

LEYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BULLETIN

No. 1.

November, 1970.

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1.

The object of our bulletin is to keep you informed of the committees decisions and activities, and to give publicity to any comment thereon.

Also, by the inclusion of special articles written by our members, to maintain a lively interest in history and its closely related subjects topography, archeology and antiquity.

In all this we should welcome letters and comment which are informative (or controversial) and which, we feel, would assist communications generally.

We have had the pleasure of listening to three excellent speakers during the present season, first in Mr. Rawlinson, secondly Miss Jessica Lofthouse and most recently Mrs. Atkins.

I did not hear Mr. Rawlinson but Miss Lofthouse and Mr. Atkins struck me as being well versed in their subjects and ones attention was maintained throughout their lectures. Miss Lofthouse of course paints verbal pictures in a unique style; which has made her so well known.

Attendances were as follows :-

September	-	120
October	-	150
November	-	130

This is very encouraging and we are pleased to see new members coming along.

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2.

Coming events.

The Dinner and Dance planned for December 7th, 1970 at the Pines Hotel, Clayton Green, should be a very happy affair and we hope as many as possible will be present.

Last years Dinner and Dance was a real success so help to make December 7th a repeat.

Tickets are 25/- each.

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3. Places of Historical interest within easy reach of Leyland.

HALLS

Smith hills Hall	Bolton
Holker Hall	Cark
Fletcher Moss	Didsbury
Heaton Hall	Prestwich
Speke Hall	Liverpool
Crook Hall	Shevington
Rufford Hall (Old)	Rufford
Rufford Hall (New)	Rufford
Harrock Hall	Heskin
Heskin Hall	Heskin
Buckshaw Hall	Buxton
Astley Hall	Chorley
Mawdsley Hall	Mawdsley
Hall i'th Wood	Bolton

CHURCHES

Standish
Chorley Parish
Eccleston
Brindle
Croston
Penwortham

Please notify The Secretary Mr. Delaney if you are interested in arrangements for a visit to any of the above.

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4.

Local History - its scope - E. Mason.

W.G. Hoskins book entitled "Local History in England" (Leyland Library) has revealed to me the great breadth and depth of our historical heritage in a way I scarcely beleived possible and shows that even in our small community there exists enough material to occupy our interest in looking at the past for years to come.

The book begins with a quotation from Horace which refers to local history as "That corner of the world above all others, which has a smile for me". Hoskins work is mainly to advise and encourage local historians to deal with some aspects hitherto neglected and worthy of attention. Old newspapers can tell a story and paint the picture of a past better than most sources and reconstruction can be fairly accurately modelled.

Other sources of information are local directories, census schedules, census reports (1801 - 1951), reminiscences by local people (alive or dead) local records (printed or manuscript) parliamentary papers, maps, land tax assessments, illustrations, diaries, letters, accounts books, auctioneers catalogues, and sales notices.

The older houses and farmhouses are most revealing and our society could very well undertake a survey of these.

Hoskins remarks that a good deal of the antiquity is hidden from view and often lies in the interior of the roof. Apparently in parish after parish one can find evidence that farmhouses were rebuilt or much enlarged in the two generations from about 1570 to 1640.

What had been happening previously that such a thing took place.

Some of us would like to make a study of one or two local farms and report what we find to our members. Are you interested in the prospect?

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5.

Tape recorded recollections by some of our older residents.

It has occured to us that the recording on tape of conversations with people who have lived and worked locally for a long time might prove enlightening and stimulating.

This would be enhanced if some of it were spoken in our local dialect which, as Miss Lofthouse reminded us, is essential to obtain as soon as possible.

Have you someone in mind?

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6.

The Old Grammar School - J.N. Banister.

The Old Grammar School at the north-east corner of the churchyard is a fascinating and interesting building of the late 18th century.

A tablet over the schoolhouse door reads: "Built by the liberal contributions of the gentry and others in 1790". At this period the distinction "and others" is noticeable. The bottom line has been cut away, and has not been revived.

The school however must be much older than the schoolhouse. Nearby there is a gravestone which reads: "In memory of Thomas Moon gentleman, who died January 4th, 1776, Esq., A man of sound learning, wit, and probity. An instructive companion and a sincere friend to whom a good conscience was more than accumulated wealth. He was for 60 years an indefatigable schoolmaster and for 60 years was head of this school.

