



## LANCASHIRE LOCAL HISTORY FEDERATION

### NEWSLETTER ISSUE NO. 32, AUGUST 2020

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### **View from the Chair**

In these extraordinary times, my hope is that all your members, your families and friends are well and coping with 'the new normal'. We can't predict the long-term effect on local history societies, and we would be very interested to learn how groups are planning to adapt (the item from Whitworth Historical Society details their approach). Have you made more use of social media, for example?

It is probable that there will be an increased impetus to conduct more procedures and to make more information available online. We are fortunate that much research can be carried out remotely: the May newsletter included a comprehensive list of such sources from Zoë Lawson. However, when archives and local studies collections re-open we would encourage you to support them by visiting and accessing their unique resources.

The May newsletter included some research articles which are now on the website. We intend to produce guidelines for future submissions; meanwhile, if you have researched aspects of your local history and would like to share them more widely, do contact me. **Best wishes Marianne**

## THE FEDERATION PUBLISHES A LOCAL HISTORY BOOK

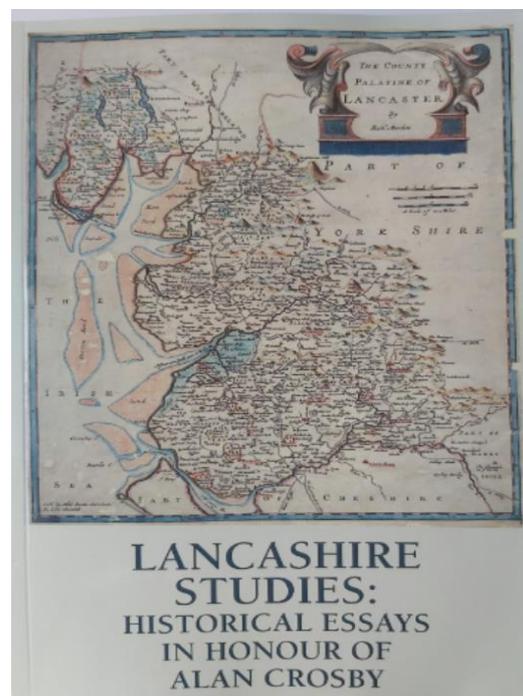
The Federation committee is delighted to announce the publication of a new and original local history book. It has been produced in honour of Dr Alan Crosby, the well-known and highly-regarded local historian. When it was first discussed a small editorial team was formed. The nine people we approached had known and admired Alan for many years and were themselves accomplished writers on different aspects of Lancashire history. They were delighted to accept the invitation.

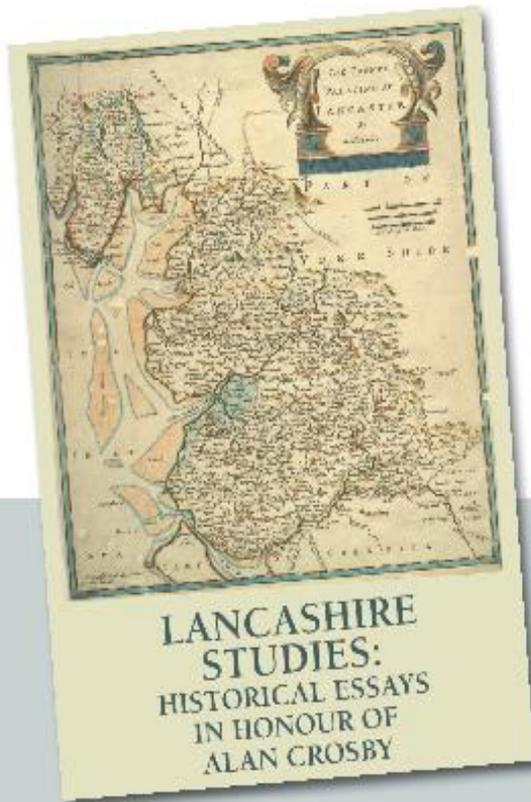
There were just two stipulations for the essayists: That the original contributions should explore any aspect of our history and, as far as we could predict, that they would be appreciated by Alan. On the first point, the collection shows a breadth of interesting subjects over several centuries. Much new research uncovered previously unknown aspects of different topics. On the latter: we await the recipient's verdict – but not with trepidation!

It was a matter of great regret that, because of Covid-19 we had to abandon the planned event in which we would have presented the book to Alan. But on 7 August a few of us met in the open air to surprise him with the volume dedicated to him.

It was especially pleasing that this came as a surprise to him, after over two years of planning and editing. When he had recovered from an uncharacteristic attack of speechlessness, Alan managed to find some words to express his feelings: "I am honoured to be the recipient of this volume, especially as the contributors are good friends I have known and respected for many years."

There are more details on the flyer (overleaf), which serves as an order form. We are sure that there will be much to interest anyone who wishes to learn more about the county's history, and we encourage societies to make this book widely known.





## LANCASHIRE STUDIES: HISTORICAL ESSAYS IN HONOUR OF ALAN CROSBY

Lancashire Local History Federation is delighted to publish a book of original essays written in honour of Dr Alan Crosby. He has made an invaluable contribution to furthering the understanding and enjoyment of local history in Lancashire.

The contributions span many centuries and nine varied aspects of county history.

### Contents:

1. Red lines, over-sands crossings and King Arthur: a re-appraisal of the depiction of the north west on the Gough Map *William D. Shannon*
2. The Catholic Cliftons and the Church of England at Lund and Lytham *Peter Shakeshaft*
3. Pilkington and its fieldnames *Diana Winterbotham*
4. Cheesemaking in the Goosnargh area in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries *Zoë Lawson*
5. A Peculiar People transformed: the changing face of Quakerism in Victorian Lancashire *Angus J. L. Winchester*
6. Working at home during the nineteenth century: a case study of Winckley Square, Preston *Geoff Timmins*
7. Success to the ladies of Worden: the trials and tribulations of a Lancashire estate *David Hunt*
8. The Seward stained-glass studio of Lancaster *Margaret Edwards*
9. Local history and the Lancaster Historical Pageant of 1913 *Mike Winstanley*

Includes a foreword by Paul Booth; an extensive list of works by Alan Crosby; and a comprehensive index.

Fully illustrated. ISBN 978-1-5272-6533-2.

I wish to order \_\_\_\_ copy(ies) @ £15 each + £4p&p

I enclose a cheque for £ \_\_\_\_ made payable to Lancashire Local History Federation.

Send to: John Wilson, Green Hall, Tatham, Lancaster, LA2 8RB Telephone: 03330 062270 email: j.r.wilson@cantab.net

Or BACS payment: Sort Code: 01-05-31 Account number 32603983.

Ensure you quote 'Crosby book' and your surname as reference.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## **DR DAVID HUNT**



### **David retired as the curator at South Ribble Museum and Exhibition Centre at the end of May**

#### **The following is an appreciation by Diana Winterbotham**

I first remember David Hunt as a schoolboy of about 15 years of age, when he came to the library to see if we had anything on Richard Arkwright. I well recall seeing him beavering away at a desk in the local studies library at Corporation Street in Preston. I was impressed with his efforts, and thought the result was worth reproducing as a small pamphlet, which it subsequently was, although I can't remember who published it.

