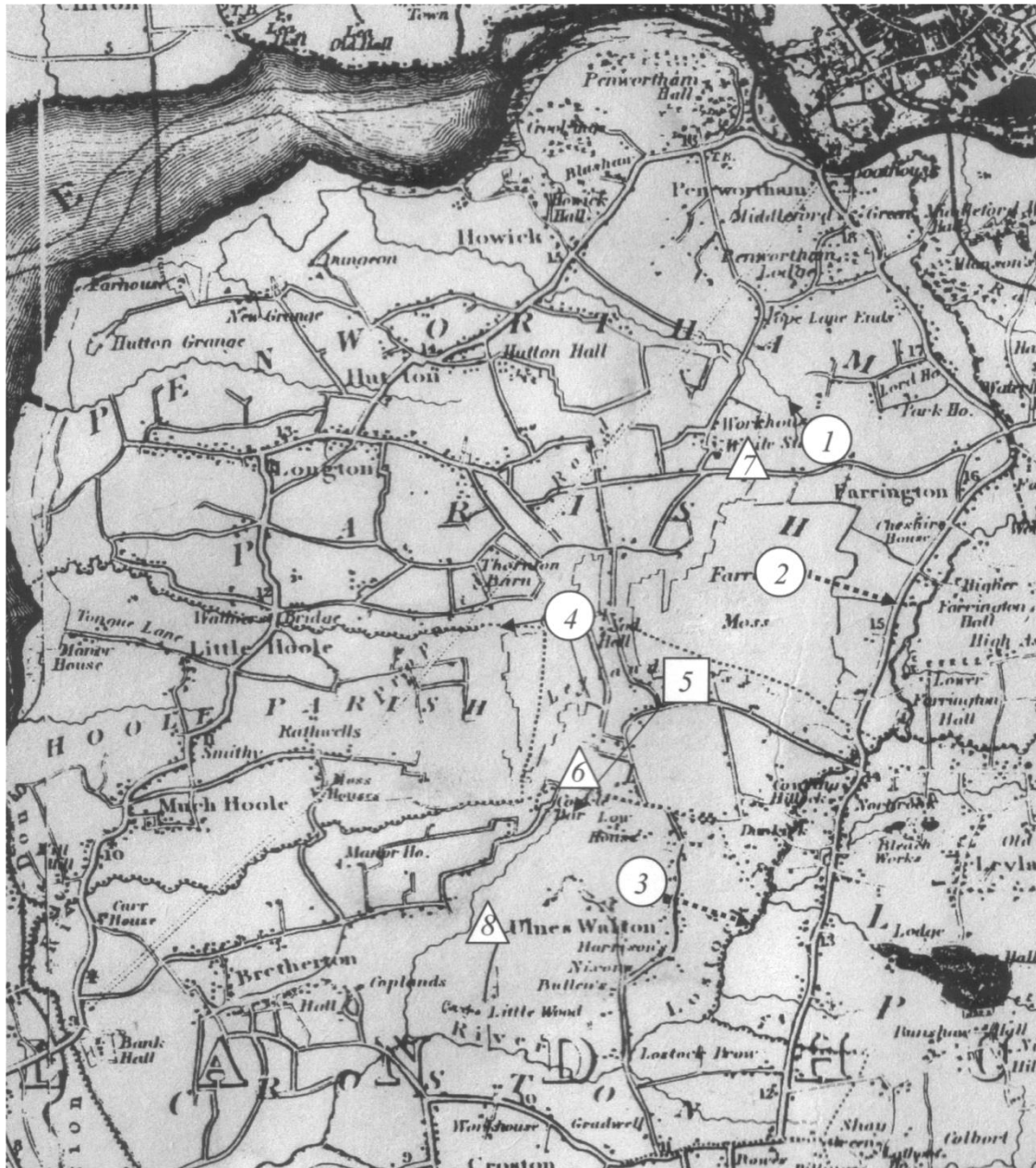


Fig 3 George Hennet map of 1830

**Key to Fig 3**

- → - Springs identified on 1570, 1605 and 1761 maps with direction of flow.
- - Stream source shown on 1892 OS map
- △ - Fields having Wymott as an element
- ..... → - Probable flow into Lostock

The following list shows the documentary incidence of the name ‘Wymott’ and its variants from the 13th century to the present day:-

**Fig 3**

<b>Ref.</b>	<b>Names of Streams</b>	<b>Springs</b>
1.	1212 – 1220 1236 – 1268 1590 Modern	<i>water of wimoth</i> <i>water of wimode</i> <i>watter of winniotte</i> <i>Mill Brook</i>
		1570 <i>wimot combe</i> 1605 <i>wimot cowbbe</i>
2.	1605	<i>the river called wimote</i>
		1570 <i>wimot combe</i> 1605 <i>wimot cowebe</i>
3.	1605	<i>the ryver of wimot</i>
		1570 <i>wimot combe</i> 1605 <i>wimot cowebe</i>
4.	1761	<i>wimet (bridge)</i>
		1761 <i>wimnet chawmb</i>
5.	Modern	<i>Wymott Brook</i>
		No spring connected with this stream has been found. Point 5 is from the 1892 OS map.
6.	1838	<i>Wymot Field</i> <i>Further Wymot</i>
		- (Leyland Tithe Schedule)
7.	1839	<i>West Wymot</i> <i>East Wymot</i>
		- (Farington Tithe Schedule)
8.	1838	<i>Wymot Croft</i> <i>Wymot Meadow</i>
		- (Ulnes Walton Tithe Schedule)

### **Reference**

<sup>1</sup> LRO DDTTr Box 137 No 6. Survey of Longton 1761

### **Acknowledgements**

The kind permission of the County Archivist for the reproduction of Figs 1 and 2 is greatly appreciated.

## Ambrye Meadow field stones

*An extract from research undertaken by Ian Barrow on what the stones represent*

As you drive along the Leyland by-pass heading south towards Ecclestone, you pass a field bisected by a row of stone fence posts. The following is the research I undertook to discover the background of this unique feature in the Lancashire landscape.



### Background

Ambrye Meadow Grid ref. (SD525-213) lies on the south-west side of Leyland Lancashire in the small township of Earnshaw Bridge which is known locally as ‘Seven Stars’ due to the ‘Seven Stars’ public house which has stood on the site since 1686.

Today, the remains of thirty-eight stone fence posts can be seen running roughly from the north-west to the south-east in two rows; standing in an old water meadow known locally as Ambrye Meadow. An access lane, Emnie Lane, links the field to Leyland Lane which is the main southern route into Leyland. The field is surrounded on three sides by water, the River Lostock to the north-west, the remains of Wade Brook to the south-east and Mill to the north-east.

In the early 1980s, the area was bisected when the Leyland by-pass was constructed. This resulted in the straightening of the River Lostock, re-routing Mill Brook 120 metres to the south, and re-defining the route of Wade Brook. All this re-engineering resulted in the near complete loss of the northern row of fence posts; only one now remains standing and the base of another is just visible.

The stone fence posts appear to be made of sandstone, possibly originating from the old quarry known as Ecclestone Delph on Bannister Green, Ecclestone. This lies approximately three miles south of Ambrye meadow. The quarry has been a source of local building stone for hundreds of years and similar stone can be seen in many of the older buildings in the area.

### Etymology of Field Names

To try to ascertain the possible origin and definition of the field name, I contacted the English Place Name Society. In their reply, Mr. John Field details the origin of both the names of Ambrye

and Emnie.

**AMBRYE:** *This may have been derived from the Middle English almerie for a storehouse or aumonerie, an almonry, a place where alms are distributed.*

**EMNIE:** *from the Latin word elemosynaria which later became aumonerie and then almonry.*

In further research, I also found a reference to

**AUMBRY:** *A small recess in a chancel wall, sometimes with a door, where the vessels used to celebrate Mass were kept; i.e. a storage cupboard or box.*

*Taken from the 'Parish Churches of Britain' by Richard Foster page 114.*

The similarity of the forms of the names and the close connection of the meanings may have led to the convergence of the two terms, and their running together may possibly point to the fact that both activities of storage and distribution may have been conducted in the same place in the past.

It is possible that these 'storage and distribution' references point to a possible site of a tithe barn, where a payment of one tenth of all produce was given to the church. Evidence on the 1953 aerial photographs shows the possible outline of a large building in an adjacent field to Ambrye meadow. Today, Tithe Barn Lane still lies half a mile to the east of Ambrye meadow.

### Historical Documentary Evidence

Ambrye meadow is referred to in several historical documents. The first reference I found was in the book, *'The Surviving Past'*, published in the 1980s by John Hallam, the then Central Lancashire Development Corporation's consultant archaeologist. It was suggested that the stone fence posts may have been erected in 1785 to divide the field into three equal areas which would provide a permanent field system.... more fitting to the new agricultural methods. The reference also states that a Robert Welch was the landowner and that Ambrye Meadow was mentioned in an estate plan.

In a visit to Lancashire record Office, I tried to verify these references and the search produced two documents relating to Ambrye Meadow.

The first document was an Enclosure Award and Agreement (Ref – LRO: DDF 1991-1992) dated 19th January, 1723. Several people are quoted who sign and seal the document: these include George Farington, Nicholas Rigby, R Crook, John Wright, William Greene, William Woodcock, Elizabeth Woodcock, Hugh Charnock, Edward Atherton and Robert Weltch (Welch). The document then goes on to refer to the ownership of the lands in Leyland.

*'The whole ancient lands in the township of Leyland that has not been enclosed from any commings is 961 acres out of which quantity their belongs to George Farington Lord of the Manor 897 acres 3 roods being the estate hereafter named and whereof there is now enclosed 54 acres of commings which gives every acre of land (g.fall of perchy)[sic] only wanting (g.fall)[sic] which George Farington Esq is to have allowed him above his share in the next enclosure so that the share belongs to...'*

Robert Welch, the above mentioned landowner, is documented as having two parcels of land. The first was rented from George Farington's main estate and containing an area of 18 perches. The second parcel of 2 acres was owned by Robert Welch and was part of the lands of the township of Leyland outside the control of George Farington's estate.

The second document was also an Enclosure Awards and Agreements (Ref – LRO:PR 2908/5/2) dated 2nd October 1785. This details exclusively the management and ownership of Ambrye Meadow. The lands in the area around Ambrye Meadow were owned by George Farington and contained 4 acres, - 3 roods - 16¾ perches. The meadow was sold to three parties, Thomas Baldwin (the vicar of St Andrew's church, the parish church of Leyland) and Thomas Baldwin Junior (his son) who acquired an area of 1 acre - 3 roods - 18¾ perches for a sum of 10/-. John Woodcock also paid the same amount of 10/- and acquired 1 acre - 3 roods - 16¼ perch. Robert Welch and John Nixon paid 5/- each and acquired 1 acre - 2 roods - 18½ perch from George Farington. It is also stated that

the fields were to be known as Ambrye Meadow. The document also states that Robert Welch and John Nixon were tasked to survey the entire area of land and re-divide the three parcels of land equally and as fairly as possible between the three parties.

*'3 equal shares as same in value as might be and then each lot for the same which the allotment share of the said meadow lying and the Southe End therof containing 4 acres, 3 roods and 16¾ perches and now divided and enclosed from the other parts of the said meadow by large stones set erect with rails through the same fell to the lot...'*

*After the re-division of the meadow, the Baldwins acquired 1 acre - 2 roods and - 18¾ perches. John Woodcock acquired 1 acre - 2 roods - 19½ perches. Robert Welch and John Nixon acquired 1 acre 2 roods - 18½ perches. Robert Welch and John Nixon were also tasked to erect the stone posts and wooden rails to divide the meadow in accordance with their calculations. Once the meadow was divided and fenced the whole area was then leased to a Thomas Croft for a payment of 10/- per field.*

A third document was brought to light by a visit to South Ribble Museum. This was the Leyland Tithe Map of 1838 and this showed that the meadow then existed as a 3 field group numbered 1008, 1009 and 960 (reading from south to north)

### **Conclusion**

In 1738 Mr. Nixon and Mr. Welch along with three other parties, purchased a portion of water meadow lying to south west of Leyland Township from George Farrington the Lord of the manor. This meadow was surrounded on all sides by water in the form of rivers and brooks, on the eastern side by Wade Brook, to the north by Mill Brook, and to the west by the River Lostock. George Farrington was the Lord of the Manor and he owned a large proportion of the land around Leyland and it appears at this time he was disposing of some of his lands to local landowners by sale. Within the documentation relating to the sale of the land under investigation, it was also mentioned that the area would be called Ambrye Meadow in future. This may have been a new name for the area of land, or it could represent the re-use of a much older name relating to a previous use of the meadow and the surrounding area as tithe land, or a site on which the tithes were collected or stored. However this would not seem very practical as the surrounding wet environment would not give an ideal location for the storage of grain.

Nixon and Welch were tasked with the job of surveying the field equally and dividing it equally between all the parties concerned. Once surveyed, the internal field division boundaries were marked using stone fence posts erected approximately 8.5ft apart, in two lines. These posts had two holes cut into them approximately nineteen and forty inches above ground level, designed to hold wooden rails. Looking at the heights of these rails, it is evident that these fields were probably used for the penning of large stock or for arable farming rather than smaller stock animals.

Over the next hundred years the three fields were still in use and are mentioned on the Leyland Tithe Map of 1838. As we approach the present time, aerial photographs covering the period from 1957 up to 1972 show that little has changed in the surrounding landscape apart from the movement of the River Lostock and the formation of an ox-bow lake on the western bank of the River Lostock.

During the early part of the 1980s the new Leyland by-pass was commissioned and work began on its construction. This new road had a major affect on Ambrye Meadow, causing the near total loss of all the posts in row 'B'. Major engineering work was also carried out to alter the routes of both Mill and Wade brooks. The re-routing of Mill Brook has meant that the old confluence with the River Lostock has now been dammed up. Close inspection of this area reveals that many of the stone posts, possibly from row 'B', have been broken up and have been used as ballast in the damming work.



## References

### Organisations

English Place Name Society – Mr. John Fields  
Leyland Historical Society – Mr. Graham Thomas  
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South Ribble Borough Council – Miss. Jane Hudd

### Documentation

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Enclosure award and Agreement – (LRO: PR 2908/5/2)  
Leyland Tithe Map of 1838.

### Books

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The Surviving Past – John Hallam (Chorley, Not Dated)  
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## Leyland Motors' Sports

### Part Two - The War Years

#### *Continuing Edward Almond's synopsis of Leyland Motors' Sports' Days from Chronicle No. 46*

At the time of the last Sports in 1939 the Pavilion was being rebuilt and work continued throughout the year. The new Sports Pavilion was opened on Monday evening, 20th May, by Mr Henry Spurrier, Senior, Managing Director. The cost was £20,000 with another £5,000 spent on the grounds. The opening of the new facility was a fairly grand affair with a dance at which Francis Turner and his wife led the first dance. Francis was one of the official Leyland Motors' photographers before he opened his first shop in Towngate after the war.

War brings deprivation and curtails normal activities and, not surprisingly, sporting events were to suffer. Although it was hoped that morale would keep everyday life as normal, this was impossible with the absence of a husband, a father, a brother or a son. Apart from the worry about their safety, work was tempered to the war effort. No-one really escapes from its impact. Leyland Motors was no exception. The town was an important industrial centre with work centred on producing military vehicles and other vital products. The nearby Ammunition Works on Wigan Road only helped to increase this awareness. Overtime, blackouts, time changes and rationing, all played their part in dampening everyone's enthusiasm for sport. The efforts of organising a sports' day in such circumstances would have proved to be very difficult, even if the will had been there. As the population faced the reality of the war years, there was a determination to bring some normality and entertainment into people's lives. Sporting activities, such as football, cricket, greyhound racing, bowls and rifle shooting, were engaged in. On the social side there were dances, concerts, pantomimes and amateur dramatic productions. The cinema was also very popular with a large number of American films. Some of the Leyland Motors Social and Athletic Club's Sections were also active.

1940 and 1941 were bleak years for athletics and the LMSAC did not organise any sports' days. The following year, LMSAC suffered a blow with the death on 6 March 1942, at Ambleside, of its first President, Henry Spurrier, Senior, aged 74. He had been responsible for founding the club in 1919 and had regularly supported the Sports' Days from their inception in 1921. At the time of his death he was still Managing Director of Leyland Motors Ltd.

Later in the year, LMSAC organised a series of activities called, 'Holiday at Home', to coincide with the works' holiday. The programme of events included dances and concerts by the Loyals' Military Band. Employees' children were catered for with cine shows and a bathing costume display, (won by Clare Marsden, aged 8).