On these old tablets and gravestones, past generations went to considerable length to extol their virtues. According to the Farington history, the old Grammar School foundations date from 1524, and the school is one of the oldest in the county.

When Balshaw's School, in School Lane was reconstructed, the Church Commission put up the old building for sale. It was bought by the late John Stanning, Esq., of Broadfield, and presented to the Parish Church.

The Chantries.

Since the days of Thomas Moon, the schoolmaster, the school has seen many changes. It has been used for meetings, a men's Sunday School class, a club room. It was here that the meeting of the Leyland Literary and Scientific Society was founded by the last of the Baldwins.

It has been used for Sunday school teachers' training classes. Shakespearean readings, conducted by the last squire at Worden and for many other useful purposes. So where once sat the privileged youths of the village, under the old schoolmaster, people of all ages have gathered to improve their religious, literary, scientific and social education.

The Chantries, the old Grammar Schools, lit the torch for the education of the poor and illiterate of the village. This has been handed down from generation to generation. The torch must still be kept alight, so that equal opportunities will be given to every child throughout the length and breadth of the land.

The Old Grammar School and the old sundial reminds us of the passing of time. They also make a pleasing picture of oldtime Leyland. The motto on the sundial is no longer to be seen but was "We are dust and shadow".

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7.

Leyland in 1844 - Miss Watkinson.

It has recently been my privilege to scrutinize some old maps of Leyland. One of these is a Tithe Map dated 1844 on which all the fields, houses, outbuildings, etc. are numbered.

There is an accompanying reference book, also dated 1844, which contains the names of the Landowner, Occupier, Name and Description of the Land and Premises, also the amount of Tithe due to be paid to the respective Tithe owners - James Nowell Ffarington Esq., Reverend Gardner Baldwin, and Lawrence Rawstorne Esq.,

It has been most interesting to locate the various farms, houses, etc., and no easy task, as the 1089 numbers in the reference book do not run consecutively.

Looking at the map it is quite easy to see where Leyland acquired its name, as there is only a scattering of houses. The farms as we know them now are all referred to under the heading of House, Outbuildings, Fold and Garden. The fields are also recorded with a name and the nature of cultivation, such as Arable, Pasture, Meadow, Turbary (Peat), Uncultivated, Clover, Wood.

The names are really fascinating - such as "Field at Back o'Barn" "Top of Horse Pasture", "Field before Door", "Field at top o'Hill", "Middle Wham", "Nearer Wham", "Meadow back o'Barn", "Old Woman's Field" "Lower Slutch Heaps", "Highmost Wyker", and many others.

The Cross, Parish Church and the Old Grammar School are clearly marked, as are also the Inns - "Bay Horse", "Roe Buck", Eagle and Child", "George the Fourth", "Ship Inn". "Railway Bridge Inn" which is now known as the "Railway Hotel" and is the one over the Station Bridge.

Fox Lane as now known was originally Liverpool Road. On the north side of the road is shown a House, Shop and Warehouse, and from the position on the map I presume it was the premises last owned and occupied by J. Lord as a Butchers Shop.

Next are the houses with steps, shown in one block under the number 490, but lettered individually from A to Z. They are described as Cottage and Garden, and quite a few with Warehouse added- the latter I suppose would be to store the cloth woven on the hand looms which were installed in the cellars.

The only buildings on the South Side are the National School built in 1837 and still in use as Infant's School, and the Smithey and Wheelwright's Shop, in the occupation of Richard Tomlinson; the Smithy was demolished some years ago and the space is now used as a parking ground by the Leyland Cricket Club.

The next building on the North side is a House, Barn, Garden, Outbuildings etc., occupied by Robert Swann.

On the South side, almost opposite, are thirteen cottages and Stable, being demolished some years ago when the Wade Hall Estate was planned.

Towngate and Water Street as they were later known do not appear on the map to have a name unless it is "The Road through the Village", which is recorded at the end of the reference book under the heading of "Highways within the Township", along with many other roads. We old Leylanders still refer to it as "Going up, or down, the Village as the case may be.

The first building marked on the West Side is the "Bay Horse Inn", and Cottage etc. occupied by William Chew. Next is a House, Yard, Barn, Garden occupied by James Sumner and is where the Sale Room and House adjoining now stands.