He hasn't looked back. I lost track of him for a few years in which he abandoned Leyland for Dundee, there obtaining a PhD in archaeology. He remained for a time there, and worked to complete a two-volume report on early farming communities in Scotland which was eventually published in 1987. By this date, happily, he was back in Leyland, in 1982 becoming curator of the recently established Leyland Museum and Exhibition Centre.

At Leyland he has been a treasure. He has organised a full programme of regularly changing exhibitions on a variety of local history topics, as well as arranging art exhibitions and lectures. He has for many years run a summer series of lectures with excellent visiting speakers as part of the Leyland Festival activities. David himself is a popular lecturer, as the many local societies who have invited him to address them will confirm. His interests are wide; talks he has given include Neolithic culture, industrial history, the early history of Preston, medieval Walton le Dale, Penwortham castle, and Preston North End football club, among many other topics.

David was also for a period Visiting Fellow in Local and Regional History at the University of Central Lancashire. With Professor J. G. Timmins, he co-edited "The textile industry, 1750-1850", published in 2000 as part of a series of guides to Lancashire records. Amongst several other publications, he has written histories of Preston and Leyland, and of Preston North End.

David does not sound like a candidate for retirement, but I wish him every pleasure in his new-found opportunity for leisure, and trust he will continue to inform and interest audiences and readers in the future as much and as often as in the past.

## NEWS FROM ARCHIVES

### LANCASHIRE ARCHIVES

At the time of publication there is no date for re-opening the Archives, although the staff have worked hard to ensure that as soon as word is given, readers will find the usual helpful and welcoming staff, in a Covid-secure setting. The copying service has continued, and produced over 300 documents in a month. In addition, enquiries are running at nearly the same rate as last year. People intending to visit when the Archives re-opens will need to have the new archives card – details can be found at [www.archivescard.com](http://www.archivescard.com). Visits will be by appointment only, and documents need to be ordered in advance – search LANCAT at <https://archivecat.lancashire.gov.uk/calmview/>.

**Like many archives, museums and local history societies, Lancashire Archives wish to collect memories of Covid-19 for future generations.**

We are living through another important chapter in Lancashire's story and we would like to know how the pandemic has changed things for you and how you feel about it. Can you write down for us what life is like for you because of the pandemic, or make a sound or short video recording? If you want to write, this could be an extended day-by-day diary, something about a single day or event, or just about how things are generally. If you want to put it in a poem, that would be great. There is no need to worry about spelling or grammar – your story is what's important. We want to hear from people of all ages, so please encourage children and grandchildren to have a go too.

You might also have taken photographs that show what life has been like at home, at work or your neighbourhood; it would be great to have copies of these too. Please ensure that anyone who may appear in the image is either happy to be photographed or is unidentifiable. We would also like your help in collecting other material that you might come across such as:

- leaflets, flyers or posters about the pandemic from district, parish or town councils
- material from local business relating to closures or changes to how they operate
- advice from local organisations about hygiene, social distancing and self-isolation
- information about community efforts to help vulnerable and isolated persons
- information from local schools regarding closures and home schooling

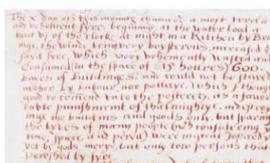
Please send any contributions or questions to: [archives@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:archives@lancashire.gov.uk) or, for hard copy, to: Lancashire Archives, Bow Lane, Preston, PR1 2RE. Please include your name, age and the place where you live (not your full address). Please contact us if you have digital files which are too large to email. What we receive will be kept safe for the future and made available for other people to look at or listen to. Your name and age will be included unless you ask for it to be left out. Let us know if you want to restrict public access to your contribution for a while. If you decide to take part, please do not risk your own or anyone else's health whilst gathering this material. All government guidelines regarding hygiene, social distancing and self-isolation should be followed. Thank you in anticipation!

## CHESHIRE ARCHIVES AND LOCAL STUDIES

The Archives post on Instagram and Twitter with the hashtag [#WalkThroughHistory](#). Images are drawn from the Cheshire Image Bank, accompanied by historic facts. In some cases, they are paired with a present-day photo. The example below shows the village pond on Little Heath Road, Christleton, with photos a century apart.



1 Introduction to Horrible Handwriting



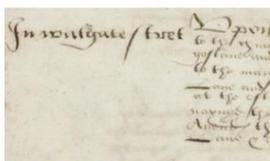
2 Document 1



3 Document 2



4 Document 3



5 Document 4



6 Document 5

The Archives have provided an online introductory course in how to read historic documents.

They have several other interesting online resources, including 'Spot the difference' between two images of an item, and jigsaws formed from items in their collections!

As with many other organisations, they are inviting people to submit items and images representing life in lockdown [www.cheshirearchives.org.uk](http://www.cheshirearchives.org.uk).

## NEWS FROM SOCIETIES

### TAMESIDE LOCAL HISTORY FORUM CELEBRATES TWENTY YEARS

The Forum was founded in 2000 by enthusiastic local historians who wanted to create an umbrella organisation to give a voice to the various heritage societies in the borough and to forge a link with the local authority. The five founding members were Alan Rose, Christine Clough, Jill Cronin, Jean Marlor and Harry Lever. Sadly, Alan, Jean and Harry have died but Christine and Jill are still active members (though Jill is retiring as Denton Local History Society representative this year). The Forum has proved a great success: twenty local societies have affiliated and, over the years, strong links have been made with Tameside Local Studies and Archives

Service, the Museums Service, the Events team and the Planning department, though the advent of austerity has had an adverse effect on some of these. The Forum has also worked closely with the Greater Manchester Archaeological Unit and its successor organisations.

Initially the Forum made an impact through its newsletter, ably edited by Alan Rose, Jill Cronin and Gay Oliver. At first this was a directory of member societies giving information about their events, but it evolved into a glossy magazine which included research by Forum members. Some of the later editions can be consulted on the website - <http://www.tamesidehistoryforum.org.uk/hat.htm> and the whole set is available at the Tameside Local Studies and Archives Centre.



Over the years the Forum has been involved in numerous campaigns - including the rescue of the Foley sculpture. This is a marble sculpture, reputed to have cost £2000, dedicated to the memory of John Whittaker (1776-1840), the founder of Higher Hurst, which was in the Queens Road MNC Chapel in 1861. The sculptor, J. H. Foley, later created the Albert Memorial in London. Following the closure of Queens Road Chapel in 1967-8 the sculpture was taken to Hurst Community Centre which was subsequently destroyed by fire in 2000. It was recovered from the ashes in 20 pieces, was sent to Liverpool to undergo restoration and is now held in Portland Basin Museum <https://www.tameside.gov.uk/portlandbasin>.

Another successful event occurred in 2011 when the Forum acquired the 200-year-old Ashton Court Leet chair which was being sold at auction. It is now on display at Ashton parish church. [*The May 2020 LLHF newsletter featured the chair.*]

Other activities include involvement in research for and selection of Tameside blue and brown plaques. We have also been involved in a long line of publications including 2019's *Tameside Remembers Peterloo*, a comprehensive account of local links with the massacre which makes available some little-known contemporary material including John Stafford's poem commemorating the event.



The Forum has also promoted local history in our area through exhibitions, fairs, events in shopping centres, archaeological work and campaigns to protect our local heritage. We also arrange trips out, including one (pictured) to Eyam.