The 'Holiday at Home' scheme proved to be popular and was the catalyst for an even bigger programme the next year. There was a baseball demonstration by American troops on 24th July; Bickershaw Colliery Band gave a concert on 25th July; Leyland Motors Fire Brigade and the NFS gave a fire fighting display on 29 July. Saturday, 31 July, was given over to a Children's Sports and the following day, Leyland Prize Band gave a concert. In addition, concerts, films, competitions and bowls were arranged throughout the week.

At the Children's Sports, Mr J Malley was clerk of the course assisted by George Barrand (announcer). Races were held for boys and girls aged under 5, under 7, under 9, under 11, under 13 and under 14. School Relay races were also held with the senior boys' and girls' races being won by the Leyland Senior School. For the first time LMSAC included junior children and St Mary's and Farington C of E were the first winners of the girls' and boys' races respectively.

In 1944, a similar programme was adopted for another 'Holiday at Home' scheme. On Saturday, 28 July, a baseball match was held and on Sunday, Foden's Motor Works' Band entertained in the afternoon and evening. Wednesday, 2nd August, saw the revival of a sports meeting. Not quite the

pre-war Motors' Sports but, nevertheless, a competition for employees. The flat races were as usual handicap events and the most successful competitor was R Hampson with second places in the 100yds and 880yds and a third place in the 220yds. Joe Billington was first in the One Mile and second in the sack race. Other winners were H Ainscough (100yds); K Smith (220yds); E Wilcock (880 yds); J Blackburn (sack); W Crook (slow bicycle) and Bob Cookson (veterans). The ladies' race was won by Miss E Hampson. There was also a bowling tournament won by Cook and a miniature rifle competition won by G. Barrand. An interesting competitor was Joe Malley (future Secretary/Manager of LMSAC) who finished second in the veterans' race and was losing semi-finalist in the bowling.

On the Thursday, a Fire Fighting Competition was held in which Farington 'A' were triumphant by a handsome margin. The Children's Sports were held on Saturday, 5th August. Once again the schools' relay races were eagerly fought out with the junior races resulting in repeat victories. In the senior races, Lostock Hall County won the boys' and Corinthian House, Leyland Senior School, were successful for the girls'.

There were also further events for adults and the feature of the afternoon was the success of an American called Walsh, who won the 440 yds, 880 yds and One Mile. H Ainscough won the 100yds and 220yds. A tennis doubles tournament saw victory go to R Vesty and Miss B Walmsley.

### **After the War**

After nearly six long years a ceasefire was declared and people and industry thought about a return to normality. There were still large numbers of members of the armed forces who had to be moved from overseas and then demobilised. All was not gloom though for some sporting organisations had functioned but at low key levels. There were officials of clubs who wanted to take up the reins once more.

This is shown in the restart of Leyland Motors Sports. The report in the 'Leyland Advertiser and Chorley Guardian' stated: 'There was a large attendance at Leyland Motors' Social and Athletic Club annual sports on Saturday. Many well known athletes and clubs took part.' Among them were Bolton United Harriers, Manchester AC, Earlestown Viaduct AC, Liverpool Harriers, Wallasey AC, Liverpool Pembroke, Sale Harriers, Wirral AC and the 8th Cheshire Regiment.

There were fifteen events and relay races for the local schools, (Junior Schools were included for the first time.) Of these fifteen, only six were works' events: two for the under 18s, one for veterans, two novelty events and the Tug-of-War. The open events included a ladies' handicap race for the first time. Other races were over 100yds, 220yds, 880yds, Two Miles (Team Race) and, interestingly, there were two one mile races, one of which was called the 'Victory Mile'. The latter race was won by H Loftus of Sale Harriers. The star of the afternoon was A Parkington, a youth working in 543 Department, who won both the under 18s 100yds and 880yds handicap events. The ladies' race was won by a Motors' employee, D M Jolley.

Unfortunately, there seem to be some query as to whether or not this was an official Leyland Motors Sports. The difficulty arises over the description in the 1948 programme for the Sports which states that the event is the '21st Annual Sports' Day'. We know that the Sports were held every year from 1921 to 1939; i.e. nineteen sports occasions. There is also photographic evidence in the British Commercial Vehicles Museum from 1929 and printed evidence (from newspapers and magazines) from 1921. There are also reports of Leyland Motors' Sports in the 'Leyland Advertiser/Chorley Guardian' for the years 1945, 1946 and 1947. If these were official then the 1948 Sports was the twenty-third! If not, then the two offending years would be 1945 and 1946. However, I suspect that the 1945 event which was probably put together very quickly and did not include a full works programme is not 'official.' There are no photographs in the Museum records but, also, there are big gaps from 1940 of the Company's activities. As Roy Turner pointed out, photographic film was difficult to come by at this period and photographers had to be careful with scarce resources. The 1946 sports' day has photographic evidence and a fuller programme of events and is undoubtedly 'official'. So, how do we explain this mystery? A copy of the 1946 programme would help but so far I have not come across one. However, I do believe the problem occurred due to a simple mistake in arithmetic. Possibly someone, after the war, was given the task of compiling the programme and

calculated there had been eighteen sports days before the war: after all, 21 from 39 leaves 18; i.e. 1939-1921 = 18. This would make the 1946 event the nineteenth and subsequently the one of 1948 the twenty-first.

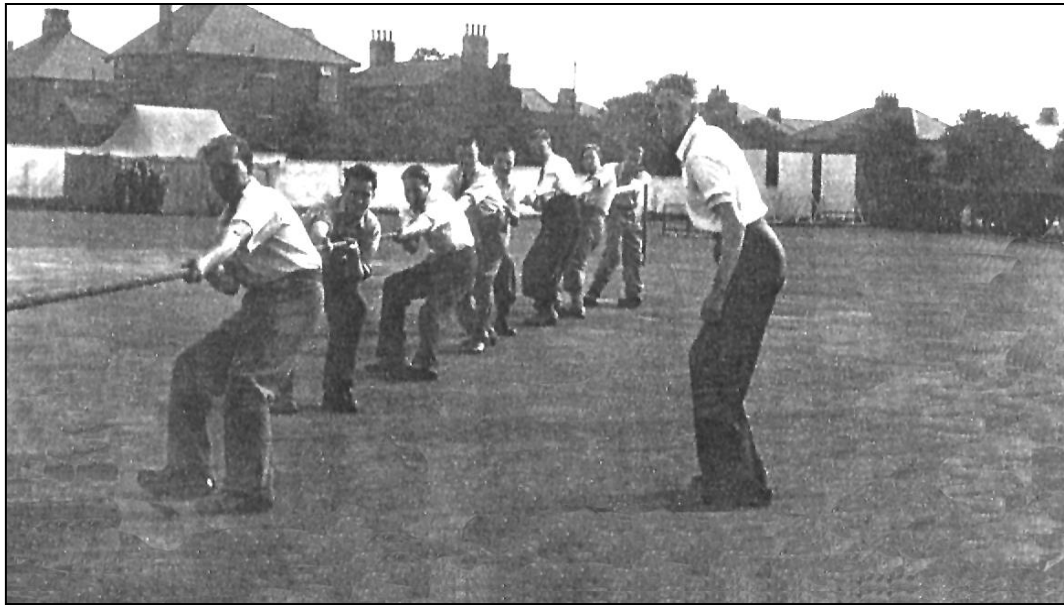
- 1946** A more varied programme was in place for the Sports held on 5th July. Unfortunately there was a cold wind but in spite of this there was a large number of spectators present. The General Manager's Cup was won by C F Holding who won the 100 yds, 220 yds and long jump. Joe Billington won the Forsyth Cup for the one mile. A Mrs J Billington won the members' wives 80 yds. The Lancashire County 880 yds Championship was held during the afternoon and was won by C Kelly of Liverpool Pembroke. There was a good entry from Northern Clubs in the open events. For the first time a Miniature Rifle Competition was held with the novelty event being won by W Iddon and the Open Shot by R Smith. H Holmes was successful in the Bowling Competition and at the conclusion of the Sports, prizes were presented by Mrs Vernon Walker.
- 1947** The feature of this year's Sports was the reintroduction of the inter-Works competition against Kingston. In the thirties, Kingston had had the upper hand but on this occasion Leyland won by 28 points to 22. It was a familiar score line but it was the last time the competition was held at Leyland. D Sibbald was the clear winner of the General Manager's Cup with wins in the 100yds, 220yds, 440yds and 880yds. A new novelty event, the 'Pillow Fight', was won by Michael Stokes who in the sixties and seventies was the caretaker at St Mary's Junior School on Golden Hill Lane. Another novelty event was the 'tilting the bucket' and the first winners were H Whalley and D Lyon. The miniature rifle competitions were won by F Kirkham and G Barrand respectively. In the bowling tournament, J Aspinall was triumphant. A new Challenge Trophy, the Bauchop Cup, for the winner of the Works 440 yds, was presented by Mr D F Bauchop, who in the early 1920s had been the General Manager of the Company's branch in Wellington, New Zealand. This trophy was in memory of his son who was killed in action on 20th April, 1941. (By coincidence this happened to be the day the author was born). The first winner was J B Wiggans.
- 1948** Fine weather returned for the Sports' Day on 3rd July which was attended by a record number of spectators who saw some 500 children take part. The outstanding senior athletes were A Partington with wins in the 100yds, 220yds, 440 yds and a second place in the high jump; and J B Wiggans, who won the 880 yds, 3-Legged, obstacle, and second in the 'tilting the bucket'. R D Bird won the General Manager's Cup by three points. Leyland County Primary School was successful in both the boys' and girls' relay races. Mrs West presented the prizes and was in return presented with a bouquet by little Margaret Milloy. The New Mayfair Dance Band played for the dance held in the evening.



1948

*Fred Yates wins the works one mile handicap from Joe Billington*

**1949** There were over two thousand spectators at the Sports held on 2nd July. Two trophies, to be known as the Leyland Cups awarded for annual competition in the local schools' relay races, were won by Farington Junior and Corinthian House, Leyland Secondary Modern. Other trophies were won by H Blundell (General Manager's Cup); A Pitcher (Bauchop Cup); R E Vale (Forsyth Cup); and South Works won the Spurrier Cup Works' relay. Mrs D Hewlett and M Sutcliffe won their respective ladies' races. The Works' one mile was won by George Lamb who, in the following year, would make a sensational debut in the Manchester to Blackpool walk. (George died in October 2000 after a battle with cancer). The tennis tournaments were revived and the winners were Miss B Pickburn with Mr R Pickburn and H Moss with H Clayton. Although a G Towers won a place in the Miniature Rifle Competition it was not Mrs Towers who was the first lady to enter the competition. Prizes were presented by Mrs C B Nixon. Catering was provided by Wagers of Preston.



1949 – Tug-of-War

**1950** Warm sunshine greeted spectators and competitors, on 1st July, who enjoyed one of the most successful organised events. The employees' children, of whom eight hundred were entered, competed on the football field. H Blundell repeated his win in the General Manager's Cup. The Sports also saw the participation of Associate Members (non-employees of Leyland Motors). Three competitors cleared 5' 6" in the high jump and could not be separated. George Lamb repeated his victory in the one mile walk. Frank Richmond showed his versatility by placing in the 100yds, three-legged, mile walk and 220 yds (first). The Foundry team won the tug-of war for the new 'Toulmin Cup'. Another future long distance walking star, Dick Ditchfield, won the one mile run for the Forsyth Cup. H Holmes won the bowling tournament. Mrs J Ambler presented the prizes.



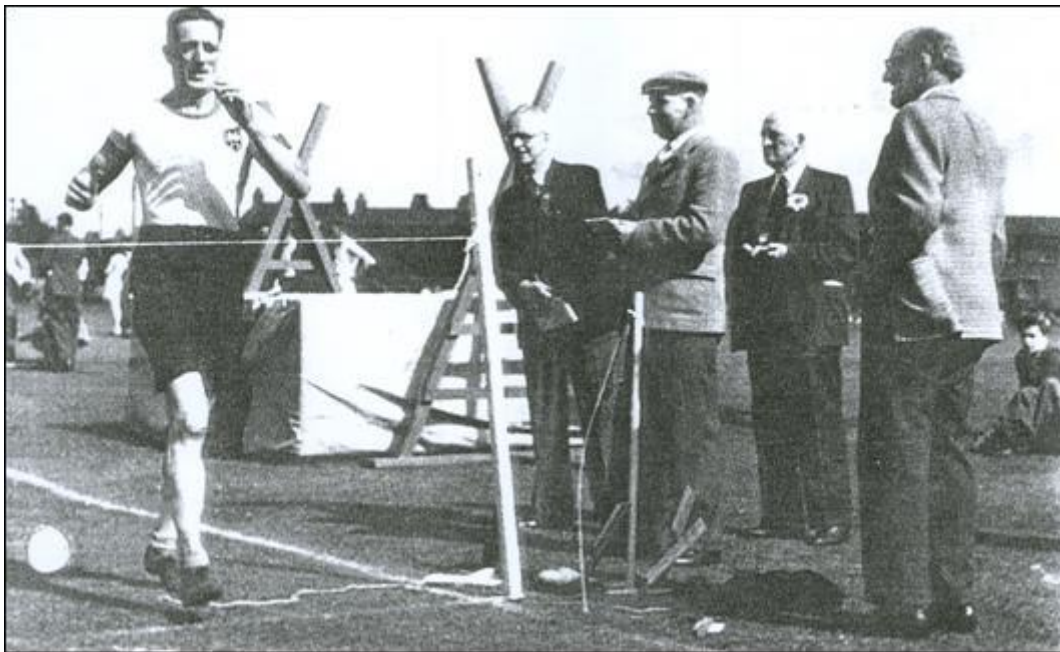
1950 - Pillow Fight  
Maurice Dean on the  
right

**1951** The Sports kept growing in terms of entries. For this year's event, on 7th July, there were nearly two thousand competitors taking part on a glorious sunny day. Fifteen year old

D Billington won the General Manager's Cup with two wins and a second place. Derek Lowe won three events. Associate Members were placed first and second in the tennis mixed doubles and one won the bowling tournament for which there was an exceptionally large entry. Corinthian House won the Leyland Cup for the third successive year. Prizes were presented by Mrs Vernon Walker and in the evening dance music was provided by Bill Shuttleworth and his Band.

**1952** Brilliant sunshine was enjoyed by visitors to the LMSAC grounds on 5th July and once more there was a record entry. A visitor to England was the Managing Director of Leyland Motors, South Africa Ltd, Mr N McKelvie Cockshutt, who had been a member of Leyland Motors for forty years. It was his wife who presented the General Manager's Cup to W Tattersall and the other prizes too. The most prolific competitor was Frank Richmond who came away with seven prizes as well as the Bauchop Cup. John Robinson retained the Forsyth Cup and Roland Moore won the 880 yds and the slow bicycle race. The ladies' novelty race was won by Miss N Wallwork of Wages Department.

**1953** Coronation Year saw Leyland Motors' Sports being entertained by Leyland Brass Band. The Club's President's wife, Mrs H Spurrier, presented the prizes and various trophies. W A Coupe won the General Manager's Cup. F Richmond was again the most successful of the senior Works competitors. However, Teddy Sharp had an unusual combination of second places: one mile walk, tilting the bucket and the novelty miniature rifle. Leyland County Junior and Spartan House, Leyland Secondary Modern, won the Leyland Cups. After many years of competing, Fred Almond won the Veterans' 80 yd race. The Spurrier Cup for the departmental Relay was won by the Engine Shop.



*1953 – Dick Hudson winning the One Mile Walk Handicap*

**1954** Another fine sunny day on 2nd July attracted about 2,000 spectators to watch a varied and entertaining programme. Specially invited guests were members of Southport, Warrington, Blackpool and Bolton Corporations who operated Leyland vehicles. Once again Frank Richmond shone taking home six prizes, it would be his last appearance at the Sports for the following year he emigrated to the New World and the last I heard he was living in Belize. As in 1935 when it was first contested, the General Manager's Cup was shared by three competitors all on ten points: A C Minshull, M C A Lynne and J Coupe. The ladies'

tennis tournament was won by M Ryding and the mens' by C Slater. B Taylor and J Squires were successful in the miniature rifle events and the bowling title went to A Johnson. Leyland Methodists' won the Leyland Cup for the first time winning both boys' and girls' relay events. Prizes were presented by Mrs F M Charter of Wellington House.