Cow Lane is clearly marked and shows Almshouses on the South Side, which were owned by the Osbaldeston Trustees, and which I presume are the ones rebuilt in Fox Lane in 1870.

On the North side is shown a House, Warehouse, Stable, Garden and Orchard, owned and occupied by Miss Sergeant.

Continuing on the "Road through the Village", the next building shown is House, Outbuildings, Fold, Orchard etc. occupied by John Livesey, and is where the Public Hall built in 1897 now stands.

Bradshaw Street is shown with a row of cottages on the South Side in one block numbered 473 and lettered from A to O. Adjoining are another block of Cottages with steps and cellars numbered 472 and lettered from A to Z.

471 Block of 3 Cottages and Gardens at the extreme end of Bradshaw Street are still occupied and known as Snowdrop Cottages.

On the North side is shown a block of 3 Cottages, and branching off is a side road with cottages on the three sides, later known as Orange Square. Four more cottages are shown, - still on the North Side.

"George the Fourth" Inn and Garden are clearly marked. Branching to the West is a fold with two cottages on the North side, and House, Outbuildings etc. last occupied by J. Hayhurst.

Back on to the Main road are a row of Cottages and Gardens, where the National Insurance Offices are now built. I am sure some of you reading this will remember one of the cottages was a small shop where one could buy sweets and parched peas, whilst next door was occupied by the Village Midwife (Mrs. Nelson).

More fields and then three more cottages and a Baker's Shop, occupied for a good number of years by Mrs. Bennett, Mrs. Guest being the last tenant before it was demolished.

A pathway turned west here, known to the villagers as "The Ship Fields", and went through to Cow Lane and the Bleach Works or Shrugs as it was known - being owned by James Fletcher and William Finch. The road through now is Westgate.

Continuing north from "The Ship Inn" occupied by John Bradshaw which has outbuildings, Fold, Garden and Pasture Field. The next building marked on the map are three cottages and a Grocers Shop, the latter occupied by Mrs. Jolly for a good number of years, all being demolished some years ago.

More fields, and next a Smithy etc., occupied by Elias Sumner (now occupied by Messrs Damp.)

The last premises to be shown on the West Side are described as House, Outbuildings, Garden and Field marked "Wellfield", and occupied by John Eccles. On this site the House as named "Wellfield" is occupied by The Leyland Construction Co. Ltd., and alongside has been erected Woolworths, on the foundations of "The Regent Cinema".

On the eastern side of the "Road through the Village", the first buildings marked on the map is House, Cottage, Fold, Outbuildings, Garden and Fields occupied by John Swann, and is where the "Gables" now stands.

House, Fold and Garden occupied by Edward Boardman, the house later known as "Laburnum Cottage".

Where the market now stands there was a Block of Cottages with steps and cellars numbered 403, and lettered A to K.

House, Shippon, Garden etc., occupied by William Piatt, and two cottages - (They were at the opening to Broad Street).

Three Cottages and Gardens, opposite to the "Ship Inn".

Opposite to Marsdens Garage were Four Cottages and Gardens and which I remember had a small garden to the front which had a fence made from flags stood on end and banded together with iron strips.

Next was a Timber Yard and House, Cottage and Wheelwright's Shop occupied by James Tomlinson, whom I am informed on good authority, was an ancestor of one of our local Councillors of the same name. The Timber Yard is still there, the business carried on under the name of John Tomlinson.

The next building is a House, Stable and Glazier's Shop occupied by John Hesketh and James Webster, Six Cottages and Gardens which were opposite to Lancaster Gate, Four Cottages opposite to the Public Hall.

House, Outbuildings, Fold and Garden occupied by Edward Barnes on the site, which was last occupied by the National Coal Board. The next building was a House, Outbuilding and Garden occupied by John Smith which was opposite to Leyland Conservative Club.

House, Cottage and Garden occupied by Richard Rose and Elizabeth Shailham.

House and Grocer's Shop next which is now a Chemist Shop and Leyland South Post Office, then occupied by John Rigby.

Two houses and gardens occupied by Lawrence Rose and Hugh Ainscough.

House, Warehouse, Garden, occupied by Richard Sumner.

Another House and Grocer's Shop, Garden etc., Four Cottages and a Butcher's Shop, which brings me to the corner and the premises last occupied by J. Heaton and Company, near to Leyland Cross.