It is hoped that an event to mark the Form's twentieth anniversary can be held later this year. Details will appear on the Forum website.

## WHITWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### Brian Furness outlines the way that members are being kept in touch during Covid-19

At Whitworth Heritage Museum we have been producing a simple monthly newsletter in order to keep in touch, albeit in a small way, with our membership. The intention is to maintain this method of communication at least until the end of the year and possibly beyond. Around 75% of our total membership (now standing at 110) can be reached by email, the remainder being circulated in hard copy form, either by hand delivery or by post. Whilst this second method comes at a cost, we nevertheless consider it a worthwhile use of our funds. To date these small articles have been limited to topics local to Whitworth but there is no reason why we should not take a broader, Lancashire-wide, view of history and link in with other LLHF societies.

I would be interested to know what, if anything, our fellow members of LLHF are doing to maintain contact with their membership. There may be something positive we can all learn during this unfortunate time. [www.whitworthhistoricalsociety.org.uk](http://www.whitworthhistoricalsociety.org.uk).

## PROJECTS INVITING PARTICIPATION

### LOCAL WRITERS' GROUP LAUNCHES PROJECT

**Skelmersdale Writers' Group**, a community group dedicated to the promotion of writing in Skelmersdale, is creating and publishing an anthology themed on historic Lathom House and New Park, for the benefit of the local community of Skelmersdale and surrounding areas. The project has been made possible by an award from the Co-op Bank Customer Donation Fund.

Secretary Carol Fenlon said, "Many people still do not know very much about the history of Lathom House or of the powerful families that lived there. There are some



fascinating stories to be told, dating from before Tudor times, through the Victorian period and the first world war and even after the demolition of the house, right up to the present day with the work of Lathom Park Trust and the role of the chapel in the community."

*Red Rose Collections from Lancashire County Council*

Submissions for the anthology are welcomed and can be fiction, poetry, memoir or creative non-fiction. Anyone interested in writing for the anthology can contact Carol at [writeme@carolfenlon.com](mailto:writeme@carolfenlon.com), phone 01695 728320, or check the group's Facebook and Twitter pages.

## WOMEN IN STREET NAMES

Women in Street Names <https://tinyurl.com/y8wroxu7> is a project to highlight streets named after women, for the British Federation of Women Graduates, and Harper Adams University. It was launched at the Women's Library at the LSE in July 2019. Carrie de Silva from Harper Adams explains that the aim of the project is "to highlight streets named after women, (and to highlight how few there are!), and to remember such women as are commemorated. Outputs will be a booklet of mini biographies of women named, and a paper to consider political and social culturalization, conscious and unconscious, through the names we see in our streets".

Information is requested from across the UK, and from villages, towns and cities. More obscure royalty will be of interest (the collection won't be including Queen Victoria or Queen Elizabeth II). Obscure or less well-known saints are also welcome. Of particular interest will be little-known local women who nevertheless made a large contribution to their area. Carrie will welcome the name on its own, even if the sender knows nothing else about the named woman.

Please forward the street name with district, town, city, village, etc. with the woman's main achievement or area of operation (if you know it) to: Carrie de Silva: [cdesilva@harper-adams.ac.uk](mailto:cdesilva@harper-adams.ac.uk). (07583 144622.)

*[Ed: I don't know whether this would qualify – Ralph's wife isn't even named – but this street sign in Banks near Southport intrigues me!]*



## A CALL FOR SURVEY PARTICIPANTS

Amber Caraher, Masters student at the Department of History at Lancaster University, is carrying out a survey as part of her dissertation.

She is researching the impact that the oral contraceptive pill had on married women in north west England, and would like responses from at least 40 volunteers.

They should be willing to participate in a short online survey, crucial to Amber's research. Participants will need to be women who were using the contraceptive pill at any point in the years from 1961 to 1978, were married at the time, and were living in the north west. Please click on the link to access the survey:

[https://lancasteruni.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_3kOk26ZzO3E45s9](https://lancasteruni.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3kOk26ZzO3E45s9)

If you have any queries about this, email Amber [a.caraher@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:a.caraher@lancaster.ac.uk).

## BOB DOBSON PROPOSES A WORTHWHILE SUBJECT FOR RESEARCH

I am of the opinion that local history societies which flourish best are those which involve members in activities in addition to attending monthly meetings. I suggested in a recent newsletter that a good activity for a group of members might be to start a list of a town's street names and to record the reason for the chosen name.

Here's another suggestion: that a list of all the pubs, clubs, alehouses, hotels, taverns and inns that have ever existed in your town be compiled, along with their addresses. Any information about these premises, however trivial, should be recorded and could be placed on the society's website. Ideally this would be a group activity held in a relevant library, co-ordinated by a member who would record all the sources used and be involved in uploading the information onto the website.

The group would need to search the library's available resources, including trade directories and newspapers, recording information on each establishment, such as the owner (often a brewery) and the licensee, along with any other information gleaned. Of particular importance are the annual brewster sessions, at which the local police chief briefed the magistrates. It was at these sessions that pubs and publicans were granted licences or had them removed. They used to be held in August, but were later changed to February.

I hope you are getting a taste for the work I am suggesting, because pubs have played an important part in the history of Lancashire towns. For instance, in one Accrington pub the world-famous Accrington Stanley FC was conceived, and in another so was the Lancashire Cricket League. In an Ashton-under-Lyne pub the BBC's Gardeners' Question Time was first heard, with yet another hosting the creation of an Oddfellows society. In earlier times, some pubs had their own friendly societies and building societies. When the suggested website becomes known about, it will be referred to by those who regularly raise matters affecting licensed premises on social media groups and contribute articles on local pubs to books and magazines. At the end of this century, there will be local historians glad of the work which today's historians have chronicled about their town's licensed premises and registered clubs.



'Preston's Inns, Taverns and Beerhouses' is a superb example of how such a website could look. You can see the result of the research Stephen Halliwell has made into his chosen subject at <http://pubsinpreston.blogspot.co.uk>.

INTRODUCTION	HELP & ASSISTANCE	TALKS TO CLUBS, GROUPS, & SOCIETIES	LATEST NEWS and ADDITIONS	INDEX A - D	
INDEX E - L	INDEX M - P	INDEX Q - Z	KIND COMMENTS	PRESTON GUILD & OTHER PROCESSIONS	CARRIERS FROM PRESTON
PRESTON LINKS	HOME	"PRESTON MAGAZINE"	CONTACT ME	New book! New book!! "PRESTON PUBS"	FACEBOOK

Stephen's research is still ongoing after several years. He recently told me, *"The only time I stop finding things is when I stop looking. Also, don't forget that there is a difference between luck and look"*. For example, when trying to research 'The Hoop and Crown' he failed to find information. Undaunted, he opted not to search using the word 'Crown' as there would probably be thousands of results, and chose instead to look for 'Hoop'. This resulted in him finding the 'Hoop and **G**rown' - clearly a misspelling – which led to uncovering new information on the pub back to the late 1700s. Do let the Federation know if you take up my suggestion, or if you have any other research projects being tackled by your members.