**1955** In his closing speech, Sir Henry Spurrier said that the Sports' Day was, 'Becoming more and more for the younger generation'. He thought that about three-quarters of the entries were from younger people. The event was held on 1st July and the spectators enjoyed a programme of thirty-five events. D Snape won the General Manager's Cup, winning the under-eighteens 100yds and 220yds, as well as the Works pillow fight and the sack race. Of the ladies, M Holt was the most successful, winning the 80yds, 3-legged and contributing to the win in the Departmental relay. In the Works events D Billington won four races and was second in two. The Toulmin Cup was won by the Ministry of Supply team in the tug-of-war. P Malloney and G Barrand were winners in the miniature rifle competition. The bowling was won by T Malloy and the tennis tournament winners were J Hilton and Mrs M Hilton (first section); J Buckle and Miss M Hosker (second section); and C Slater and D Sweeney (third section). Prizes were presented by Mrs V W Pilkington who had been a member of Leyland Motors for a considerable number of years.

**1956** Held on 7th July, in fine weather. Miss M Holt repeated her three victories of the previous year. The General Manager's Cup competition was a close affair with D Snape and A Dawber equal on 12 points but Snape was declared the winner as a result of his two first places to Dawber's one. D Billington won the Works three sprints, all from scratch, and was second in the long jump. The Ministry of Supply Factory team won both the tug-of-war and the Departmental relay race. The Leyland Cup for junior schools was won by Leyland County Junior. J Derbyshire won the bowling with A Rotherham and W Parker sharing the honours in the miniature rifle shoot-out. Second in both sections was C. Mayoh. Prizes were presented by Mrs Sydney Baybutt. An appeal was made in the programme which read 'A cordial invitation is extended to those competitors who have not already done so, to join the Amateur Athletic Section.' Unfortunately not many took up the challenge. The spectators were entertained throughout the afternoon by Leyland Motors Prize Band.

**1957** A new presenter of the prizes, on 6th July, was Mrs D G Stokes. The sports again attracted a large number of entrants especially from the Apprentices. J Rotherham won the General Manager's Cup with 17 points. He gained two first, two second and one third places. Jim Dawber was the star of the Works' events winning the 440 yds, 880 yds and the one mile and taking home two trophies: the Bauchop and Forsyth Cups. The bowling tournament was won by H. Mawdsley and the winners of the novelty rifle and own shot were T Durband and R Raynor respectively. Once again the Leyland Motors band played selections during the afternoon. The programme carried a message about the football ground on which the children's races were held. It read:

*'IN ORDER TO PROTECT NEWLY PREPARED SURFACE  
Spectators are requested not to encroach on the field'*



**1958** This year, the Sports' Day was held on 5th July, with 2,000 spectators and 700 children taking part in comparatively fair weather. The Leyland Cup for the Senior Schools' relay was won by Corinthian House of Leyland Secondary Modern and the Junior Schools' Cup was a tie between Broadfield and the Methodist 'B' teams. Another close finish was encountered in the General Manager's Cup in which B Martin won by one point from J Parkinson. A Hutchinson was the star of the Works' events winning the three sprints and the high jump. Miss G Lavender was the ladies' star performer with wins in the 80yds, the 3-legged and contributing to the 119 Department's win in the relay race.

Coupe retained the veterans' title. The bowling competition's winner was L Wright and the shooting events were won by M White (own start) and S Stableford (novelty). In the tennis tournament there were wins for Miss A Jennings, Mrs M Hilton, J Hutchinson and C Slater. The Spurrier Cup was won by the Electricians' relay team and the Toulmin Cup by the Foundry tug-of-war team. Catering was by Tolson's of Chorley. At the conclusion prizes were presented by Lady Spurrier.

**1959** Brilliant sunny weather was the order of the day this year for a record number of between 3,500 and 4,000 spectators on 4th July. The officials worked hard to accommodate a large number of entries especially from the children (800!). J Lamb narrowly won the General Manager's Cup from D Turner by a single point. A new trophy for seniors, the Finland Cup, was presented for the first time and the winner was Jim Dawber who triumphed by one point from B Swann. Jim was later to become the Secretary of the Amateur Athletic Section. Other trophy winners were Brian Whittaker (Forsyth Cup), A Hutchinson (Bauchop Cup), South Works (Spurrier Cup) and the Foundry (Toulmin Cup). Leyland St Mary's won the Senior Leyland Cup and Broadfield County the Junior Leyland Cup. At the end of the proceedings, Lady Spurrier was presented with a bouquet by Susan Haydock and afterwards presented the various trophies and prizes. On the Football Ground was a display of 'Leyland' products.

**1960** For the first time an Associate Member was the star of the athletic events. Leonard Almond, who had previously worked in the Wages Department before National Service, won four events: the 100 yds, 220 yds, 440 yds and the long jump. Unfortunately, as he was not employed at the Motor Works he was ineligible to receive either the Bauchop Cup or the Finland Cup. Broadfield County again triumphed in the Junior Schools Relay. Another repeat winner was South Works in the Departmental relay race. In the Rifle Competition the spoils were shared between father and son with R Raynor, snr, winning the own start event and R Raynorjm the novelty event. J Edmundson won the bowls competition. Prizes were presented by Mrs S Markland, wife of the Works' Director. The event was held on 2nd July.

**1961** The entertainment for children, on 1st July, included pony rides, a fairground and a miniature railway. The spectators, of whom there were several thousands; estimated between 7,000 and 8,000, watched a new innovation, a display by the Lancashire County Police Dog Team. As a result of his proficiency the previous year, Leonard Almond was heavily handicapped but in spite of this he was able to finish second in the 100yds and win the 440yds. This time he was allowed to receive the Bauchop Cup because he was employed at the Day Continuation School. The star performer, however, was a junior, Allen Procter, who gained the General Manager's Cup with wins in the under-18s, 100yds, long jump, and high jump. Ray Raynor was again successful in the miniature rifle shooting, L Hunt won the bowls competition and the tennis tournament had four winners in each competition. Jim Dawber won both the Forsyth and Finland Cups as well as winning the one mile walk after leading all the way. Prizes were presented by Mrs Norman Tattersall.

**1962** For the first time since its inception, the Sports' Day was held a month earlier on 2nd June. This was not the only innovation as a display by the Townsend Royals Morris Dancing Troupe, from Liverpool, was held. Tom Davies won the General Manager's Cup with one first, three second and one third places. Jim Dawber showed his versatility by winning the bowling competition. An interesting feature of the senior track events was that eleven of the eighteen places were gained by Associate members who were all members of the Amateur Athletic Section. For the fifth successive year Broadfield County won the Junior Leyland Cup. The most successful lady was M Hayes, the winner of the 80yds and relay and second in the Sack race. Another long-standing visitor to the Sports was Mr C B Nixon, a former Director, who presented the prizes and had only missed one of the Sports' Days since 1921!

**1963** The Sports were not held due to heavy rain which caused their cancellation. It was the first time the weather had stopped the Sports and only the war years had led to them not being staged. However, the following Thursday evening, LMSAC organised a Children's Gala Day so that the children would not be disappointed. Also included were the Schools' relay races for the Leyland Cups. Wellfield won the Senior Cup but the Junior Cup was shared by three schools: Woodlea, St Mary's and Broadfield. It was the first time there had been a three way tie. Mr J Malley presented the prizes and trophies.



1964

*Rodney Flanagan (27) beating Eddie Almond (30) in the Works 220 yards handicap. Derek Lowe was third*

**1964** Fortunately a day blessed with warm, sunny weather which helped to ease the sadness that J Malley, the LMSAC's Secretary Manager, must have been feeling at his last Sports' Day as one of the organising committee. He had been involved since 1931 and had organised the Sports himself for the last seventeen years. There was a large crowd to witness the afternoon's entertainment on a return to its original July date. Stuart Kirkham scored a record number of points in the General Manager's Cup, including four wins. The Finland Cup was won by Tom Davies. There was a near disaster in the pillow fight when a support snapped and threw Joe Billington against the side causing a blow to the head. He soon recovered after treatment but the event was abandoned. One of the oldest records was broken in the high jump when J C Dean cleared 5' 11"; thereby beating the previous record set by J Oldham, the

Northern Counties high jump champion, thirty years previously. Dean also won the long jump. One of the competitors had walked thirty miles the previous evening but returned to finish second in the 220yds and third in the one mile run. Miss J Cunliffe won both of the ladies' races. Jim Dawber finished second in the 3-legged race with his wife-to-be, Josephine, as his partner. E Scott won the bowling competition, Mrs B Moss won the ladies' tennis and D Bell the men's Tournament. Prizes were presented by Mrs T L Hill, wife of the firm's Accountant.



1964 - D Rigg winning The Veterans' 80 yds Handicap from F Coupe

- 1965** Held on 3 July, the Sports produced new winners. Paul Laycock won four Works' events to take the Finland Cup and J McNicholas, with three wins, took the General Manager's Cup. Veteran, Teddy Sharp, finished third in both the one mile walk and the pillow fight as well as second in tilting the bucket. The Junior Schools' relay was changed to a shuttle run with Broadfield winning yet again. Other veteran athletes did well in the Works' events with all three places in the one mile walk, first and second in the one mile run, and second in the 880 yds. The bowling competition proved victorious for F Wilson. An unusual combination of wins was by R C Pass in the pillow fight and novelty rifle competition. The day's proceedings were opened by Dr Albert Fogg, Director of Research and Engineering, and it was his wife who presented the prizes at the completion of the Sports.
- 1966** Although the spectators and competitors did not realise it this was to be the last Sports' Day organised by LMSAC. Held on a warm day on 2nd July the crowd was entertained by some fine races, novelty events and a display of Judo by the newly formed section of the club. The outstanding athlete was S Harrison, winner of five events and second in a sixth, who took the general Manager's Cup. Winner of the senior Finland Cup was Stuart Kirkham with two wins. The oldest competitor was Fred Almond who, at sixty-three years of age, took part in both the shortest and longest races finishing second in the veterans' 80 yds and fourth in the one mile walk. Competing in the shuttle relay for St. Mary's School was Susan Duckworth, who later became a member of England's women's hockey team and was captain of England's under-23 team. Now Mrs Mills, she teaches at St. Mary's Technological High School in Leyland. H Hindley won the bowling competition and R Patterson and A Forshaw were winners in the

Rifle Shooting. Leyland Motors Band, under their conductor, Harry Bentham, provided the musical entertainment. Mrs J McHugh, wife of the Chairman and Treasurer of LMSAC, presented the prizes.

**1967** Due to declining numbers in the Works' events and from the Apprentices, a decision was taken by the LMSAC Council to abandon the traditional Sports' Day and substitute it with a Gala Day especially for children. The words of Sir Henry Spurrer that the Sports were for the young were being fulfilled but probably not in the way he could have expected. Although the weather was fine on 1st July there was a cool breeze. In addition to the races for four to fourteen year olds, there was a shuttle relay for Junior Schools which was won by St. Mary's. The team was coached by the author: a teacher at the school, an associate member of the Amateur Athletic section, and a competitor in the Sports since 1962. There was a display by the Judo and Karate Sections and morris dancing provided by the Leyland Morris Men. Other entertainment included roundabouts, swings, lucky dips, bingo, football, a treasure hunt and a 'pitch a ball'. Past Secretary of the LMSAC, Mr J Malley, presented the prizes. B Tuson who won the girls' race for nine year olds, was also a winner in the 'Junior Miss' Competition for the same age group.

### **1968 and onwards.**

The Gala Day was repeated and continued on into the 1970s and then that too was disbanded.

The Sports' Day was an event that brought Leylanders and outsiders together as witnessed by the thousands who attended in the late 50s and early 60s. At its height, it was the biggest company Sports meeting in the North West. Olympic competitors had graced its grounds as well as international athletes and Northern and County champions. Sadly, Leyland will not see the like again. The Leyland Festival drew the crowds and provided a more varied programme, but it did not enthral its spectators with real head-to-head competition. Even the Festival has now been lost to Leylanders and outsiders; the last one was held in 2000. By coincidence, the last display by Leyland Historical Society at that Festival, in the Arts and Crafts Tent, was of the Leyland Motors Sports and Athletic Club. It had been put together by the author.

## 18th Century Rejoicing

*Derek Wilkins looks at how Ulnes Walton was kept in touch with famous victories in the eighteenth century*

In today's world of instant communications and round the clock news coverage of national and international events, we may well wonder to what extent our ancestors were aware of such things. It may safely be assumed that they would be aware of, and indeed perhaps be affected by, events of national significance which occurred locally, in particular the battles of the Civil War and the Jacobite uprisings, but what was their understanding of more distant events? The fact is that by and large we don't know since the records we consult in our researches, quite understandably, deal only with those local matters for which they were written, the obvious exception being newspapers, which in Victorian times become extremely detailed.

Occasionally we may get glimpses of the effects on local people of international events. One in particular shows that even in the rural backwater of eighteenth century Ulnes Walton, events on the continent of Europe did not go unnoticed.

The Highways Act of 1555 placed the responsibility for the upkeep of highways on the local parish or, in the case of larger rural parishes, individual townships. Supervisors were appointed annually and were responsible for seeing that the necessary work was done.<sup>1</sup> For Ulnes Walton, township supervisor's accounts<sup>2</sup> have survived intact from 1757 to 1855 in two series; the first gives itemised annual accounts of income and expenditure whilst the second gives summary balance statements. In the latter, the entry for 1758 shows that after an income of £8 3s 1d (£8.16) and an expenditure of £7 9s 11d (£7.49) the balance of 13s 2d (£0.67) was:-

*'... p<sup>d</sup> to Crook concerning rejoicing for the King of Prussia'*

(The actual entry is shown in Fig 1).

Who was this King of Prussia who the inhabitants of Ulnes Walton were evidently rejoicing over and why were they rejoicing? The clue is in the date of 1758 which was two years into the so called Seven Years War (1756 to 1763). This was in effect three separate wars all involving Britain and France. The main theatres were India, North America and Europe and Britain's principal ally in the last was Prussia, led by Frederick II (the Great). It is not appropriate here to go into details of these wars - any text book on European history of the period may be consulted; suffice it to say that, initially, things did not go well for Britain in Europe and in 1757 there was great concern over a possible French invasion, with troops and boats massing across the Channel. All this changed from the end of 1757 when Frederick and his generals won a series of spectacular victories against the French. Success followed success, not only in Europe but also in Canada with Wolfe's victory at Quebec in 1759. This latter year was heralded as the '*annus mirabilis*' and prompted writer Horace Walpole to boast: '*our bells are worn threadbare with ringing of victories*'.