This brings me to the end of my perusal "Up and down my way through the village".

The roads branching off are "Church Street, now Church Road, and "Shawcross Road", now Wordan Lane,

I think you will recognise many old Leyland names amongst the occupiers of the various premises.

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8.

Leyland and The Feuds of 1315 to 1323 - G.L. Bolton.

Source : "South Lancashire in the Reign of Edward II"
G.H. Tipling. M.A., Ph.D.
Chetham Society 1949.

The early part of the 14th century was marked by the unsettled conditions resulting from the weaknesses of Edward II. In Lancashire, his cousin Thomas, Earl of Lancaster was the supreme magnate, his position and ambitions inevitably involving Lancashire in the troubles of the reign, with family rivalries and disloyalties adding to the disruption and lawlessness.

The feuds taking place in the county were intensified on the overthrow and execution of Lancaster in 1322. The famine years of 1314-16, and the ravages of the Scots in Lancashire were also contributory to the general disorder, the Scots under Bruce penetrating as far south as Chorley in 1322.

Leading participants in the local feuds were: Sir Robert de Holland, Lancaster's chief household official and subsequently his cousin Sir Richard de Holland. Opposing the Hollands were Adam Banaster (of Bretherton) Sir Henry de Lea (Charnock Richard) and Sir William Bradshaw (Haigh and Blackrod).

In 1315 Banasters faction banded together and ravaged the county, travelling north, and eventually met a posse, composed of Lancaster's adherents, at Fulwood. Routed, they were harried southwards. William de Bradshaw fled the country; Adam Banaster and Henry de Lea were betrayed, captured, and summarily executed on Leyland Moor (11th November, 1315).

For the next five or six years Holland's more violent supporters were free to pillage the county at will. After Lancaster's fate in 1322 and Holland's arrest, Bradshaw, recently returned from exile, was in conflict with Holland's supporters. Bradshaw's supporters were attacked, for instance, by the Holland faction at Leyland Church (15th July 1323).

In 1323 Edward instituted a series of judicial enquiries, culminating in the Court held at Wigan. On August 20th the King's Commissioners were at Clitheroe, on the 22nd at Preston. The Wigan trials opened on October 20th, the King himself being present. The court sat until after November 10th, the major inquisition beginning on October 28th.

The events of the disorders leading to the trials were recorded from the depositions of the witnesses and have been minutely described in the source quoted.

The Leyland extracts are given below :-

"Likewise they say that on Tuesday the Feast of St. Martin in the ninth year of the present reign (11th November, 1315) William de Holland and (others) to the number of about 300, came to the house of Henry de Enfurlong at Chernok where Adam Banastre and Henry de Lee, Knights, were lodging, and there by the assent and procuration of the said Henry, they captured the said Adam and Henry and brought them to Leyland More; and by the order of Thomas earl of Lancaster and Robert de Holland and with the force and aid of the others the aforesaid Robert son of Jordan le Prestone beheaded the same Adam Banastre and Henry de Lee feloniously and against the lord king's peace; and they plundered the same Adam and Henry of their goods and chattels to the value of 40s., to wit, two haketons (quilted tunics) gold buckles, swords, daggers and a set of rosary beads ..."

"The jurors present that Richard de Holland and (others) came to Leyland Kirke on Friday next before the feast of St. Mary Magdalene in the seventeenth year of the present King's reign (15th July, 1323) and there made an assault upon William de Bradeshagh with the result that the said Henry de Eccleston there feloniously killed one John de Bikerton, servant of the aforesaid William de Bradeshagh. And the said Richard de Tokstath feloniously plundered and took away the palfrey of a certain Thomas Banastre"

It requires little imagination to conjure up the scene of violence so drily but precisely recorded by those clerks of long ago. We may be tempted to enquire if the exact scene of the crime, so tantalisingly named as being at "Layland More", or as we should now write "Leyland Moor", can be traced.

At first sight it might be thought that the Withnell - Heapey area of the greater Leyland Parish was meant, as thus was formerly referred to as the Moor Quarter. However, there seems no reason why the mob should carry two captives such a distance from Charnock Richard merely to execute them, and the writer sought to find a more reasonable explanation of the term; and was subsequently able to find a far more likely location.