## NEWS ROUND-UP

### MONUMENT HONOURING WIGAN'S MINING HISTORY UNVEILED

A group of local people have achieved their aim of providing a monument to honour the men, women and children who laboured to mine coal in Wigan. Eight members of Wigan Local History and Heritage Group (including your editor) came together to become trustees of WHAMM - a charity with the aim of raising money for the purpose. Many events were held, which helped to engage the interest of local people, a great many of whom had mining ancestors. After three years of endeavour, the statues were finally unveiled in March, but with no ceremony.



The monument stands next to Wigan town hall, which was built as one of the very earliest mining colleges in the country. Over 1000 pits employed countless thousands of people. It is estimated that nearly 10% of coal in the country came from these mines. Wigan led the way in many innovations in mining, which gradually helped to make conditions safer nationally and internationally.

Both boys and girls were employed, until reports about the dreadful conditions resulted in legislation gradually prohibiting their employment. The pit brow lasses of Wigan became very well known and, after they were prevented by law from working at the coal face, they continued their jobs above ground until after the end of the second World War.



## COMMUNITY ARCHIVES AND HERITAGE GROUP



Membership of CAHG is open to any group interested in local history and heritage and is free. Links from the website give access to resources and guidance, for example how to set up and maintain an archive, or how to find funding. CAHG organises an annual conference with a high-profile guest speaker, at which awards are presented. The principal function of the awards, in four categories, is to recognise the work done by local groups and to share innovative ideas. The closing date for 2020 awards has passed, but there is plenty of time for your society to consider whether your project or initiative could be put forward for next year's awards. The website [www.communityarchives.org](http://www.communityarchives.org) has much more information, including how to sign up for the free newsletter.

## MANCHESTER HISTORIES



Because the **Manchester Histories Festival** cannot take place this year, the organisers invited interested groups to be part of a new online histories and heritage market place which profiles and promotes the range of work which happens across Greater Manchester and the north west. This is a chance to celebrate all the hard work of organisations which are often run by volunteers, and which play an important role in telling local stories and helping to connect people through history and cultural activities.

There will be a comprehensive online profile for each group or organisation, which will become a resource which can be shared with the public. Each profile will show the aims of the group and how people can engage with it. The intention is for the resource to continue both as current and historical documentation of the organisations and as a guide for future celebration days.

The website [www.manchesterhistories.co.uk](http://www.manchesterhistories.co.uk) gives access to online **Toolkits** which can help groups with projects. The headings are: Historical research project; Oral history project; Evaluating your project, and; Creating your own archive.

## RESEARCH ARTICLES

### NORTHERN PLAGUE STONES

Although plagues are believed to date back as far as Neolithic times there is little hard evidence before the Plague of Justinian, which lasted two centuries from 542 AD, and is said to have caused around 100 million deaths and the annihilation of half of Europe's population.

The most devastating of all human plagues was the Black Death (1347-1351) which raged throughout Asia, Africa and Europe after possibly starting in China in 1334. The Black Death is recorded variously as having killed between 75 and 200 million victims. That was followed by several encores: it lurked for centuries and assumed the title of the Great Plague of London in 1665-1666.

These bubonic plagues were transmitted through the bacterium *Yersinia pestis* which was spread to humans through fleas hosted by rats. Indeed, it hasn't disappeared entirely, although antibiotics and other treatments keep it much more in check now, as was the case recently in China.

In the five months starting in September 1349 Preston, then a small market town, is believed to have lost 3,000 souls. Altogether in Amounderness 13,000 people died from the Black Death. It is said that Cumberland, Westmorland, Yorkshire and Lancashire were the hardest hit during that year, when the plague on board a ship in the Humber spread quickly to York and beyond. At that time Lancashire North of the Sands included the settlements of Barrow, Cartmel, Hawkshead and Coniston where the plague produced great suffering.

Who could have imagined that 2020 would see an international pandemic on the scale of Covid-19? Although it is not a plague it has been dealt with in a similar fashion to ancient plagues, such as social distancing for purchasing necessities (with the bonus that we are able to buy goods online). Plague victims also kept well apart, by using stones to which nourishment was delivered by farmers and others. In a former life these stones had performed a variety of functions, and isolated boundary stones were often commandeered, in the top of which holes or recesses were made to accommodate sterilising vinegar for the victims' pennies.



Cross o'Greet boundary stone  
(Richard Wilson)

Indeed, the Cross o' Greet, a former boundary between Yorkshire and Lancashire near Tatham, is thought to have had the dual role of displaying food and being a venue for trading livestock. After the Dissolution of the Monasteries (1536) crosses had been destroyed, leaving the perfect base stone for food with its empty cavity a suitable receptacle for the vinegar. Another suggestion includes medieval creeling troughs, which were used by manor houses and the like after the fashion of a mortar and pestle for separating the husks from cereal crops.

In 1597-1598 a bubonic plague raged in Cumberland and Westmorland, following a dreadful famine, which was often the case with plagues. It was taken into Penrith by

a visitor who had contracted it in the Durham area. Penrith has its two plague stones yet. The disease spread to Carlisle, Appleby, Kendal and many small villages such as Edenhall and Greystoke through which trade routes passed. The two villages were badly affected and the Spillers Stone in Greystoke is believed to have been used during the plague. Of more certainty is the medieval cross base, with 19<sup>th</sup> century cross, on the lane near Edenhall church.

Another bubonic plague returned to Preston in 1630 and attacked with a vengeance over the next year, until it finished suddenly, having taken approximately 1000 people. It was said to have been infinitely worse than the Great Plague of London.

The capital's doctors, many of whom were quacks, were paid by the city council to treat everyone without exception and their garb was similar to the full PPE. There is an engraving of a doctor wearing a long coat, leather gloves and a nightmarish beaked mask, the inside of which was stuffed with a posy of sweet-smelling flowers and herbs to negate the foul odours emitted by the sick, and to prevent them contracting the sickness. Was the ancient nursery rhyme *Ring a Roses* really inspired by the Great Plague or is that a myth?

County Archive offices are currently closed, but it is doubtful if even collectively they have many records of plague stones. At the risk of losing credence, Facebook seemed the perfect means of research. Yorkshire groups have supplied details and photographs of around 20 stones in their county, including two at York and a personal favourite at Alne near Easingwold. Cumbria's group accounted for another dozen beyond those already mentioned. While plagues were spread throughout Lancashire evidence of plague stones has been scant so far, although members of the Lancaster Past and Present group were very helpful in providing photographs and information.

Some folk already know about the Leper/Vinegar stone in Brookhouse near Caton but like many stones, (including a dated and inscribed 17<sup>th</sup> century model at Devil's Bridge, Kirkby Lonsdale) it is easily missed, being incorporated in the wall that surrounds the Black Bull pub, on the corner of the Littledale Road. In Halton, Lancaster there's a Penny Stone, moved from its original site and now resting in a private garden on a modern



Leper plague stone, Black Bull Brookhouse, Caton (Ian Ellsworth)



Plague stone Penny Stone Lane, Halton (Ian Ellsworth)

housing estate, on the corner of the aptly named Penny Stone Lane as it joins High Road. However, no-one knows what happened to another plague stone in this area, which is listed by British History Online and was sited in Grimeshawe Lane, an old medieval way with Roman link roads.