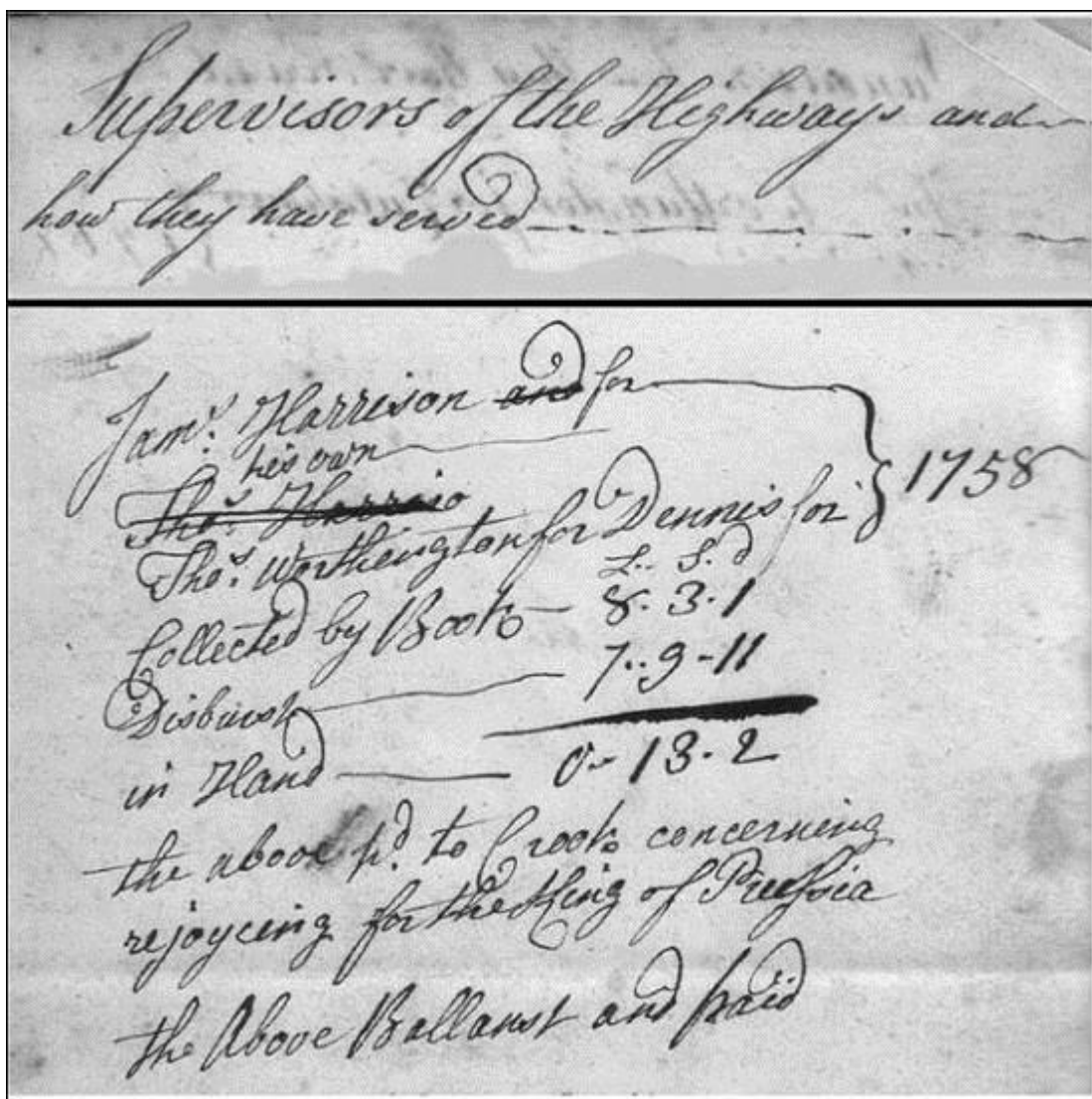


Fig 1: Extract from Ulnes Walton Township book LRO DDX 1852/1

The highways supervisor's accounts give no indication as to the nature of this Ulnes Walton rejoicing, but the churchwarden's accounts for Croston parish<sup>3</sup> (of which Ulnes Walton was a part) show that here it followed the national trend observed by Horace Walpole, the accounts for 1757 containing the following entry: -

*'Paid to the Ringers for Ringing on the King of Prusia's Birthday. 2s 6d (£0.13)'*

Neighbouring Eccleston seems to have been even more inclined to ring its bells. Between 1758 and 1762 there are no less than eight entries of payments to ringers in the churchwarden's accounts<sup>4</sup> of which the following are typical:-

1758 'Given ringers on a rejoicing day. 3s (£0.15)'

1759 'Pd Seth Rigby's Bill for ringing & rejoicing days. 19s 6d (£0.98)'

In 1762, Spain entered the war on the side of France and in the ensuing hostilities various Spanish territories around the Caribbean were captured by Britain, one in particular being duly celebrated in Eccleston: -

*'Spent on the Ringers etc when the Havanna was took. 3s (£0.15)'*

All these payments were in addition to the £6 annual payment to the ringers. It therefore seems

likely that the Ulnes Walton highways money was used as the township's contribution to the ringing of the church bells at Croston with the individual Crook, to whom it was paid, probably being a churchwarden. The settling of the accounts usually took place at Easter so this particular rejoicing probably occurred towards the end of 1758 or early in 1759, although this does not appear to correspond to any of Frederick's notable victories (Rosbach Nov 1757, Leuthen Dec 1757 and Minden Sept 1759).



Fig 2 – Painting of Frederick the Great, King of Prussia by Pierre Duflos

The ringing of the church bells would have the advantage of not only involving all the local population within earshot in the rejoicing but also of spreading news that there was something to rejoice about. As such it would no doubt be a useful morale booster at a time of nervousness about civil unrest on the part of the authorities (there had been food riots in 1757) and was probably carried out in response to official edicts issued via the church hierarchy.

The ringing of the bells to mark the progress of the war was not the only reason for spending ratepayer's money at this time. Following the death of George II in 1760, when 1s 4d (£0.07) was spent at Eccleston on '*Prayers for the Queen*', 14s (£0.70) was subsequently '*Spent at the Coronation*'.

Although it may appear to us somewhat anomalous to use ratepayer's money on such matters, it would have been sanctioned or 'allowed' at the township vestry meeting also held around Easter. A minute of the Ulnes Walton vestry meeting of March 23rd 1761 states that the accounts for the previous year were 'disallowed' due to them having '*several articles put in that have no concern with the Highway*' and it is not clear why the expenditure in 1758 should have been 'allowed'. Of course, the vestries were the fore-runners of our modern local authorities who are not exactly noted for being slow to spend ratepayer's money!

Frederick was viewed by the public as something of a saviour and achieved such popularity that it became fashionable to name public houses after him. Whilst this does not appear to have been

common in the north, examples are still to be found in the midlands and the south (Fig 3). In America, he even had a town in Pennsylvania named after him! These feelings were mutual and Frederick, after some initial misgivings, had great admiration for Britain, especially William Pitt, the Secretary of State. Sadly this state of affairs did not last. After feeling himself snubbed by Britain at the Treaty of Paris in 1763, which effectively ended the war, Prussia became Britain's enemy and Pitt in turn was later to declare: *'The King of Prussia is a mischievous rascal, a base friend, a bad ally, a bad relation, and a bad neighbour; in fact the most dangerous and evil – disposed prince in Europe'*. In 1872, under Bismarck, Prussia became leader of a unified Germany and the rest, as they say, is history.



*Fig 3: The King of Prussia pub in Oxford. The Rover car is of course symbolic of another British/German alliance (Rover/BMW), which did not last!*

### References

- <sup>1</sup> 'Parish Administration, Charity and the Law'. J Baker et al editors. UCL 2000
- <sup>2</sup> LRO DDX 1852 Ulnes Walton township books
- <sup>3</sup> LRO PR 250 Croston churchwarden's accounts
- <sup>4</sup> LRO PR 2695 Eccleston churchwarden's accounts

### Acknowledgements

The kind permission of the County Archivist for permission to reproduce Fig 1 is greatly appreciated.



## Golden Hill Lane in the 'forties

*A reverie of childhood years, by Sylvia Thompson*

I drifted slowly out of a deep and dreamy sleep with the sun shining into my eyes, blinking in the brightness I realised that it was the sun reflecting from the brass knob at the foot of the bed, which I shared with one of my older sisters; older than me by some twelve years, and already up and working in Pilkington's Mill, at Earnshaw Bridge. I supposed I should be getting up but I couldn't resist snuggling down for a few more minutes, the mattress was made of flock and you could push the pieces of it around to make nests to the shape of your body. I climbed out of the warmth and went over to the window to see what the day might be promising.

I could hear my baby brother chuckling to himself in the back bedroom where my parents slept: he was born in 1939 and the house where I was born was then known as number 6 Northbrook Terrace, soon to become 228 Golden Hill Lane. The house consisted of three bedrooms, a bathroom with a bath and washbasin, a front room and a back living room which contained a small fire range with an oven. This was hardly ever used as Mum had a gas oven in a tiny kitchen area which also had a sink and cupboards and there was an under-stairs pantry. She may not have used the oven very often but the kettle was always hissing away on the edge of the fire. We had gas lighting throughout the house and only got electricity in the 1950s. I used to read by the light of a torch under the sheets as Mum made me turn the gas light out before I got into bed. On cold winter nights she would get a shelf from the fire oven, wrap it in an old blanket, and put it in the bed to warm my feet. Of course television wasn't even dreamed of and the radio was run off a large battery and a thing called an accumulator<sup>1</sup> which had some kind of acid in it and which had to be taken to Dunderdale's shop to be filled up every so often. Outside there was a wash-house, where my mother did all her washing in a boiler, and next to it was the lavatory; it could be very cold out there and in the winter dad would put in an oil lamp to keep the pipes from freezing up. There were always spiders in there and I had to get to like them as woe betide any of us if we killed one; dad was very superstitious about killing spiders.

My bedroom at the front of the house looked across the road to a field where every day Mr Mortimer brought his herd of cows from the farm on Leyland Lane to graze, he then came back later in the day on his bike, to take them home for milking. Beyond the field was a small wood and nestling snugly inside the wood was the house known as 'Northbrook', the home of Mr John Forrester, land agent to the ffarrington family of Worden and a gentleman farmer. Bordering the field to the left was a lane made of heavy cobbles (*now Northbrook Road*) which led to the house. From there you carried on through to John Stanning's Bleach and Dye works to the start of Cow Lane (*now Broadfield Walk*). The lane was a private road and once a year Mr Forrester had to close the big wrought iron gates near to his house to retain his ownership, but he always pinned a notice up well in advance to let people know which day they were going to be closed.

On the other side of the lane was another field where John Stanning's shire horses used to be put out to graze when they were not working.

During the war there was an Army Camp in this field and I can remember seeing my teenage sister leaning over the gate chatting to one of the soldiers. In the summertime these fields were full of buttercups and dandelions and my mother always said that this was how Golden Hill got its name.

There was a farm just up the road (*the Tomlinson Road exit*) where we bought our milk and always a goose for Christmas dinner; Mum saved the fat from its cooking to rub on our chests when we had a cold. We knew the farm as Davies's farm but its real name was 'Workhouse Farm', probably due to the proximity of the old workhouse in earlier days on Wheelton Lane. The farm was owned by the Davies family. There was 'Owd Father', (I never knew him as anything else) his wife and two sons, Jack and Eric, and I think there was a sister.

Jack and Eric used to deliver the milk in a horse drawn milk float pulled by the farm's one horse called 'Blossom'. Mum would leave a jug outside the front door to be filled from the large milk kit. As our house was close to their home, and almost the last delivery, 'Blossom', probably anticipating being fed and then put out into the field, would sometimes set off without the men and leave them

shouting up the road for her to stop.

In the early mornings at around eight o'clock, you would hear the clip clopping of horses' hooves as Dever's coal wagons, pulled by shire horses, went by on their way from their yard on Cowling Lane to the railway station coal yard. There they would be loaded up with the day's delivery of full sacks of coal, to be distributed around the local area. I remember the coalmen wore a kind of waistcoat made of strong leather called a 'saddle'; it had brass studs all over the back to help protect the men's backs from the lumpy coal sacks. Everyone had coal fires, which were sometimes supplemented by coke from the gas works on Chapel Brow, especially during the war in the wintertime when coal was rationed. Coke was what was left over after the materials needed for gas and tar production had been extracted and it would help to keep the fire glowing for quite a while. I remember my Dad would ride up to the gas works on his bike and walk home with a sack of coke balanced on the crossbar. Some families would take a baby's pram and push a couple of bags home in that.

From my Mum and Dad's bedroom window, at the back of the house, you could see fields for evermore. On good days you could see the hills north of Preston: Bleasdale Fells etc. and quite clearly make out Maudland spire: (*St Walburge's church spire*).

On dark winter nights, I can remember being taken upstairs to see the Northern Lights flashing across the sky. In those days, especially during the war years when windows had to be covered at night (the 'blackout') there were very few artificial outdoor lights to detract from the spectacle. More sinisterly, in wartime we would watch the searchlights from the gun pit in the far field, roaming the skies for enemy aircraft.

Directly behind the house and across the 'backs', as we called the access track at the bottom of the garden, Mr Bennett kept his hens. Half the field was made up of pens full of hens and Mr Bennett would arrive every day on his bike with buckets of meal and other scraps for them; I remember Mum saving potato peelings which he would boil up with the meal. If we were lucky he would take me and my friend Betty, down to the cabin to see the day-old chicks and we were even allowed to hold those lovely little balls of fluff.

These, my earliest memories of Golden Hill, are full of lazy summer days in the garden with the quiet clucking of the hens as background music, as they pecked around in their endless search for food.

The war had broken out, but at first it didn't have much effect on our lives. We still got our week's holiday in Blackpool when, as rationing had arrived, we took most of our own food with us in a large metal suitcase on the train, along with all our clothes, buckets and spades. The landlady of our 'boarding house' would cook the food for us. I remember standing on Leyland station, full of excitement, surrounded by suitcases and trembling when the great steam engine came chugging in, belching steam all over the place, its massive wheels towering above me. We climbed aboard and then there was the excitement of the journey and the old game of being the first to spot Blackpool Tower. We would arrive at Mrs Perrins's boarding house in North Shore. She had a big blue and red parrot in a cage and he would recite the names of all the daily newspapers, just like the boys on the street corners used to do when encouraging people to buy. Mrs Perrins was quite an elderly lady but she did all the cooking herself with a little help from a girl who came in to clean the house. There were no such things as en suite bedrooms in those days and we had to share a bathroom with a few other guests, but we had some very happy holidays. I do remember access to the beach being limited during the war due to concrete posts being erected to stop enemy aircraft from landing.

In the row of houses next to us on Golden Hill, a Mrs Sumner had turned her front room into a sweet shop, we used to go there for liquorice sticks, peardrops, humbugs and, one of my favourites, spearmint bars. That shop disappeared in the early war years; I expect the lady retired.

Once a week a woman used to come and stand at the top of Heaton Street with a handcart, selling fish. She would stand there and ring a bell followed by a kind of sing-song about what she had for sale. I was very young at the time but remember her quite well, she wore a longish dress and apron and she fascinated me.

Greengroceries came in a horse-drawn 'shop' from Sumners farm on Broadfield Drive (*there is now a Spar shop on the site*) - Joyce and Frank Sumner had this bright idea as an extension to their small shop at the farmhouse. It was quite an unusual horse-drawn van with glass windows down each side with rows of shelves full of greens and a few groceries. It was pulled by a very placid piebald horse, or, as we called, them 'gipsy' horses.

On Sunday evenings in the summer and after our Sunday tea, it was Dad's custom to take us all out for our Sunday walk. Sometimes this would take us on to the Moss, walking along Longmeanygate, then a quiet country lane, to a row of cottages, turning along the front of them onto the moss where we would stroll along the banks and through the peat fields which were full of all kinds of vegetables, towards the 'Round house', with Dad telling us to breathe in the fresh air, 'It'll do you good', he would say; then it was back along Moss Lane onto Croston Road and home to bed.

Other Sundays we would go down Hall Lane through Forshaw's Farm Yard (*Farington old Hall*) over a field to Neddy's Spring. This was a clear sparkling spring bubbling out of the ground with watercress growing wild. Of course the big novelty to us kids was to be able to gather the icy cold water in cupped hands and have a drink, then pick some watercress to take home. No-one seems to know why it was called Neddy's Spring, but everyone knew about it. The whole area was taken over by the Leyland trucks group and the spring as it was then has disappeared.

Sometimes, as a change on Sunday mornings, Dad would put my young brother on a cushion on the crossbar of his bike and, with me peddling away like mad on my little bike, we would cycle to Longton Marsh. This was a pleasant ride through 'Tewit Corner' and along quiet country lanes until we arrived at a cinder track at the end of which was a gate and a stile (which is still there). We would prop our bikes against the hedge and walk along the bank to the river, again being told to breathe in the air, 'It'll make you eat your dinner!' I could never understand how the mix of the smell of mud and cattle would make me feel hungry. On the way back we would call at the 'Dolphin Inn' (better known as the 'Flying Fish'). There would be lemonade for my brother and me sitting outside, and a pint and a chat inside for Dad. In those days the 'Dolphin' was still a working farm and the bar was just a half door dividing the pub from the house. Then, with tired legs on my part, it was the long ride home to a roast lamb dinner with mint sauce. I can still smell it wafting through the door as we arrived home, my stomach rumbling with hunger: maybe Dad was right about the country smells after all.

On the eastern side of our row of houses was a small garage and filling station with just one pump. It was owned by a Mr Bill Staziker, (*now the site of Golden Hill Garage*). There were old car wrecks round the back which we used to play in after the men had gone home, great fun but I should imagine these days such a practice would be condemned as extremely dangerous.

In the other direction, towards Earnshaw Bridge, (*about where Berry's wood-yard is now*), there were two old cottages. In one of them lived the Culshaw family, Mr and Mrs Culshaw and at least six children: James, Freda, Norman, Brenda, and George and John, the twins; and in the tiny attached cottage Bill and Lily Guy and their two children Jean and Norman came to live. Bill was a miner and was also well known in the area as a singer in the Steve Cochrane style of crooning. They eventually moved into a house in the same row as ours and opened a sweet shop, but that was much later.



*Mrs Culshaw outside her cottage on Golden Hill, c. 1930s.....*



*....now Berry's entrance gate*

During the war, tanks were built in Leyland and they used to pass our house on their test runs causing the road to be always full of ruts from their big tracks digging into the tarmac; occasionally they would put rubber over the tracks which to cut down the damage to the road. The people who lived at Oak House, near Earnshaw Bridge, owned a big bull mastiff dog which was daft enough to chase after the tanks; inevitably the day came when he did it once too often and lost his tail, it didn't stop him from chasing the tanks.