Examination of a 1725 estate map, in manuscript form, of the Farington family's possessions revealed that two fields within the modern parish of Leyland were formerly known as "Leyland Moor" or "Leyland Moors".

The significant part of this discovery, one which leaves no doubt in the writer's mind, is that these two fields are immediately adjacent to the main road between Preston and Wigan, a road on which also lies the village of Charnock Richard. The fields were evidently at one time one of the common lands of the parish of Leyland, and the maps show that the outline of these fields remains unchanged to this day. To describe their location more exactly, they lie on the western side of the A49 highway, and are enclosed within the boundaries formed by Heald House Road, the Preston-Wigan main road, Back Lane, and the Preston-Wigan railway line.

Like so many other fields, the scene of our story has lain virtually unchanged throughout the centuries. However, it lay precisely in the path of progress and the M6 Motorway has been driven through the western part of the two fields concerned.

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9. Is there evidence that the Romans were in Leyland.- W.H. Hall.

In his book on "Romans Lancashire" it would appear to be so. The author of the book a W. Thompson Watkin of 1883 includes among others the following :-

Item One - Page 236.

On the 8th May, 1819, a man cutting turf on Longton Moss, Near Leyland found an oaken box, containing 17 Roman brass coins and 11 silver coins.

Those which were legible were of the reigns of Nerva, Trajan, Hadrian, Antoninus Pius and the Faustinas. Five of them eventually came into the hands of Miss ffarington, by whom they are now (1882) preserved at Worden Hall. Three of these are more or less legible.

- First - Denarius of Trajan.
- Second - Denarius of Faustina the Elder.
- Third - A first brass of Faustina Junr.

Item Two.

In 1850 a hoard of 126 coins was found about 18 inches below the surface of the ground at Worden, Near Leyland.

It contained :-

- 8 Coins of Gallienus
- 1 Coin of Postumus
- 29 Coins of Victorinus
- 1 Coin of Marius
- 54 Coins of the Tetrici
- 12 Coins of Claudius Gothicus
- 1 Coin of Quintillus
- 1 Coin of Aurelian
- 5 Coins of Probus

and 14 entirely illegible.

Sixteen of these coins were given to the Preston Society for the Diffasion of Knowledge, Ten to the Rev. G. Baldwin (Vicar of Leyland) and 100 were preserved by Miss ffarington.

Then follows on page 237 a descriptive list of the coins of the Romans.

Item Three Page 229.

There is preserved at Worden Hall by Miss ffarington a ring of Much-Alloyed Gold - found at or near Leyland many years since - as Miss ffaringtons father inherited it - so the exact date is not known.

It resembles in form Roman Rings, but from inspection, I (the author) am doubtful if it is of Roman Origin.

The letters SPQR are chased upon it in very low relief. From its lightness it must be hollow. This ring was exhibited at the Gloucester meeting of the Royal Archaeological Institute in 1860.

It would be of general interest to know where these coins and the ring may be located today.

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History of Leyland Lane Church - Wm. Rigby (Senr.)

The nineteenth century was prolific of great movements - Social, Political, Religious - and not the least remarkable was the rise and progress of the Primitive Methodist Church.

It had its origin in North Staffordshire. Its founders were men of limited education and means, being common men, they knew the circumstances of the common people, and consequently they were better able to minister to them.

In 1810 the first Society was formed and they took the name of Camp Meeting Methodists, and not until 13th February 1812 did they take the name of Primitive Methodists.

There is no record to be found of the formation of a society at Leyland until September, 1853, although meetings were held in the village in September, 1852. Indeed there are some old plans existing which reveal the fact that services were held at Leyland Moss in 1826 in the kitchen of an outbuilding belonging to Mr. T. Hesketh, Great grandfather of Mr. Ronald Baker the Chemist.

As our source of material for those early days we have little but legal documents, Trust Statements, and the occasional plan. The first news we have of a Society at Leyland Lane, comes from an old plan, on which we find that preaching services were held on the west side of Leyland Lane.

They were held in a Chapel which was called The Wesleyan Protestant Methodist Chapel. This building was opened on Sunday 24th May, 1829, when three sermons were preached to crowded congregations.