A final thought: I have been to the cave of St John on Patmos where it is said God dictated the Book of Revelation through a crack in the ceiling. Of all the various theories about the reason for Covid-19 I do hope the prophesy about the four Horsemen of the Apocalypse doesn't materialise, even though we've had war, famine, pestilence and death worldwide during this year!

**Maggie B Dickinson**

## THE ROMAN ROAD FROM MANCHESTER TO MELANDRA CASTLE

Neil Buckley & David Ratledge [www.twithr.co.uk](http://www.twithr.co.uk)

### Introduction

At last progress has been made in locating this long-suspected but lost Roman road. Previous suggestions included one by Dr Michael Nevell (reference: *Tameside before 1066*, 1996) who proposed a route running just north of Ashton Old Road in alignment with Old Lane in Openshaw before turning south-east for Broomstair Bridge, Hyde. On the other hand, and only since the 1950s, OS maps have shown the 1818 turnpike Hyde New Road (A57) to be a Roman road, also on an alignment with Broomstair Bridge. The reality has turned out to be totally different and both these options can now be safely discounted. What fooled just about everyone was that the road was not aligned with Melandra fort at all but on a route into the Longdendale Valley.

### The Route Described



Figure 1: LiDAR Image and Opendata map. This was the breakthrough length of agger spotted on LiDAR imagery at Matley. Matley Lane itself is rarely on the Roman line.

What changed everything was the spotting of the unmistakable signs of a Roman agger [a raised foundation of a Roman road] north of Matley Lane (SJ96900 967734) on LiDAR imagery by Neil Buckley, one of the authors,). We both then realised that projecting this agger alignment westward would see it pass over Hooley Hill (SJ92272 97112), then an old road that breaches the Anglo Saxon Nico Ditch in Audenshaw (SJ91412 97206) and finally along Ashton Old Road (from SJ89861 97344). The latter is then a long straight road into Manchester where it would have probably joined the road from Castleshaw for the final length to the fort.

Heading eastward from the Matley agger, further traces are visible in the LiDAR imagery, which align with an old cutting across the hill side of Harrop Edge (SJ98302 96612). This strongly indicates the road was directed at the Longdendale Valley rather than the Melandra fort.

We therefore have a very direct route from Manchester to the Longdendale valley, which passes Melandra fort one mile to its north. A road agger was recently discovered in the Longdendale valley and by Bottoms Reservoir, Tintwistle (SK02844 96718). LiDAR shows what appears to be a junction between the main road and almost certainly a link road to the fort. There would surely have been another link road for traffic to Manchester and the most likely course for this road follows Coach Road between Mottram Old Hall and Nettle Hall. There is some LiDAR evidence supporting this course south of the A57 (SK00511 95577).

### Site Visits

The first essential visit was to the agger north of Matley Lane, which crosses a field next to the Rising Moon restaurant. Despite being unmistakable in the LiDAR imagery, seeing the agger when standing on top of it proved very difficult. It was actually seen much better from offline. We probed the agger but indications were that if the road had survived then it must be buried at least 50cm down. In the next field to the east there was a swell in the ground where a fence line passed over the agger. Again, the agger was better seen offline.



*Figure 2: The Matley agger viewed along the road with Neil standing approximately on the line of the south ditch (left). The owner of the white house in the background would appear to have unknowingly marked the line of the road with a tall mast. The agger was more obvious when viewed from the side (right).*

We next went onto Dukinfield Golf Course where LiDAR suggested something might have survived. What we found was a complete surprise. On the road line there was an incline down to a stream crossing and in the other direction the rise of the agger plus its north ditch had survived for a short length (SJ96709 96747). At the bottom of the incline, in the stream bed, were a collection of masonry blocks. Clearly the remains of an old bridge but how old was impossible to assess - but just possibly Roman? The continuation east of the stream had been blocked by a modern retaining wall for housing.

*Figure 3: Amazing survivors on Dukinfield Golf Course. The north road ditch and swell of the agger (left) and an incline down to a stream crossing (right).*

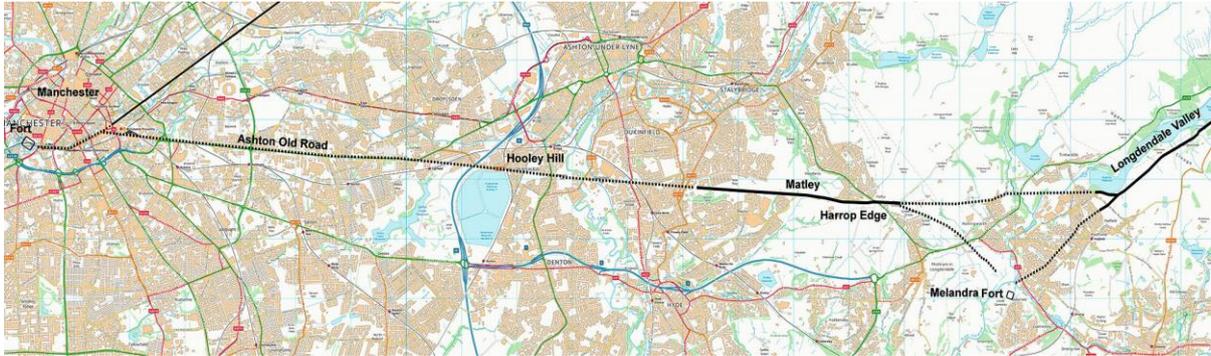


Harrop Edge was the next port of call to inspect the old cutting - the modern road (Matley Lane) is in a modern deeper cutting alongside. Despite typical Manchester weather, the alignment of the old cutting with the Matley agger, Hooley Hill, and the Manchester skyscrapers could be made out. Looking the other way, it was evident why the road surveyors had chosen this spot. It is by far the best route through a long ridge of high ground. It was all fitting together nicely.

*Figure 4: View back to Manchester from the old cutting on the side of Harrop Edge. This cutting is the best route through a ridge of high ground here. City centre skyscrapers can just about be made out.*



Inspection of these 3 sites was sufficient to convince us that what LiDAR was showing was indeed the lost Roman road.



*Figure 5: The full route from Manchester to the Melandra fort, near Glossop, and onwards into the Longdendale Valley.*

## Conclusion

We were not the first to notice the alignment of Matley Lane with Ashton Old Road. It was suggested by Richardson (ref. *The Romans in the Manchester Area*, 2004) as possibly indicating a Roman road. He was working mostly from place names and was approximately correct although not in detail – Matley Lane crosses, but never follows, the Roman line. However, we now have the supporting evidence to confirm the route and locate it with reasonably high confidence. The only puzzle we now have is: where was its destination through the Longdendale Valley?

*Note: the site visits were carried earlier this year before lockdown.*

## A SHORT HISTORY OF HORNBY WORKHOUSE

**Paul Maxwell**

### Background

To study the history of Hornby Workhouse it will be necessary to briefly consider the events that led to its construction. In north Lancashire there was a small collection of villages known as Lonsdale South of the Sands. The area comprised the following townships: Farleton, Wray with Bolton, Over Kellet, Nether Kellet, Caton, Claughton, Borwick, Roborindale, Thatham, Gressington, Wennington, Hornby and Quernmore. In 1818 these villages joined together to form a Gilbert Union. Gilbert's Act was named after Thomas Gilbert (1720-1798). Gilbert spent 17 years attempting to persuade parliament to accept his bill, which was eventually passed in 1782. This Act allowed villages to join together to build a workhouse for the benefit of all of them. [Reference: *The Victorian Web Gilberts Act (1782)* Majie Bloy, PhD, Senior Research Fellow, *The Victorian Web*.