A brick air raid shelter was built in the 'backs' between our two rows of houses (*now Braconash Road*) which we and our neighbours were supposed to go into during raids. I don't think it was ever used. My Mum used to put a mattress under the stairs for my brother and me when there was an air raid warning. I can still remember the feeling very scared when the siren went off, it made a most hair-raising sound.

There were numerous cotton mills, as well as the Rubber and Motor Works and at mid-day the road became very busy when the factory sirens blew for the dinner-break, (each factory having a different sound). The dinner-break lasted for about a half an hour and all the workers would be dashing home to grab a bite to eat and then they would dash back to work for the afternoon shift. They rode bicycles or walked to and from their homes; out of town workers came in by bus so there were canteens for them, or they bought sandwiches and pies from local shops. Both my sisters worked in the local factories at first but my elder sister, Win, later trained to be a nurse at Wrightington Hospital, and then she was away from home during the week. My brother became a telegram delivery boy when he first left school and, wearing a uniform, he rode around on a red post office bike delivering the telegrams.

Dad was in the Home Guard, having served in France during the First World War and was working at the Royal Ordnance Factory during the second, so was exempt from call up, also, I think he was probably too old. Leyland escaped the worst, few bombs were actually dropped in the area, in spite of having the ROF, Leyland Motors and the Rubber works as likely targets. The buildings must have been well camouflaged; I remember they were painted with green and brown paint. The throbbing sound of the German bombers passing overhead on their way to Liverpool or, indeed, searching for the ROF, will never leave me. It was a distinctive sound quite unlike any other aircraft. If the wind was in the right direction we could hear the explosions as the bombers found their targets. The searchlights in the field behind the house would be busy searching the skies and we would watch from the bedroom window and sigh with relief when the '*All Clear*' siren sounded.

During the war, I attended St John's infant school and I wore a disc round my neck with my name and address on it and had to carry my gas mask in a case slung around my neck; everyone had to carry identity cards. When I first started school I had a teacher called Miss Oddy, who was quite nice; however, as I moved up a class, I had Mrs Porter, a veritable dragon of a woman, who used to remove her highly polished outdoor shoes and place them onto a shoe-tree to keep them in shape whilst at school. I was a quiet child then and wouldn't say 'boo' to a goose, but she hit me with a ruler for getting a sum wrong. That was the only time in my whole school career that I got hit and I hated her for ever. In my last year, I was taught by Miss Holden who was a gem. In her class I learned that words actually told stories and I read all the Brer Rabbit stories in the 'Sunny Stories' magazines from the little stock of books she kept for our last half hour on Friday afternoons when she let us do what we wanted. One of the class rooms served as a base for the Air Raid Wardens at night and at weekends and was always known as the 'Wardens room'. Periodically, we would be asked to bring books to school for the troops serving abroad and, as my Granddad Yates was a great reader, he could always be relied upon to let me have a good supply of books to take to school. We would tie them into bundles with string and then we would walk from school in a crocodile formation to the Post Office on Hough Lane from where the books were presumably sent to army barracks at home and abroad. Sometimes there would be an organ grinder, with a tiny monkey, playing outside the Post Office.

On Sundays the school became Sunday School where we children were split into small classes each with our own Sunday School teacher and with a superintendent who led hymn singing and bible

readings. On Easter and Whit Sundays, the classes would walk from St John's School, along Broadfield Drive, which then only stretched a few hundred yards, to a stile giving us a walk through fields to another stile coming out into Cow Lane just outside the gates to Stanning's Bleachworks. We then proceeded along Cow Lane, past Broadfield House, the home of Mr John Stanning, to Leyland Cross and then on into Church Road to St Andrew's Parish Church for a special service. The Broadfield housing estate wasn't even a dream at that time and Leyland was a green and leafy place.



*Before Broadfield Estate and after:  
John Stanning's chimney from  
Stone slab bridge over Bannister Brook (rear of  
No. 2 Bannister Drive, late 1940s)*

*Bannister Brook, behind Bannister  
Drive, (the brook is behind the wall)  
- June 2007*



One of the delights of Golden Hill Lane was Mr Townsley's shop on the junction of Hall Lane and Golden Hill. I would be sent to get a loaf and I remember nibbling the crust on my way home and getting a ticking off for it. A large loaf cost about fourpence (8p) at that time. Mr Townsley was a chubby cheerful chap who would take great delight in scaring me and my friend Betty to death by spreading his fingers out on the counter and chopping in between them with his sharp knife. He then would then hold up his left hand with its short finger: maybe he was trying to warn us not to play with sharp knives but I expect this practice would be frowned upon these days.

My friends, Betty, Jean and Hilda used to tie a rope to a lamp post in the road on Golden Hill Lane

and play at skipping. We played spinning tops, French cricket, joining forces in the game with the lads, and we chased around the block on bikes or on home made bogies: a kind of trolley made up from old pram wheels and bits of wood.

*Golden Hill Lane: Approximately  
1951...*



*...and now in 2007*

Occasionally, we girls would play with our dolls or at pretend school or hospitals, but most of my time was spent with Betty in the fields, which are sadly are no longer there, having given way to industry. We would jump the brooks, fish for tiddlers and look for kingfishers by the river bank. Sometimes we would take a picnic, which consisted of a few slices of bread and jam and a bottle of pop, or water if there was no money for pop; then our parents wouldn't see us for the rest of the day. There was a fallen tree trunk across the River Lostock which we used to tightrope our way over: it was quite wide at one end and narrow at the other so we had to be a bit careful. We climbed trees, made dens in the hedges, tried smoking dog ends pinched from our dad's ashtrays. Yuk! I only tried doing that once and felt ill for the rest of the day. We were rarely bothered by anyone except 'Owd Father Davies' who occasionally chased us out of his fields. I think it was just a game with him as he could never have caught us. He knew we would do no harm to his land or to his animals.



*Farmer Davies's field, (approximately 1950) with our house in the background. This is now an industrial estate behind Golden Hill Garage, and is no longer accessible to the public.*

My older brother Stan was friendly with Jack and Eric at the farm and would go helping out sometimes especially at harvest time. Mrs Davies used to make big stacks of potato cakes for the workers; she would make a hole in the centre of the cakes and put in big blobs of butter. Sometimes Stan would bring home chunks of chocolate out of the cattle food: in the war years chocolate was unheard of, and this was an immense treat for us kids; we didn't care where it had come from, it was delicious. He also came home with something called 'locust beans' from the cattle food but I wasn't very keen on that but I'm sure it was nutritious. I can only describe it as being a sort of over ripe banana gone leathery.

My elder sister, Win, had a boyfriend who was in the Royal Marines in Burma and to help pass her spare time she would take me to the Regent Cinema to see all the old Betty Grable films and Busby Berkely musicals; we would get fish and chips wrapped in newspaper at Rawcliffe's chip shop, eating them on the way home. She also used to take me to Worden Park, which was then still lived in by members of the ffarington family, and she took me to see the mosaic house and the pets' graveyard near to the 'Last Supper' trees.

On Sundays, my Grandma Yates would walk up from her home at Earnshaw Bridge. She would



always be wearing her best Sunday black dress and coat and a black straw hat with violets on it. She would bring her delicious meat and potato pies which she had baked in her big fire oven. I can still taste them. I really looked forward to her visits.

In later years I remember lying in bed on Saturday nights and hearing singing coming from down the road outside. I would jump out of bed and look through the window and there would be all the girls from the Broadfield Drive area coming home from dancing at the Leyland Motors Club, all in a line down the middle of the road singing and doing what I later realised was the 'palais glide' (*a popular dance of the era*) all the way home. How I wanted to be old enough to be with them, they were so full of life.

That same bedroom window in winter would be covered in pretty 'Jack Frost' paintings. It was so cold, as of course there was no central heating in those days, and the steamed up windows would freeze on the inside.

Another memory is of being taken to the annual fair which was held on the 'Rec', a field adjacent to Church road, (*'Tesco Extra' is on the site now*). Side-shows contained such novelties as 'the smallest lady in the land', 'goats with five legs' and the 'bearded lady'. The most exciting rides were the 'hobby horses' and the 'caterpillar': on which you sat in a train and after a while a cover came over the top. It was quite popular with courting couples as they could sneak a quick kiss under the cover.

I rarely walk along Golden Hill Lane these days, but recently, while my husband was visiting the car sale-room, I walked round to the back of the row of houses where I once lived. Our house is still there and although its occupants have changed a few times not much has changed on the outside of the house: I noticed the old lilac tree had gone and also the privet hedge Dad was so proud of. The houses in the next row have all been bought by Berry's Builders' Merchants and the fields are not there any more, all eaten up by industry and housing. As I stood there reminiscing, I could feel the presence of the ghosts of those happy kids roaming the fields and fishing in the brooks; memories that will stay with me for ever of green fields, hawthorn blossom as far as you could see; the smell of new mown hay and cows in the fields. I came away with a feeling of sadness at the scene as it is now compared to the way it was, but grateful for a happy childhood which has given me so many happy memories, in spite of being brought up in a time of war.

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<sup>1</sup> Many will remember taking the lead acid accumulator that powered the valve heaters to the radio shop to be recharged. Accumulators were sometimes known as the *storage* battery. A popular British brand was 'Exide' made by the Chloride Electrical Storage Company.

## Did you know my great-great-great-grandfather? On my mother's side!

*Peter Houghton continues his search through archives and websites filling in the gaps in the branches of his family tree*

As I promised at the end of last year's article that there is plenty more where that came from, in this episode I will concentrate on my mother's side of the family, the Hindle's, who seem at the outset to have originated from the Chorley area, but more of that later.

In case you missed the first episode here are the five main websites to get information on your relatives, some are not complete and some you have to pay for.

<http://www.1901census.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>

This was the first site I encountered as this is the famous website that crashed on its first day of being available. It is the government site which includes the complete 1901 census, the latest one available at present; information is only released after one hundred years, the 1911 census being due in five years time. Most users use their credit/debit card to pay for viewing images or transcripts. 500 credits cost £5.00 and your credits will last seven days. If you do not own a credit or debit card you can buy 1901 census vouchers.

<http://www.familysearch.org/>

The site is, as it says, 'The largest collection of free family history, family tree and genealogy records in the world'. It is run by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (the Mormons), their belief is that if you become a member of their faith, so do all your ancestors. This makes their interest in family history seem more logical. This free site contains the collection of information from parish records around the world, together with the 1881 census from the UK, United States and Canada.

<http://www.1837online.com/Trace2web/HomeServlet>

This is the government site for the birth, marriage and deaths from the start of registration in September 1837 up to the present day. It also includes the complete 1861 and 1891 censuses.

<http://freebmd.rootsweb.com/>

This website, whilst not as complete as the above one, is a free site for the birth, marriages and deaths from the start of registration in September 1837 up to around the 1920s.

<http://www.ancestry.co.uk/>

If you are serious about this hobby, you can pay £9.95 per month for the full list of censuses from the first in 1841 up to and including the 1901 census, seven in total. The site also includes the free births, marriages and deaths site,

### **The Whole Story - Part Two - The Hindle dynasty**

We pick up the story from my article in the last Chronicle with my grandparent, John William Hindle (*who married Beatrice Sarah Goodrich and whose family history will be covered in our next issue of the Chronicle*).

The Hindle family lived in Chorley where Thomas Hindle had a business as a painter, marrying Martha Read in 1890, before having Maud and John William, and living in various houses along Bolton Street. I discovered that Thomas was born in Wigan, which tended to confuse things.

Getting the records for Thomas's father, also called Thomas, and also a painter, led to a discovery that this Thomas seemed to have had two wives and eight children; he married a Margaret West in Wigan Parish Church in November 1860 and then Ellen Fowler in St Georges Church, Chorley, in December 1874.

By obtaining the relevant birth and death certificates, I discovered that Thomas (the elder) was born in Chorley in 1835, meeting his first wife, Margaret, and marrying her in Wigan, where they had three children: Thomas (the younger), Matthew and Alice between 1864 and 1870. Margaret then died in September 1871.

Moving the family back to Chorley, Thomas then married Ellen Fowler who brought up Margaret's children as well as having five of her own: Emma, John, Walter, Margaret and Alice. He set himself up in business as a painter, the business that Thomas (the younger) would take over.

Thomas (the elder), born in 1835, was the oldest of four children, well that is as many as I can find as we now go beyond the 1837 point which is before the official registration of births, marriages and deaths; a future trawl through parish registers may uncover more children.

*(As an aside, you may remember from my last article that Richard Houghton, the oldest Houghton I have found, lived from 1798 to 1857. It struck me as funny that my cousin Richard was also given this name in 1951; I could not see how the name could have been passed through the generations.*

*That was until the full Euxton St Mary's baptismal records were placed on the internet and I discovered that Richard's son, Henry, named his first born Richard in 1858: he was not recorded in the census as he only lived for a few years. The name 'Richard' was therefore passed on to another generation.)*

Meanwhile, back to the plot. The Hindle family unfortunately are only traceable back to Thomas's father, John, from Chorley and his wonderfully named mother, Tabitha Rosbothom. Her family were from Charnock Richard so this side of the family don't seem to have come very far. John seems to have had a number of occupations, having been a farmer, a labourer and a coal agent through the years. But there is always a possibility that the family may come from further afield as there does not seem to be any record of a John Hindle being born at the right time in the records of the Parish Church of Chorley. According to surname books, 'Hindle' originates from Blackburn, so who knows.

### **I always thought it was in my blood!**

Returning to Thomas (the elder) and his first wife, Margaret West, when I received their marriage certificate, detailed below, something struck a chord.

#### **Nov 11th 1860 - The Parish Church in the Parish of Wigan**

<i>Name &amp; Surname</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Condition</i>	<i>Rank or Profession</i>	<i>Residence</i>	<i>Father's Name</i>	<i>Rank or Profession</i>
Thomas Hindle	25	Bachelor	Painter	Bishopsgate	John Hindle	Coal Agent
Margaret West	22	Spinster		Bishopsgate	Christopher West	Lock-keeper

When I saw that Christopher West was a lock keeper, this sent me straight to the 1861 census which states that he was a 'Lock Deutor Canal' at 'Lance Lock House, Haklers Hale Estate, Ince', which proves the theory that transcribing any document from written records requires knowledge of the subject. It should read 'Lock Keeper, Canal' at 'Lancs. (short for Lancaster) Lock House, Kirklees Hall Estate, Ince', as can be seen below.

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the 60 [Page 41]

No. of Schedule	Road, Street, &c., and No. or Name of House	HOUSES Inhabited (U.S. or Building (R.))	Name and Surname of each Person	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of		Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	Whether Blind, or Deaf and Dumb
						Male	Female			
250	Kirkles Hall, Eilat	1	Edward Soy	Head	Mar.	45		Labourer (Colony)	Lancaster Eccleston	
			Ellen	Wife	Mar.	40			" " " "	
			John	Son	Unm.	15		Labourer (Colony)	" " " "	
			Jane	Son	Unm.	13		" "	" " " "	
			Thos	Son	Unm.	10		Scholar	" " " "	
			May	Daughter	Unm.	9		" "	" " " "	
251	do	1	John Corrington	Head	Mar.	54		Labourer (Colony)	Spencerthorpe Warrington	
			Ellen	Wife	Mar.	40			" " " "	
			Ann	Daughter	Unm.	9		Scholar	Warrington Warrington	
			Jane	Daughter	Unm.	31		Labourer (Colony)	Lancaster Warrington	
252	Lock House	1	Christopher West	Head	Mar.	66		Lock Water Comdr.	Lancaster Blackburn	
			Ellen	Wife	Mar.	54			" " " "	
			Ann	Daughter	Unm.	15		Cotton Weaver	" " " "	
			Jane	Daughter	Unm.	12		Scholar	" " " "	
Total of Houses... 3		Total of Males and Females... 9								

Eng. - Sheet D.