We have but a few opportunities of looking in on the Society at this time but we have an account of the success of the opening day. "The Chapel could not contain the numbers in the afternoon, and the barn which is now called Tithebarn cottages was occupied by those who could not get in the Chapel. The collections amounted to £12..9..7-1/2d.

On a plan of 1847 we find that preaching Services were still held there at this date. But the Society may have been in financial difficulties at this time for the building, not being Consecrated property was shortly afterwards turned into two cottages.

We rather lose track of the Society from 1847 to 1852 but it still remained in being and for a time held meetings in a cottage in Towngate, opposite the Public Hall.

In 1853 however, we read in the Circuit minute book of a resolution being passed that the "Public Hall in Union Street should be engaged for Public Worship".

This arrangement did not last long for on 25th December of that year it was resolved that the Public Hall should be given up, and a room was taken at the bottom of Union Street which served the Society for 15 years.

During this period little progress was made but a few faithful men and women held on with the hope they would be able to build a Chapel.

They had but limited resources for most were handloom weavers or farm hands whose earnings seldom exceeded 1/9d a day. It was in the early sixties when Mr. T. Hough became a member of the Society, that hope of a building a new Chapel came nearer to becoming a reality.

Through his initiative, Society funds were strengthened and in the late sixties the building of a Chapel was put in hand. On 6th October, 1869 Leyland Lane Primitive Methodist Chapel was opened on the site which it now stands. Considering the few friends in those early days and their poverty this must represent a vast amount of work and self denial. It is strong evidence of their love for the cause.

In due time the Rev. Hugh Gilmore came to Leyland Lane. It was not long before his utterances were found to be quite out of common. He was one of the greatest preachers and sanest politicians of his time. People who had never before entered a chapel, flocked to hear him. Believing that the gospel is for the masses, he introduced every day topics, and the shams of modern life were dealt with in sledge hammer fashion.

During his stay 'rangers' were no longer despised but looked on with respect. So great was his success that the 1869 building was not large enough to hold its numbers. So on Good Friday 1889 a tea meeting was held and a new committee was formed for the building of another Chapel. They worked hard and the following year had raised £262..0..0d.

A new Trust was formed, and on 10th September, 1892 the memorial stones of the present building were laid. Lieut - General Fielding M.P. laid the first stone and Leyland Band led the singing.

At the turn of the century the Social side of the Church life was well catered for.

In 1904 a football team was formed, known as Leyland Red Rose, which had much success.

The Social highlight of these years was the "Chapel Drive" when seven waggonettes took the Sunday School Scholars for a twenty mile ride round the countryside.

The main weekly activities were temperance meetings, magic lantern shows, and preparations for concerts etc.

In 1926 a Male Voice Choir was formed under Mr. Albert Jackson who was Choirmaster for 35 years (his father had been builder of the Chapel). The Choir gave many concerts in the district and raised funds for charities and the building of a new Sunday School.

The year 1932 was an historic year for Methodists being the year of Methodist Union. To commemorate this great event a carefully prepared service was held in all Chapels at the same time.

This was another red-letter day in the life of the Church as well as Methodism generally. In 1935 the present Sunday School building was completed and opened on 30th March by the Rt. Hon. D.H. Hacking M.P.

This Chapel has just celebrated its hundreth birthday. Times have changed and many things in the Chapel have changed to meet the needs of the times.

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11.

Conservation Year.

To all who are interested in the preservation of that which is worthy of preservation (as we are ourselves I presume) in our great heritage, conservation means that we should keep an eye on all the so called developers who could not care less if they happen to destroy or blot out a landscape, or tree, a house, a farm, a lake or raise a skyscraper block, (the ones John Betjeman calls 'rent collectors slabs') or drive a road through a park and generally interfere with the ecology i.e. the balance of living things in relation to their surroundings by churning out chemicals into the air and poisonous effluent and sewage into our rivers.

Otherwise there will be precious little to take pleasure in seeing or in living in a third rate environment.

Because a large section of our population is unaware or unmindful of these things it is left to the thinking minority to help preserve our heritage in an improving environment.

If a building or site is worth preserving there are admirable private organisations such as the Council for the preservation of Rural England., The Georgian Group., The Victorian Society., The Pilgrim Trust., The Civic Trust., as well as Mininstial Assistance who could assist financially.

Of course the building or site must be of outstanding interest to warrant help and no preservationist wants to shore up a decaying slum because it is old.

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