<http://www.victorianweb.org/history/poorlaw/gilbert.html>.]

There was already a workhouse situated at Caton, but it did not meet the required classification of the new Poor Law. Although the Caton Gilbert Incorporation was outside the administration of the new law, the Gilbert Union Workhouse could be inspected by the Poor Law Commission. In December 1866 Mr. Cane (the Poor Law Commissioner for the north west) carried out an inspection of Caton Workhouse. The

inspection revealed a long list of defects: "...no vagrants' wards, no receiving wards, no school, no infirmary, no water closet, bath or lavatory and the men sleep two to a bed" [*Lancaster Gazette* 14 December 1869 p. 7 col. 3.]

Consequently, at a meeting of the newly formed Lunesdale poor law union the first topic on the agenda was the workhouse at Caton. At this meeting one of the guardians of the Lunesdale Union pointed out that, "In the long run it would be a real economy to build a new workhouse rather than spend a large sum of money in altering the workhouse at Caton". Mr Kayes, guardian for Wray with Botton, speaking at the same meeting, said, "If we are to have a new workhouse it must be very different from the workhouse at Caton". I have seen the condition of things at Caton the day before and they were very objectionable. [As above.]

### A site is chosen

At a meeting in April 1869 the Guardians agreed that the site for the new workhouse would be at Camp House Farm, Hornby, near to the railway station, and they proposed to purchase three acres of land subject to an agreement with Mr Morpeth, the owner. [*Lancaster Gazette* 17 April 1869 p. 4 col. 4.]. It is interesting to note that Mr Morpeth was also the guardian for Farleton. It was around this time that Mr Garnet, the chairman of the Lunesdale Union, went to Sedbergh to view their workhouse. He then informed the Guardians that "the new Workhouse would cost approximately £6000 to £7000". He then went on to recommend Mr Starky as the architect. [*Lancashire Archives [hereafter LRO] PUN/1/1 15 May 1871.*]

There then began a series of discussions with Mr Cane, the poor law commissioner, about the number of inmates the new workhouse should accommodate. The guardians and Mr Cane finally came to an agreement that the new workhouse should have provision for 60 inmates exclusive of vagrants. [*Lancaster Gazette* 3 May 1871 p. 3 col. 3.] At a meeting in November 1871 Mr Garnett, chairman of the union stated, "Everything has been satisfactorily arranged, the contracts have all been signed and the building work will commence immediately." [*Lancaster Gazette* 17 November 1871 p. 3 col. 3.].



OS map Lancashire XXV 1894 (National Library of Scotland)

## Laying of the foundation stone

On Wednesday the 8<sup>th</sup> of May 1872, a procession led by Wray bass band made its way through the village of Hornby to the site of the new workhouse. Mrs Garnett, the wife of the chairman of the union, was presented with a silver trowel bearing the inscription: Presented to Mrs W.J. Garnett of Quernmore Park by the Guardians of the Lunesdale Union on the occasion of her laying the foundation stone of the new workhouse of the Union, Hornby. May 8, 1872. [*Lancaster Gazette 11 May 1872 p. 3 col. 3.*] A prayer was given by the Rev Mr Shields and Mr W. S. Cragg then gave a vote of thanks to Mrs Garnett, saying "he was no believer in women's rights but he was a great believer in women's influence." [*As above.*] The article then went on to give a very detailed description on how the new workhouse was to be built.

## The building



The building is 161 feet in length, with a central main entrance and two others to left and right. To the right of the entrance was the master's office, matron's store room, day room, day room for girls and able-bodied and aged men, and a receiving ward for males. Above the day rooms were the dormitories approached by a separate staircase. All the day rooms, bed rooms and dormitories are 18 feet wide and 11 feet high. Extending backwards from the centre of the main building is the kitchen block which consisted of a spacious dining room, kitchen and scullery. At the end of this block were the male and female imbecile wards. Over the kitchen was a large committee room or chapel, approached from the principal staircase in the entrance hall.



Above is another photo of the front of the building. The two entrances at the ends of the building have been added later.



A contemporary account gave further details. To the rear of the main building were large airing yards for different classes of inmates, fitted up with a wash house, work shed and other requirements. The infirmary stood at some distance from the main building. It is a one storey building with wards 12 feet wide and 11 feet high. Suitable accommodation was provided in the centre of the building for a nurse. There was a detached porter's lodge and good cellars under the centre of the building. Total accommodation was for 60 inmates, exclusive of vagrants.

### **Conditions for residents**

Despite extensive research no information about an official opening has come to light. However, an article in the *Lancaster Gazette* described a "Treat to the inmates of the workhouse" [*Lancaster Gazette Saturday 19 December 1874 p. 8 col. 3.*] It details the dinner that Mrs Garnett gave as a treat to the inmates by way of a house warming. Thirty-eight inmates, young and old, were seated in the dining room of the new workhouse. The meal consisted of "an unlimited supply of beef and potatoes followed by an equally liberal grant of plum pudding, so that many of them overrated the capacity of their stomachs and did not leave empty plates." [*As above.*]

Immediately after the meal John Robinson gave a vote of thanks to Mrs Garnett. It is interesting that Robinson stated that, "He was the longest in the house having been seventeen years in the old one at Caton and says he means to stay seventeen years in the new one." [*As above.*] He then went on to state that "they ought to be proud to

have such a home and that they should consider themselves well off in having such a splendid place to come to.” He went on to say a lot more even after he sat down.

Mr Thomson, the chairman of the union, gave a speech which gives an insight into the way the Lunesdale guardians thought. He stated, “The Guardians are desirous that the inmate should be happy but from experience and from very careful observations which they had made into the causes of pauperism in the country seven tenths are caused by improvidence. If people would use the gift aright which providence had given them, and be as provident as they were now improvident, they would have much less pauperism, and if there was a little more independence among them it would be preferable.” [As above.] After the meal Mrs Garnett distributed tobacco and snuff to the men, tea and sugar to the women, and the children were given sweets and a ball.

On the whole life in Hornby workhouse seems to have been tolerable, and no ill-treatment has been discovered. As the poor law board pointed out, “Advantages of a country workhouse are first that it gives a good healthy and profitable occupation for the inmates and is a good industrial training for the boys. It also provides an abundant supply of various kinds of vegetables for use of the inmates.” [*Twentieth Annual report of The Poor Law Board 1867-68, p. 53.*] The workhouse had three acres of land which could provide vegetables for the inmates. Indeed, the master was instructed to “sell all surplus vegetables in the garden”. [*LRO PUN/1/6 25 July 1892.*]

About the author: After a long Army career, Paul worked at Lancaster University until he retired. Whilst working there he gained a diploma in local history. He is interested in the Victorian era, and in particular the impact in Lancashire of the 1834 Poor Law Amendment Act. He has benefitted from carrying out research in Lancashire Archives.