Extract from 1861 census

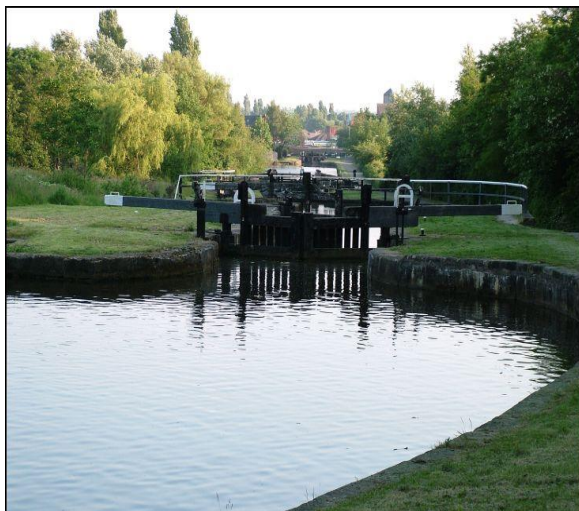
Here lived Christopher West with his wife, Ellen, and his two younger daughters, Ann and Jane on 31st March 1861. From old map records and Leeds & Liverpool Canal documents, it would seem that Christopher was the lock keeper, aged 66, (no retiring then) for the top locks of the Wigan flight of locks at Aspull where the original line of the Lancaster Canal from Walton Summit to Westhoughton (it never got there) meets the twenty-one locks down into Wigan at right angles.

As can be seen on the census return, it was a moving lifestyle as Christopher was born in Blackburn, his wife Ellen coming from Culcheth, near Warrington. So how did they meet up and when? A clue could be that the daughters were born in Lowton and Abram accordingly, both close to Ellen's birth place.



Here are two views of the Lock Cottage at the top of the Wigan flight with the Kirkles Hall Inn to be seen in the distance on the left.

Going back ten years to the census taken on 30th March 1851, another clue emerges with two West families living next to each other in adjoining lock houses. When you work out the route that the census emulator took (that can be difficult, especially when all the streets have either been demolished or had their names changed at least once) it leads me to the conclusion that they were then living in the Rose Bridge Lock Cottage which, as the picture on the right below shows, was converted into two properties.



*Looking towards Rose Bridge down Wigan flight*



*The Rose Bridge Lock Cottages being renovated*

Extracting details from the 1851 Census, (as shown below), shows the information you can obtain but, as you see, there is still no mention of Margaret West who was fourteen in 1851; she can be found working and living at 44 Wallgate, Wigan, as a servant with her elder brother, John, aged 18. I have tried to find details of the other children of Christopher and Ellen without success, they either got married, thus changing their name or, in Matthew's case, may have died.

<i>Address</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Relation</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Profession</i>	<i>Where Born</i>
1 Lock House	Christopher West	Head	50		Lock Keeper	Lancashire, Blackburn
	Ellen West	Wife		46		Lancashire, Culcheth
	Ellen West	Daughter		12	Scholar	Lancashire, Winwick
	Ann West	Daughter		5	Scholar	Lancashire, Winwick
	Matthew West	Son	8		Scholar	Lancashire, Winwick
	Jane West	Daughter		2		Lancashire, Wigan
2 Lock House	Thomas West	Head	85		Retired Lock Keeper	Yorkshire, Addingham
	Margaret West	Wife		71		Lancashire, Leyland
	Mary West	Daughter		49		Lancashire, Chorley

*Census detail - 1851*

However, the retired lock keeper, Thomas West, should now be considered. My theory is that he is Christopher's father for reasons that will become clear as you read on. Notice that he was born in Addingham, Yorkshire, which is quite close to the Leeds & Liverpool Canal at Skipton, and his arrival in Lancashire around Leyland, where Margaret comes from; Blackburn, where Christopher was born in 1795; and Chorley, where Mary was born in 1802, could possibly be explained by the building of the waterway.

The Leeds & Liverpool Canal was opened in stages in the period 1773 to 1816, the first stage from Bingley to Skipton being unconnected until four years later when the Leeds section was opened in 1777. Then the money ran out and Gargrave westwards only recommenced fourteen years later. So, as Thomas grew up, he would see the canal trading and perhaps got a job with the new canal.

By 1795 Thomas had met his wife Margaret from Leyland and moved to Blackburn where Christopher was born. Whether he came with the canal, as it was now being slowly extended westwards towards Burnley, or had changed companies and was helping to build the Lancaster Canal from Haigh near Wigan to Wheelton, which opened in 1799, I cannot tell. Without going through all the church records in all the areas he covered I am unable to find where and when Thomas married Margaret. I have contacted the British Waterways Archive for the canal records to try and find out more.

Going back to the census taken on 6th June 1841 we discover that Thomas West, then aged seventy, was the lock keeper for Rose Bridge Lock Cottage with his wife Margaret, aged sixty, Mary the daughter only moving in when her parents got too old, (note that these ages are the nearest to five years as was standard at this time).

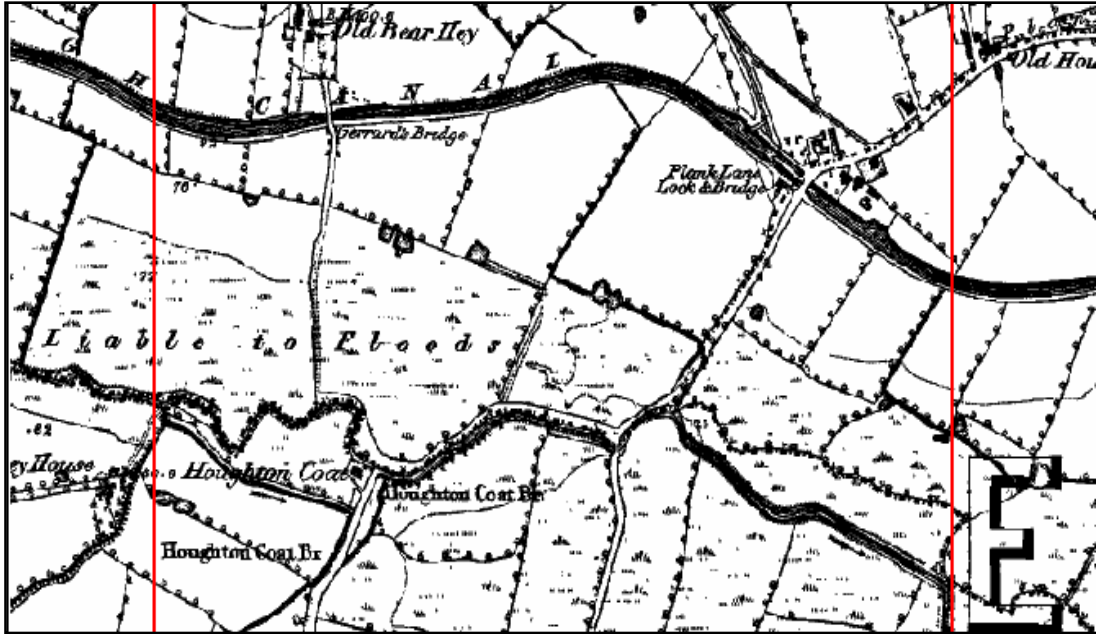
Unfortunately searching for Christopher West in 1841 has drawn a blank though there could be a very good reason for this as I discovered when I searched on Margaret's name in the census, up popped the following entry:-

<i>Place</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Profession</i>
Houghton Coat	Ann (Ellen) West		40	Boatman's Wife
	John West	6		
	Margaret West		4	
	Ellen West		2	

So strong links to the canal definitely ran in the family as the disappearance of Christopher could be attributed to his being away on a boat on the night of the census, the records taken for boaters being very hit and miss. Now the question was, where or what was Houghton Coat? Was it near the canal? And does it still exist?

### **Houghton Coat**

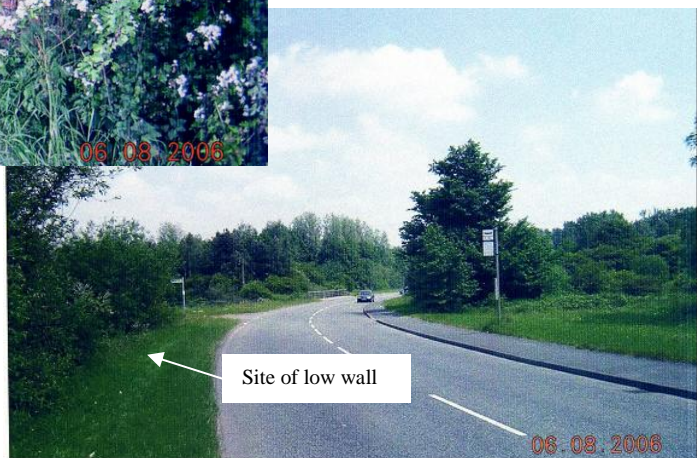
Putting 'Houghton Coat' into Google I did not expect to get much help; I was pleasantly surprised when up popped an article about 'Houghton Coat Bridge, Slag Lane, Lowton'. I then brought up the old maps website and finally located the hamlet and bridge of Houghton Coat just down the lane from the Plank Lane Lock and Bridge on the Leigh branch of the Leeds & Liverpool Canal. This canal opened in 1820 linked the L & L to the Bridgewater Canal and the rest of the canal network at Leigh.



Contacting the Golbourne Historical Society I enquired about the Houghton Coat area and what was still there. I was told that it was a bridge over a stream and a couple of terraced properties that were demolished when a railway line went straight through the area, the bridge over the road becoming 'Houghton Coat Bridge'. The line was the late developed Wigan & St Helens Junction Railway, which ran into Wigan Central station and which eventually became part of the Cheshire Lines Committee Railway (CLC). As the third line into Wigan, this was one of Beeching's first closures and so the line of the railway is still there but the bridge has long gone.

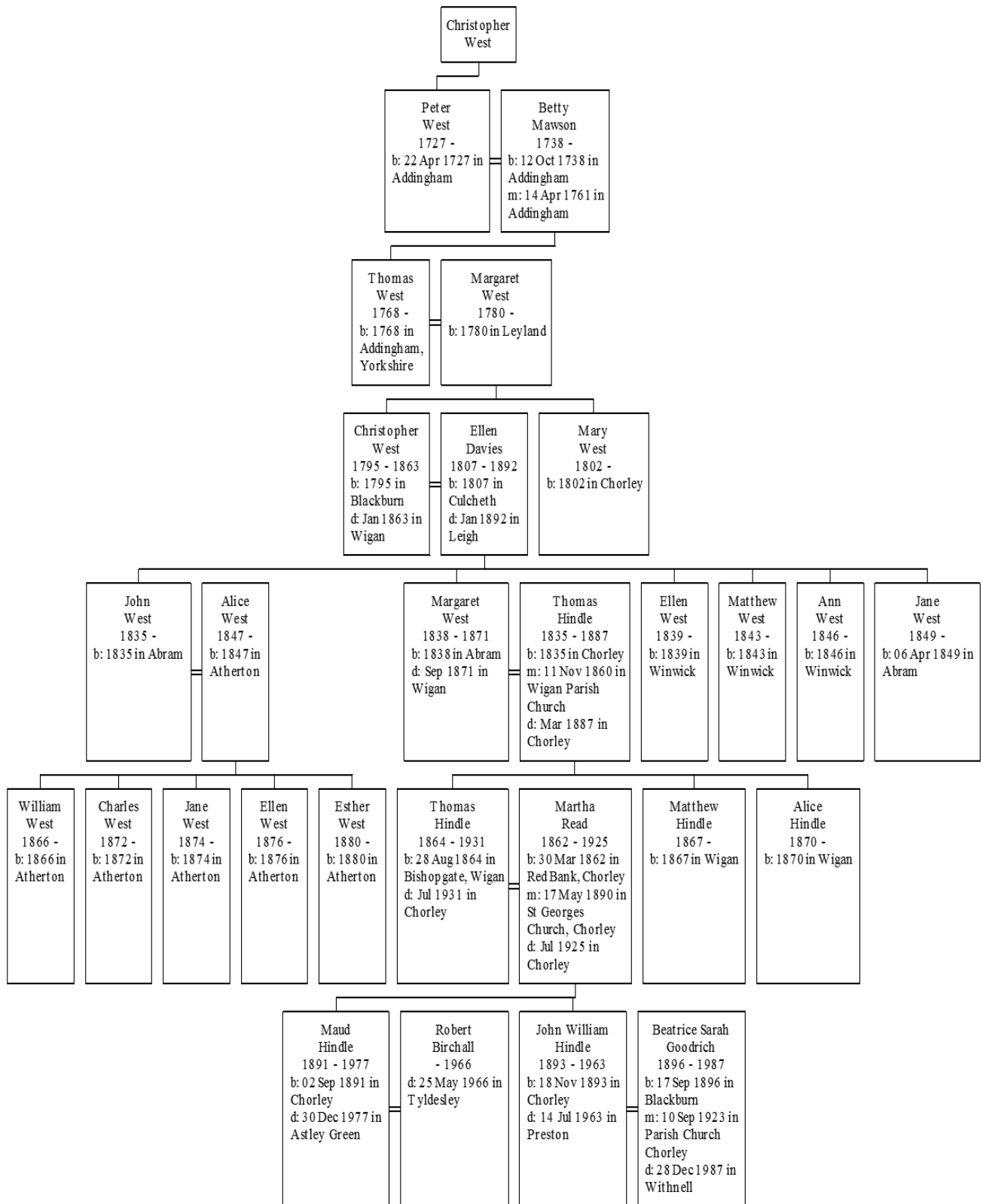


*Derek Briscoe, my contact at the Golbourne Historical Society, took his camera out to the site of the terrace/bridge and sent me these pictures which show a low wall where the stream used to be, vegetation seeming to reclaim everything else.*



The question was, where else could I search, and so I tried the Mormons' website and finally found Thomas West being christened on 2nd July 1770, his parents being Peter West born 22nd April 1727 and Betty Mawson born 12th October 1738 and married on 14th April 1761. Now Peter's father was, funnily enough, called Christopher ..... *if only I could find Christopher's parents .....*

*Descendants of Christopher West*





## James Sumner's Resting Place

*Stanley Haydock's account of his work to restore the final resting place of this Leyland inventor*

As an ex-employee and executive of Leyland motors I had of course been aware of the early days of the company and of its founding fathers so I was very pleased to see an article in the Evening Post of September 30th, 2005, which, along with Richard Arkwright, James Sumner was identified as one of the geniuses of Britain - in fact a map of Britain (not a very good one) also appeared in the article identifying where a range of geniuses rose to fame.

Evening Post – 30 September 2005

# Geniuses put us on the map

## Arkwright and Sumner honoured

By Emilie Bradshaw

WE are the home of geniuses.

A special edition map charts places associated with those who have changed the way we live.

Preston is the birthplace of Sir Richard Arkwright, considered the father of the modern industrial factory system, while Leyland was home to James Sumner, a founder of what was one of England's largest companies, Leyland Motors.

Both appear on the special edition "England's Genius" map, which celebrates how great pioneers, engineers and inventors have changed the world over the centuries, along with information of places to visit.

Sir Richard Arkwright was born in the city in 1732, patented his spinning machine in 1769 and later set up a mill for textile production in Derbyshire.

The map mentions the Blue Plaque on the house where he lived in Stonegate, Preston, and other items of interest at the city's Harris Museum and Art Gallery.

James Sumner was born in 1860 and worked at his father's blacksmithing business in Leyland before becoming fascinated by steam power.

He produced a five-ton steam wagon in the early 1880s and moved on to a steam-powered tricycle and lawnmower before eventually becoming a founder of Leyland Motors.

The British Commercial Vehicle Museum in Leyland, which boasts the largest collection of its kind in Eu-



INVENTIONS: James Sumner



REVOLUTIONARY: Richard Arkwright

**CLEVER: The Genius Map of Britain, with clusters in Lancashire**

rope, has more than 60 beautifully restored exhibits from the end of the 19th Century onwards.

The map also features Blackburn Museum and Art Gallery, where visitors can watch working models of

spinning and weaving machinery.

● For more information visit [enjoyengland.com](http://enjoyengland.com)

e-mail: [emilie.bradshaw@ukw.co.uk](mailto:emilie.bradshaw@ukw.co.uk)

Since my retirement, I have been quite busy working in St. Andrew's churchyard and I was aware of James Sumner's grave and its deteriorating condition, particularly the fact that James's name had all but disappeared. There was also no indication of his claim to fame or, perhaps more importantly, of the impact his life and work had had on the future of Leyland and the commercial vehicle industry and, hence, of the world.

I therefore decided it would be good to have the original family gravestone cleaned and a more durable granite plaque installed to indicate his connection with Leyland and with the company 'Leyland Motors'.

I was able to make contact with a number of James Sumner's surviving relatives but, sadly, not of his direct lineage, and secured approval for the work on the grave. Further, I contacted my former colleagues at Leyland Trucks and was able to secure their sponsorship.

The idea engendered quite a bit of interest with the following two articles appearing in the Evening Post the following year publicising the project:



Mission: Stanley Haydock, kneeling, with, from left, Ron Fish, Dean Bell, Arthur Bracegirdle and Maurice Wrennall at the grave. Inset, James Sumner

By Judith Dorman

CRUMBLING and faded, the grave of the man who helped found Leyland Motors lies forgotten in the corner of a Leyland graveyard.

But one former worker wants to ensure he is remembered.

Now Stanley Haydock needs to discover whether the industrialist James Sumner has any living relatives so he can ask their permission to attach a plaque commemorating his achievements to his headstone in St Andrews churchyard.

James Sumner co-founded the Lancashire Steam Motor Company, which later became Leyland Motors, along with

## Founder of Leyland Motors lies almost forgotten...

his business partners George and Henry Spurrier in 1896, in Hough Lane.

Born in 1860, his father Richard owned a blacksmith's workshop in Water Street and the young James became fascinated by steam power and motorised transport.

From these humble beginnings, he helped to create what became one of the largest companies in Britain.

Mr Haydock discovered his grave when he was helping out in the churchyard and was surprised to find nothing marking his headstone as the resting place of the man who left such a huge mark on Leyland.

He has secured funding for

his idea but now needs to contact relatives to make sure they have no objection to his plan.

He said: "You could hardly even make out James Sumner's name on the headstone. It's really sad.

"It struck me that if he hadn't been tinkering with his steam engines, this town would not be the same. He changed the face of Leyland completely.

"Most of the people I have spoken to had no idea that he was buried there.

"There is another James Sumner buried nearby and I had to get someone to point out to me which was the correct grave.

"I worked at Leyland Motors myself for 40 years and I have read the history.

"I thought it was worth commemorating in the form of a little plaque just to say who he was and what he achieved.

"It would have the Leyland Motors logo on it and it would say, 'This is the burial place of James Sumner, the co-founder of the Leyland Steam Motor Company, later to become Leyland Motors'.

"We would also like to straighten the headstone.

"But I am conscious that we shouldn't go tinkering with this fellow's grave without permission from his relatives."

● Are you a surviving relative of James Sumner? If so, please e-mail [judith.dorman@lep.co.uk](mailto:judith.dorman@lep.co.uk) or call 01772 838104.

e-mail: [judith.dorman@lep.co.uk](mailto:judith.dorman@lep.co.uk)

**APPEAL: Family give permission for tribute to motor founder**

*Evening Post, 20 January 2006*

# Pioneer's tribute

RELATIVES of the man who helped found Leyland Motors have said yes to moves to ensure his life's work is remembered.

Former Leyland worker Stanley Haydock appealed last week in our pages for surviving family of motor pioneer James Sumner to get in touch.

The pensioner, who helps out in the churchyard of Leyland Parish Church, had come across James' grave. He found to his astonishment that there was no mention on his headstone of his achievements.

He wanted to place a small plaque on the grave, marking it as the resting place of one of Leyland's greatest sons – but needed to know if his descendants would mind.

Efforts to trace them proved fruitless so he turned to the Evening Post for help. We appealed and responses poured in.

James Sumner's great granddaughter Edith McNair, great niece Enid Parkinson, his great nephews Stuart Bowler and James Taylor and his third cousin Reginald Hindley have all been touch.

All have given their permission for the headstone to be amended with a plaque saying who he was and what his role in the founding of the motor firm was.

Edith McNair approves of the idea.

Edith, who now lives in Wal-

**By Judith Dorman**

ton-le-Dale, said: "I didn't even know he was buried in Leyland."

"James' daughter married my grandfather – but she died very young. I think my father was only about two when she died and that's when our part of the family drifted out of touch."

"I'd like to go and see his grave – now that I know where it is!"

Enid Parkinson, now living in Hornchurch in Essex, was so pleased with the idea that she even offered to give some money towards the scheme, but Mr Haydock already has funding from Leyland Trucks.

After our appeal, Mr Haydock found he had actually known both Enid and her mother many years ago.

He said: "One of my colleagues from Leyland Motors rang up and said, 'So you want to find James Sumner's relatives?'"

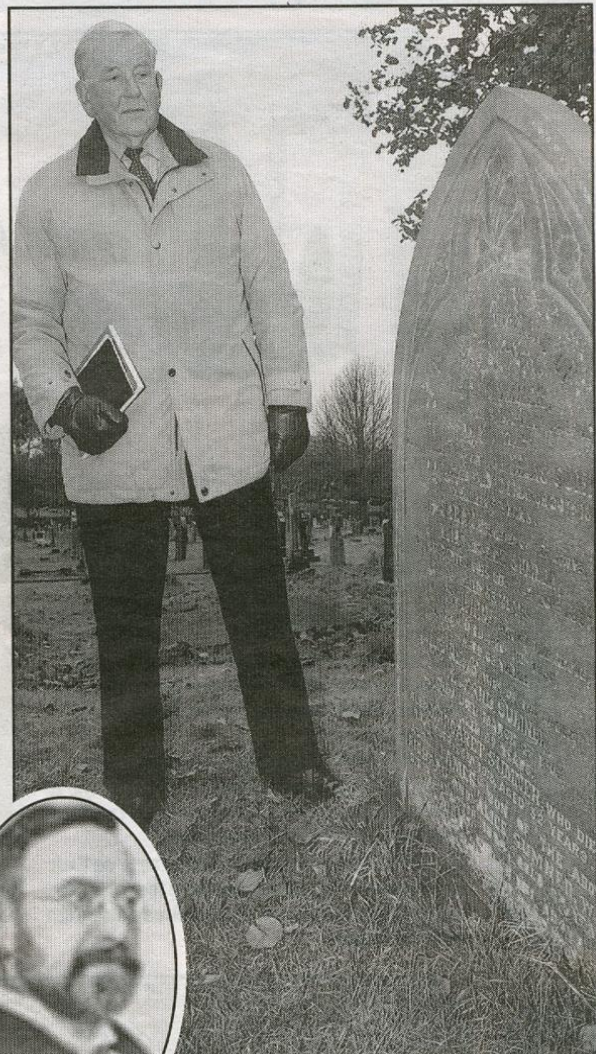
He said, "Do you remember Enid Sumner?" and I said, "Of course I do!" When I was a young draughtsman, her mother operated the machine next to where I worked."

Stewart Bowler and Alec Taylor, both from Fulwood, also contacted us. James Sumner was uncle to Stewart's grandmother Alice.

As a child, she used to play in the Sumner forge, on Towngate, Leyland, where the men would make her toys. Stewart said: "I still have a trivet made for her, and my brother has a small anvil."



**HISTORY: The Evening Post on Wednesday**



**TRACING THE PAST: Stanley Haydock at the grave of James Sumner, inset, in St Andrew's Church, Leyland**

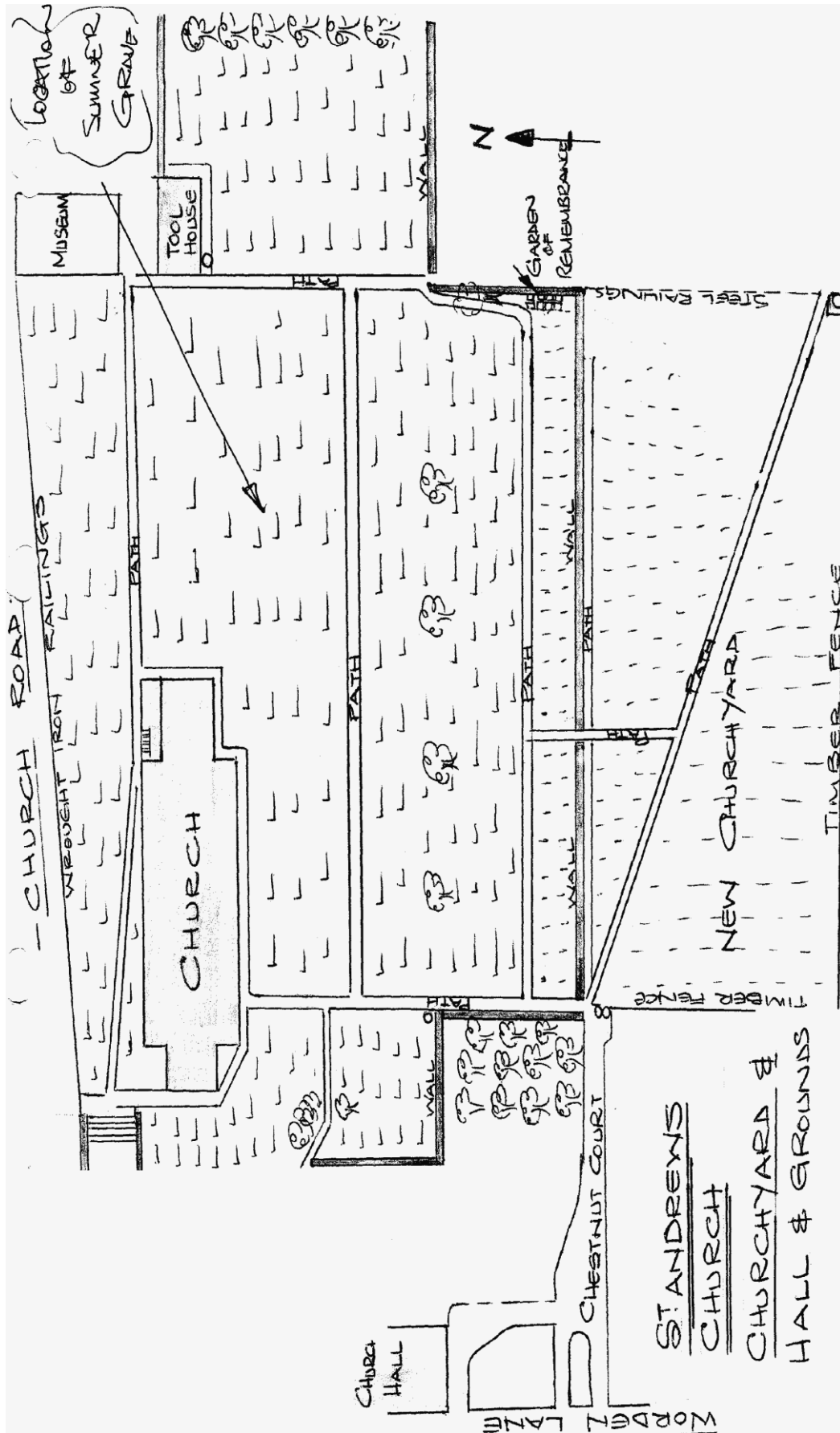
e-mail: [judith.dorman@ep.co.uk](mailto:judith.dorman@ep.co.uk)

And so, just before Christmas 2006, I was pleased to see the completion of the project which has been done to my own specification and satisfaction.



*James Sumner's grave - 2007 (Stanley Haydock's photograph)*

Perhaps what gave me a bit more of an incentive was that James took over the family blacksmith's business in 1891 in Water Street and lived and worked only a little way from where my own grandfather established his business, also in 1891, at the last property in Towngate (long before Water Street became an extension to Towngate). So they were contemporaries, possibly friends. Further to this, I was born in *Sumner* Street and lived within fifty yards of the South works for a number of years.



Stan Haydock's sketch of St. Andrew's churchyard showing the position of James Sumner's grave

## Cuerden Hall Auxiliary Hospital

*Joan Langford brings to light extracts from documents found in an old suitcase*

At the time of the First World War the owners of Cuerden Hall were Mr. Reginald Tatton and his wife Winifred. The Hall was a much bigger home than they needed for themselves and their two sons (plus household staff), so the public spirited couple decided that the Lewis Wyatt 1816 (east wing) part of the Hall should be used as an auxiliary hospital for wounded servicemen.

When work was being carried out on Cuerden Hall in the 1980s (in readiness for new owners, Sue Ryder Care), in one of the outbuildings an old leather suitcase was discovered which contained a number of record books from the time when the Hall was a hospital.

One of the books in the suitcase explained, amongst other things, that auxiliary hospitals received grants from the government, based on the number of beds available, towards:

- (a) Provisions;
- (b) Surgery & dispensary (including wines and spirits ordered by the doctor);
- (c) Domestic (including bedding, furniture, linen, crockery, washing, cleaning, fuel, etc.)

In 1917 the government grant was 2/6d per day for beds used (which was only approximately half of the real cost), and 6d per night for unused beds. The monthly grant for January 1917 was £150 12s 6d plus £2 13s 6d for empty beds. (The daily rate was increased in May 1918 to 3/- per day).

It appears that the Tattons set up the hospital on their own initiative and furnished it with beds, bed linen and other equipment during April and May 1915. True to their social habits, many of the items were ordered from Harrods in London.

The detailed accounts from 1917 give an interesting insight into the hospital's day to day running:-

The local businesses with whom the Tattons traded were:-

Markland's for laundry	Booth's for groceries
Houlker's for bread	Melling's for fish
Brindle's for meat and Singleton's for cabs.	Maypole Dairy for milk

The 1917 accounts also show that the hospital received a number of gifts to help towards the day-to-day running, which included:

	£	s	d
2 salmon and 300 lbs. of tea from Mr. Tatton <sup>1</sup> - value:	24	8	0
Dressings from St John	3	14	0
Blankets from St John	15	6	4
Boots from Kensington War Depot	1	3	0
Socks and 'various'	10	7	0
1584 eggs collected	16	10	0
<b>Total:</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>5</b>

Plus rabbits and grouse

The total cost for running the auxiliary hospital at Cuerden Hall in 1917 was:

	£	s	d
Provisions	1834	19	5
Surgery	53	1	8
Domestic	445	1	5
Establishment	20	0	0
Wages	334	16	10
Misc	47	14	3
Total:	<u>2735</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>7</u>



*Mrs Winifred Tatton*

Mr & Mrs Tatton were responsible for the overall management of the Hospital themselves and also provided garden produce, in addition to the proceeds of shooting parties, to supplement rations.

The trained 'regular' staff appears to have consisted of Matron and two sisters; the domestic servants included three girls and one boy.

The total number of beds available in the hospital was 43. However, during that year the daily average number of patients was 32 and the average length of each man's stay was 41 days.

In the following extract from the hospital record book there can be seen some of the items the Tattons purchased in April and May 1915.

April	May 19 15	Hospital	Equipment	for 27	beds.	16 Extra Beds	July 6	19 16	d	e	r	d
Harrods	30 Bedleads	72			225	4	Sigsmond Crockery	1	6			
"	Mattresses				1	11	Sundry Ward Equipmen		10	3		
"	60 Pillows	18			8	17	Chart Hobson	7	8			
	60 Blankets	19	30		3	11	Sundry Crockery etc	18	10			
	60 Sheets & Pillows C:	9	130		239	3	House hold Equipmen	6	1			
"	Lockers	8			19	8	Hall mark Spoon Fork etc	1	6			
"	Screens	5			9	2	" " Pulp mail		8			
"	Chair	19			28	10	Collar & Ties	12	8			
Ward	Stock of Drugs	9			210	13		5	3			
H. Spinal Contract Co.	Medical Equipmen	2										
	Surgical "	8										
Various Places	Sundry Ward Equip.	7										
Hallmark	Household & Cooking	6										
"	Cullery	8										
Sutton & Heathth.	Crockery	2										
6 Bayar	Nurses Crockery etc	15										
Phillips Lamborne.	Duster, Towels etc	3										
Singby	Food Trrolley	3										
Baronville	Broodmead etc etc	2										
Snelle	Rubber Tyres etc	10										
Price Testen	Hamel for Shirts	225										
		6										
		4										
		7										
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An extract from the hospital record book shows some of the items the Tattons purchased in April and May 1915



Name.	Rank & No.	Regt.	Nature of Wound or Disease.	History.	Condition on Discharge	Admitted.	Discharged.
Grundy. H. age 40	Pt. 22845	8th. Manchester	Op. for haemorrhoids	Trade Iron Works, joined Army Jan 1915. Op. Apr 2-16. 8th. P.	well	May 1	May 20 Dr. Phillis
Stafford. P. age 42	Pt. 11476	2nd W. Riding	Op. for haemorrhoids	Old soldier (27 years) Rejoined as recruit Sep 14. France Nov. Invalided home Oct 23/15, through accident. Entered army 1895. Rejoined Aug 5/14. W. Apr 27-6. Passed through ops part left knee.	well	May 1	June 5 Dr. Phillis
Smith F. age 44	Pt. 2960.	1st York & Lanc. Coaster.	Bullet wound - l. knee.	France Feb/15. Through accident.	well	May 1	May 31 Dr. Phillis
McMillan. H. J. age 20	L. Corp. 1294	9th Royal Scots.	Bullets both shoulders & left arm	Entered army 1912. France Feb/15. 4 bullet wounds while charging Hill 60. Op 23/15.	well	May 1	June 20 Dr. Phillis
Ward. T. age 41	Pt. 7236	2nd King's own Scottish	Bullet w: R. arm.	Entered army 1893. India 10/72. France Dec/14. Wounded at Hill 60.	well	May 1	May 2 Dr. Phillis
Sicklinton. A. age 19	Pt. 1297.	3rd King's own York. Light Inf	Shrapnell R. Thigh.	Op 18. R. arm pierced. Entered Special Reserve 1913. Trade Lecturer. Went France Nov/14. Wounded Apr 18/15. Large Shrap. W: R. Thigh	well	May 1	June 21 Dr. Phillis
Cheriton. T. age 23	Gunner 74222	R. F. A. 39 Bde	Shrapnell back of neck.	Trade Plumber. Joined Sep 1914. Wounded Apr 24. Officer cut out shrap. with penknife & dressed with loine.	well	May 1	June 2 Dr. Phillis

The entries on the first page of Cuerden Hall Auxiliary Hospital Record Book  
Showing the first patients admitted on 1st May 1915

The St John Ambulance Preston Corps book celebrating one hundred years of local service from 1888 - 1988 records that Cuerden Hall Auxiliary Hospital, *'was administered by the Joint War Committee of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St John of Jerusalem in England.'* *Members of the Preston Corps worked alongside VAD<sup>2</sup> nurses caring for the sick and injured on their return from the battlefields of Europe'.*

Between May 1915 and November 1918, 755 wounded servicemen were treated at Cuerden Hall Auxiliary Hospital. One of the men in the first intake on 1st May 1915, was 23 years old Gunner T Chiverton, serving with the 39th Btn. RAF. A plumber by trade, he joined up in September 1914 and was wounded with shrapnel in his back and neck on 27th April 1915. The log book records *'Officer cut out shrapnel with pen knife and dressed with iodine'.* Gunner Chiverton left on 2nd June *'fit for active service'*, but the doctor's report added that *'his ear drum was badly cracked and the return of his hearing was doubtful'.*

Another man, 20 years old Corporal H McMillan of the 9th Royal Scots received a total of four bullets in both shoulders and his left arm *'whilst charging Hill 60'* on 23rd April. He was at Cuerden for 58 days and applied for munitions work when he was discharged.

A young man from Farington was one of the last soldiers admitted to Cuerden Hall Auxiliary Hospital and was entry number 753 in the record book - 23 years old Robert (Bob) Holmes from 4 Spring Gardens, a Corporal in the 18th Lancashire Fusiliers.

His Cuerden Hospital entry reads *'Trade - textile mechanic. Joined August 1914, went to Egypt September 1914. Went sick with dysentery December 1914. 12 months in England. Went to France 1916. Wounded by a bullet on April 23rd 1918. Spent 1 day at No. 9 General Hospital Rouen where he had an operation to clean the wound.'*

*'Admitted to Cuerden 30<sup>th</sup> September 1918. Wound not yet healed behind knee - left leg heavy and difficult to lift.'*

*'Discharged 16th December 1918. Medical Board at Whalley 24th January 1919. Corporal Holmes got his discharge.'*

What the entry does not record is that Bob Holmes was advised to have his injured left leg amputated, but that he refused such radical surgery which would almost certainly have saved his life. Tragically he died on 23rd March 1919.

The renowned British spirit for cheerfulness in the face of adversity seems to have been 'alive and well' at Cuerden. Being chiefly a convalescent hospital many of the patients were mobile and the records show that they provided their own entertainment in a variety of ways while they were recuperating, for example:

Lance Corporal L S Part, aged 21, was suffering from shell shock and the results of trench fever. *'Pains in legs and headaches. Was blind for a fortnight'.* He was at Cuerden from June to September 1917, and comments in the record book when he left included: *'Part was a very good pianist and is much missed'.*

18 years old Robert Jones was suffering the effects of a 'gas poisoning shell' during his stay, also from June to September 1917. He was *'an excellent clog dancer'.*

Others were recorded as having been *'good singers'.*

Such entries give the lighter side of life at Cuerden Hall during the war years, but many of the records in the 'case history' columns of the Register make very sombre reading. The details in these ledgers also present, in a poignant way, the tragedy of World War I.

Not all were young men by any means. Of the seven men on the first page of the record book four were in their forties.

## Romance

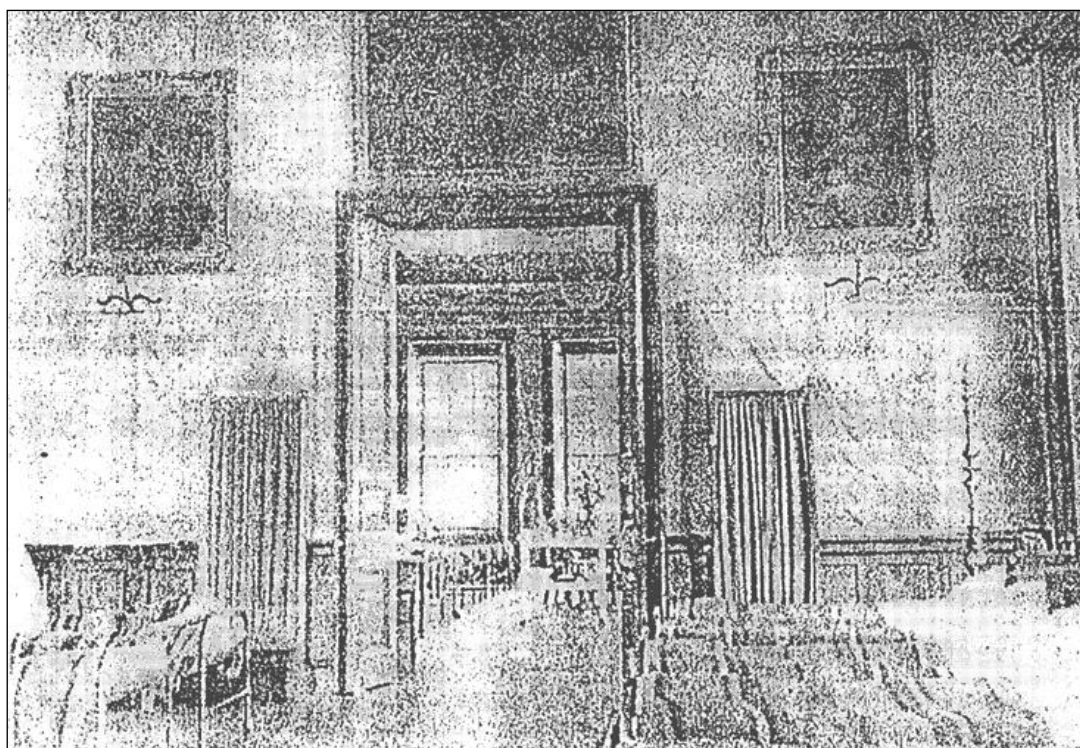
*'Please nurse, will you marry me?'*

Entry number 629 in the hospital admission Register reads: *'Elliott W J, age 20, Private in the Oxon & Bucks Regiment (T). Joined September 1914. Trade Wheelwright. To France April 1916, wounded July 1916 - gunshot wound in thigh. Back in England 10 months. Back to France in 1917. Wounded March 1918 with a gunshot fracture of tibia in right arm. About 5 days at 2nd Canadian General Hospital (in France).'*

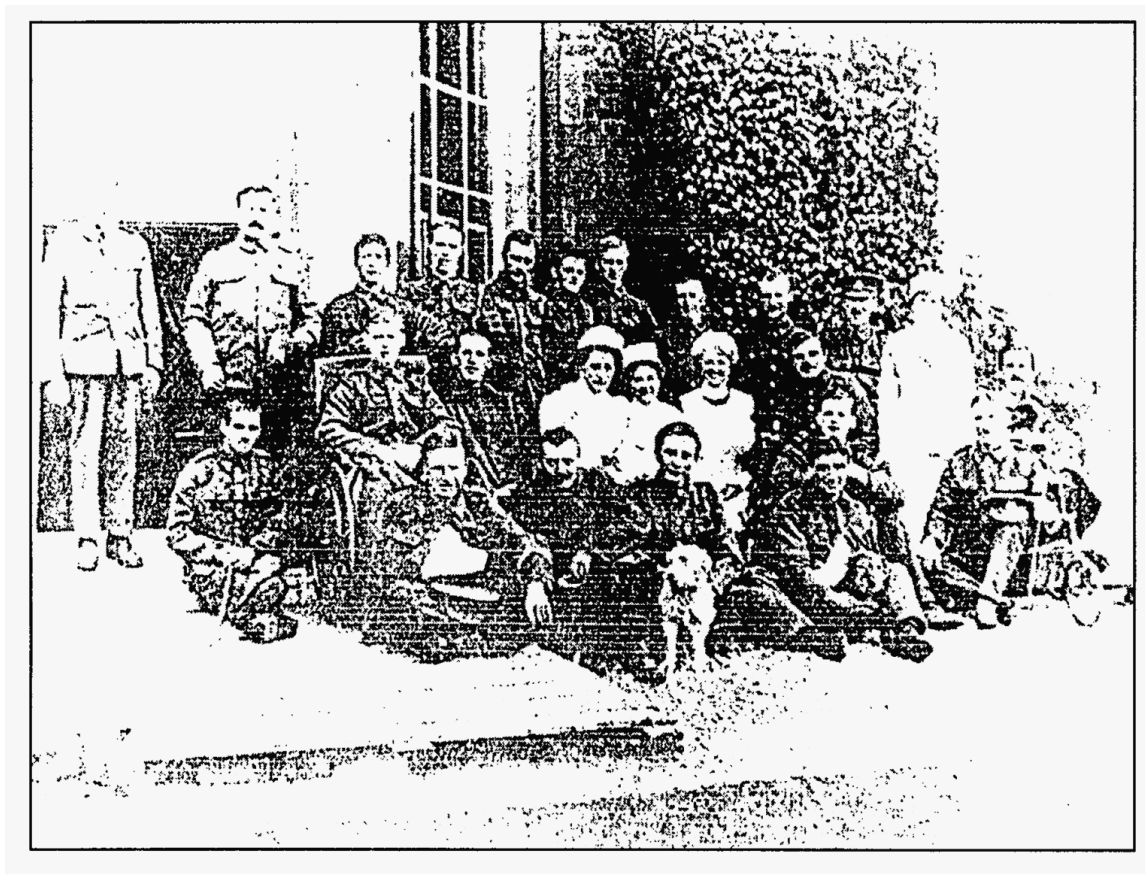
He was admitted to Cuerden on 8th April 1918 and discharged, Class II, on 31st May 1918. The comment in the final column of his entry then reads: *'Elliott is going to marry one of the Allison girls'*.

During World War I Clara Allison and her sister Maud did their very valuable 'bit' for the war effort by volunteering as VAD nursing assistants at Cuerden Hall. The girls' father, Francis Allison, was a blacksmith at Cuerden, and as such it is quite likely that his family were known at the Hall, and hence the comment at the end of Private Elliott's record. It was Clara who had won his heart and they were married at St. Saviour's Church Bamber Bridge on 18th December 1920.

With the return of peace, Cuerden Hall reverted to a private residence.



*Above: The Library at Cuerden Hall transformed into a hospital ward.  
Looking through into the sitting room, also in use as a ward*



*Above: Some of the patients pose happily outside the Hall for a group photograph c. 1916*

(I apologise for the quality of these two photographs. Unfortunately, the originals are no longer available, but I thought it worth including them for historical reference.)

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<sup>1</sup> Captain Thomas Tatton sent two chests of tea while he was serving with the Army in India

<sup>2</sup> VAD: Voluntary Aid Detachment personnel served as nursing assistants during WW1

## Old Leyland Parish Church Magazines

*Extracts supplied by Sylvia Thompson*

### Misrepresentations

#### Parish Magazine - July 1892

The Chorley Guardian in its otherwise correct account of the handsome memorial presented to the Reverend B Davies, a memorial which we believe cost altogether a little over £57, calls our inkstand 'electro plated'! Did you ever? Leyland does not do such things! We beg to assure our readers that it was solid silver, hallmarked. Oh we feel hurt and indignant at such a suggestion! May we take this opportunity of telling the editor of the Chorley Guardian that we shall esteem it a favour if he will kindly acknowledge the source of his obligations when he makes use of any paragraphs in our magazine.

**1897** 'St Johns School Earnshaw Bridge is now nearly complete and looks very pretty externally. We hope to have a formal opening on Saturday afternoon August 21st. Rev. R C Fletcher, Rector of Tarleton has agreed to perform the ceremony and to give an address.'

#### **This notice in the Parish Magazine in July 1897 struck a chord:**

Our Churchyard

We hereby give notice that, whereas of late, certain flowers have been stolen from graves and other plants in the churchyard damaged by some person or persons, the first person to be caught performing such acts will be proceeded against according to the police notice affixed in certain places in the Churchyard; and we earnestly ask those who are interested in the appearance of our Churchyard to aid us in bringing such offenders to justice.

Not much change there then.

#### **Marriages - 1898**

*'A fair witch crept to a young mans side*

*And he kissed her and took her for his bride'*

October 20th 1898 James Finch to Alice Miller

## Obituary



**Frank Cumpstey**

**1920 - 2007**

It is with sorrow that we report the death this year of Frank Cumpstey who was Chairman of the Society for six years up to November 1976 and a life long and Honorary Member. Frank, as Chairman, steered the Committee and members through the fuel crisis of 1973/74 and into the dark days of 1975 with its three-day weeks. He saw the move from the Methodist School in Canberra Road into Prospect House, Sandy Lane, and warned of the coming of the New Town and its impact on the district. Frank was largely responsible for the layout of the leaflet issued in the 1980s for the Leyland Cross Conservation Area; also his advice and assistance in the setting up of the Leyland Chronicle was invaluable.

Frank was born and brought up in Blackburn attending primary school and then attending Darwen Grammar School, passing the matriculation examination in six subjects.

Entering active service during the war, he served in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve from March 1941 until July 1946 rising to the rank of Lieutenant; joining from a career in the Borough Treasurer's office where he had just taken his Intermediate examination. He was pleased to receive the results finding that he had taken First Place and Prize in the whole of England.

Frank returned to civilian life and his career in local government after the war until, in 1954, a change of occupation brought him to Leyland and a position in Sales at Leyland Paint and Varnish Company where he worked until his retirement in 1984. It was not all work though at the Paint Works, Frank met Moira who worked in the same office and they were married in 1956.

Frank took a great interest in a number of local organisations: the Masonic, Leyland Golf Club and, of course, the Historical Society to which he contributed his first articles in Chronicle No. 3 on the Local Place Names and The History of Wallpaper. There followed some seventeen other articles each one possibly being triggered by his observations as he walked around his adopted village of Leyland. He missed being able to attend the meetings and was always eager to hear about fellow

members and what was going on, especially the monthly meeting speakers and their subjects; and he was proud to be an Honorary Member for recognition of work well done.

Our sympathies on behalf of the Society go to Moira and the children and to Frank's family, friends and many associates. He will be very much missed.

**W E Waring**

Lairland Chronicle No. 53

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## Lairland Historical Society

### Programme 2007 – 2008

Meetings to be held in

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

at 7.30 pm

#### 2007

Monday, 3 September  
**“Lairland and its Historical Society”**  
Dr David Hunt

Monday, 8 October  
**“Thomas Telford – Married to the Job”**  
Mikron Theatre Company

Monday, 5 November  
**“Waterway Restoration in the  
North West”**  
John Fletcher

Saturday, 1 December  
**“Making Time Team”**  
Phil Harding

#### 2008

Monday, 7 January  
**“The Geology and Formation of the  
Lairland Landscape”**  
Dr Eric Isaacs

Monday, 4 February  
(Venue to be advised)  
**“Photographs of Old Lairland”**  
Stephen Sartin

#### 2008

Monday, 3 March  
**“D.I.Y – The Early Power Tools”**  
George Howard

Saturday, 15 March – Alston Hall  
**“Walking from Roman Ribchester  
to York”**  
John Shaw

Monday, 7 April  
**“Mancunian Films and Frank Randle”**  
Dr C P Lee

Monday, 5 May  
**3rd Annual Historical Society Trip  
to Hadrian’s Wall and Carlisle**

Monday, 2 June  
**“Monarchy”**  
David Starkey

Tuesday, 1 July  
**40th Birthday Celebrations**  
Alan Crosby

Monday, 7 July  
**“Victorian Papers”**  
Glen Atkinson