## **FREE ONLINE JOURNALS FOR LOCAL AND FAMILY HISTORY**

**The Record Society of Lancashire and Cheshire** <http://rslc.org.uk/> have digitised most of their back issues up to volume 146 (2002). It is possible to download them as searchable pdfs from <http://rslc.org.uk/out-of-print-publications/>. For early volumes there is a link to a version on Internet Archive <https://achive.org> but from vol 86 they are on the society's own website. These include transcriptions of early inquisitions, indexes to wills, duchy papers, feet of fines, marriage bonds, freeman rolls, deeds, quarter sessions papers, Royalist composition papers, lists of 'Papists', etc.

Two volumes: vol. 74 (1918-20) Marriage Bonds at Lancaster, transcribed with preface by John Brownbill 1648-1710 [shorturl.at/wAQU1](http://shorturl.at/wAQU1) and vol. 75 (1920) Marriage Bonds at Lancaster, 1711-1722 [shorturl.at/oHJ49](http://shorturl.at/oHJ49) are available for viewing in full (but not downloading) on the Hathi Trust website.

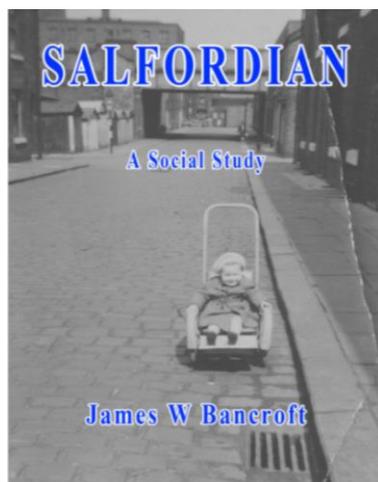
**The Catholic Record Society** has also released digital versions of 79 volumes of its journal from 1904 to 2006. <https://issuu.com/tcrs>. These include volumes with significant Lancashire material – transcriptions of four Recusant Rolls, quite a few Lancashire Catholic registers including Hornby, Goosnargh, Alston Brindle, Salmesbury, Fylde, etc. Vol. 4 (107) contains Joseph Gillow's analysis of Lord Burghley's map of Lancashire, but this needs to be treated with caution since he made assumptions about both the date and the significance of the crosses against people's names. For an alternative critique, see Bill Shannon and myself in *Imago Mundi* 2007.

This, along with many other academic journals, can be read for free by members of Lancashire Libraries through its subscription to **Access to Research** <http://www.accesstoresearch.org.uk/>. For those of you not aware of Access to Research (and it is not easy to find) you can find a link under section 9 of Digital Resources on the Lancashire County Libraries website. This provides free access from library computers to a wide range of academic journals in history, art, architecture, business, engineering, languages, politics, philosophy, mathematics and the sciences across the world. Available journals are listed here <http://eg9wt9kh6b.search.serialssolutions.com/>. Most provide a link to the publishers' websites where you can browse issues and, in many cases, search by keyword.

Happy researching!

**Mike Winstanley**

## **PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST**



**Salfordian: a social study. James W Bancroft**

ISBN: 978-0-9931894-8-7 [To be published early 2021]

Price £6 (includes p&p). Payment methods include cheque and PayPal.

The author will be donating half of the profits from the sale of the book to Broughton House Veterans' care Village in Salford.

For further information contact James at: [jamesbancroftuk@aol.com](mailto:jamesbancroftuk@aol.com)

What was it like to live in an inner-city more than half-a-century ago? James Bancroft spent the early years of his life in the Salford district of Brindle Heath. He has many memories of growing up, and has gathered them together in this book. He has been assisted by the invaluable reminiscences of his mother, who has spent all of her 93 years in the City of Salford.

The narrative is written through the eyes of the author, but is also a social study of how people lived their lives in a typical inner-city district in an era when life was

much more difficult but far less hectic. There are many photographs exclusive to the publication, which are a window onto life in the streets of the past.

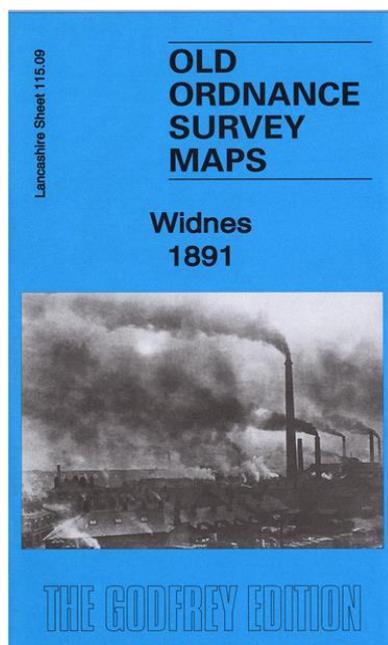
As the author states in the book: "You might want to think how lucky you are the next time you flick a switch or turn a dial to become almost instantly warm with lots of hot water. When I was young such things had to be planned like a military exercise, and you had to be a survival expert to the level of Bear Grylls." To illustrate the point, he shares memories of the effort needed to light a coal fire, beginning with preparation the night before. For younger people who have no experience of what was involved, the detailed description would be scarcely credible.

He paints a lively word picture of Whit Walks, which were enjoyable and important occasions. They were a means of binding the community together, and indicative of the important part the church played in people's lives.

This and other reminiscences in the book will evoke similar memories for older readers, and for younger people it will be a glimpse into a changed world.

About the author: James has written over a hundred books and articles, the subjects of which reflect his varied interests. He has contributed several articles for *The New Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*.

## Old Ordnance Survey maps



This series covers the whole country, including a substantial number for Lancashire, mostly the urban areas including Manchester and Liverpool. The maps are the 25" to 1 mile, reduced to around 15" to 1 mile.

On the reverse are notes to accompany the sheet. Notes included on the earlier editions were originally around 600 words long. They are now between 3000 and 3300 words long\*. The notes also now include an extract from a contemporary directory.

The whole of the county is also covered by the 1" to 1 mile series published by the same firm. Instead of the directory on the reverse there is a village together with the accompanying essay.

Details of which maps are in print can be found on [www.alangodfreymaps.co.uk](http://www.alangodfreymaps.co.uk). Chris Makepeace [chris@makepeaceonline.co.uk](mailto:chris@makepeaceonline.co.uk) can supply a hard copy of the catalogue. The maps cost £3 each plus p&p except a few coloured versions which are £4 each plus p&p.

[Ed: \*Chris himself has contributed 100 of these sets of notes for the maps, and our own Dr Alan Crosby has written several, for places in Lancashire and further afield]

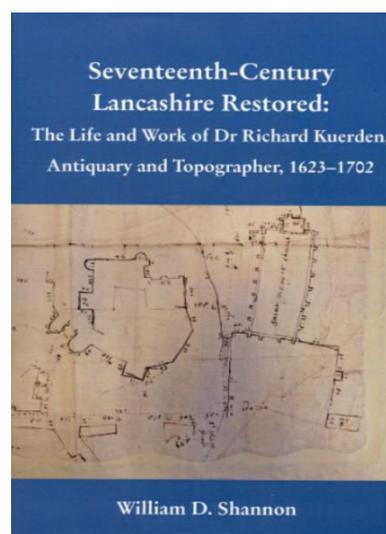
**Seventeenth-Century Lancashire Restored:  
The Life & Work of Dr Richard Kuerden,  
Antiquary & Topographer, 1623-1702**

**William D Shannon**

Published by The Chetham Society, (Vol 54) 2020  
£39.95 to non-members

To order, or to enquire about membership, visit  
[www.chethamsociety.org.uk](http://www.chethamsociety.org.uk)

ISBN 978-0-9554276-7-1



**Review by Bob Dobson**

The author has produced a work of the highest scholarship after researching the life and work of a man little known to even those in the top echelon of living Lancashire historians.

That man, Dr Richard Kuerden, was born into the relatively wealthy Cuerden/Preston family, and was educated from the age of fifteen at both Oxford and Cambridge universities to become a physician. Unmarried, he lived most of his life in his native county and took on the study of its history to such an extent that it became his main daily activity. He was friendly with and worked alongside some of the country's most celebrated antiquaries – William Ryley, Sir William Dugdale, Richard Hollingworth, Randle Holme, as well as the Lancastrians Christopher and Richard Towneley.

The surname Kuerden, the hall and the township of that name crop up throughout the book in at least half a dozen spellings. The name of Richard Kuerden does not appear in the '*Dictionary of National Biography*', but he is found in that tome under the name of *Richard Jackson*, that being a surname used by some members of the doctor's family.

Much of Kuerden's collecting and transcribing of thousands of old documents was intended to be his *great work* - the 5-volume, well-illustrated and comprehensive history of Lancashire, to be entitled *Brigantia Lancastriensis Restaurata*, which he never completed. In fact, he published nothing in his lifetime, which to some extent explains why he was almost unheard of in the three centuries between his death and the publication of this book. Nevertheless, the author has no hesitation in declaring Kuerden to be the '*the father of Lancashire history*', and after reading this splendid book, one is moved to support that statement.

Clearly a man of great intellect, Dr Kuerden was an acknowledged mathematician, physician and alchemist who was a pioneer in bringing the mapping of roads into local history, just as he did with the use of plans of fine houses and towns. He produced maps of the few roads which existed in the county, working with a few

friends using chains of a fixed length. To some extent, his work on cartography, surveying and mensuration may have been responsible for his failing to complete his intended history of the county. The works he did complete included some road maps and plans of Preston and Lancaster.

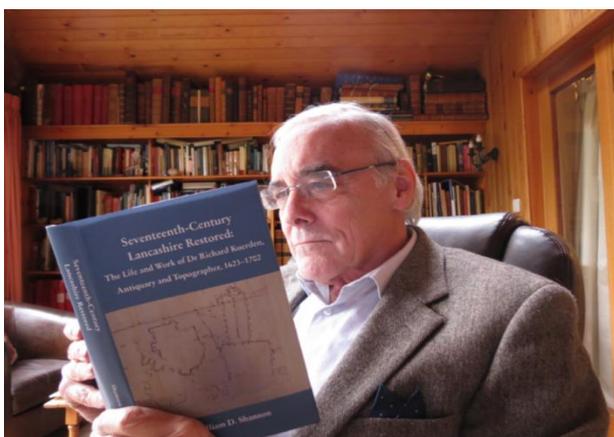
Other achievements of Kuerden's were his survey of the Cartmel parish boundary and his written accounts of Leyland Hundred and of the borough of Preston. He also found time to be the Surveyor of Roads for Preston Corporation. He received no payment for this role, though he certainly was in need of it, as he lived in poverty for a few years before his demise, and there is no record of where this proud Prestonian lies buried.

Kuerden was noted for the illegibility of his written notes, though he had a good hand when writing on his maps and plans. This poor hand may be one reason why he was so little mentioned when, from early in the 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards, others wrote on the history of Preston. Indeed, Henry Fishwick's '*History of Preston in Amounderness*' (1900) makes no mention of him. Shannon graciously acknowledges that the Preston and Leyland historian David Hunt, writing in quite recent years, was the first author to devote time to mention Kuerden's contribution to the recording of Preston's history.

Shannon has added considerably to the history of Preston through his thorough investigation of the life and work of 'the learned doctor' and is to be complimented on the depth and width of his scholarship. His notes at the foot of many pages are filled with references to the very many published and unpublished works he has read. The bibliography of all those books, essays, theses, manuscripts and websites he has referred to occupies 25 pages.

Were I still a publisher of Lancashire-related local history books, I would have loved to have been associated with this book arriving on bookshelves in our county. However, I enter one caveat: I would have replaced the first part of the title with '*The Father of Lancashire History*', to reflect the importance of its subject. That would reinforce Kuerden's importance in our county's history and help to sell it. I acknowledge that the present title is an oblique reference to the title of Kuerden's unfinished 'great work', in his use of the (translated) word '*Restaurata*'. Also, I would show the author as Dr William Shannon B.A., M.A., Ph.D., to reflect his high standing in present-day Lancashire history academic circles.

This is a very important addition to the study of Lancashire's local history.



About the author: Bill Shannon is a well-known local historian, who has published widely on aspects of Lancashire history, and of cartography, in journals including *Northern History*, *Agricultural History*, and *Imago Mundi*. He has also served as a Preston City Councillor, is an Honorary Alderman of Preston City Council and a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries.

**A selection of 19<sup>th</sup> century broadside ballads from collections in Manchester**

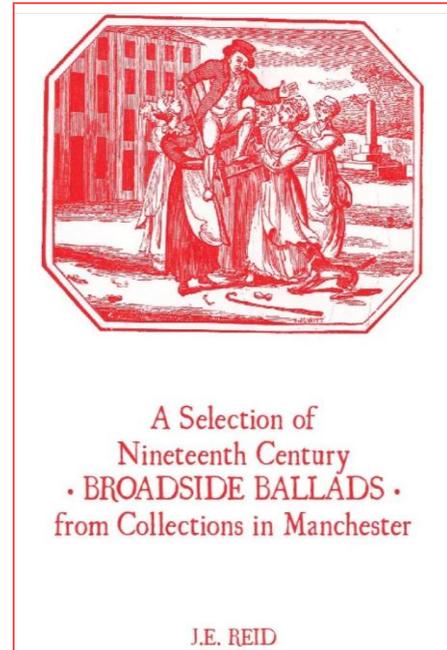
**J. E. Reid**

ISBN: 9780993037894

Pariah Press Price £4.99

[www.pariahpress.bigcartel.com](http://www.pariahpress.bigcartel.com)

This selection is a considered introduction to the subject of historical newsprint and song from the pre-eminent broadside balladeer of the Manchester region, Jennifer Reid. In this, her debut publication, Jennifer has selected fourteen of her favourite, most beguiling, broadside ballads. Each is presented with a commentary from the author alongside a reproduction of the original ballad with a woodcut adornment.



Political and timely in their content and context, the study of broadside ballads remains relevant today as an exploration of the forces that continue to shape modern Britain. This is an indispensable addition to scholarship of the Working Classes and the Industrial Revolution, for academics and interested laypeople alike.

Jennifer is a broadside ballad singer and historian. In recent years she has made appearances all over the world, performing captivating renditions in the nineteenth century broadside tradition. [See an account of her contribution to the 2020 Federation Spring Day Conference in the May newsletter.]

**COPY DATE FOR NEXT EDITION: 1<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER**