



LANCASHIRE LOCAL HISTORY FEDERATION

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VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

I am taking a guilty pleasure from reading a somewhat battered copy of volume 2 of Frank Hird's *Lancashire Stories*, published in 1913 by T.C. and E.C. Jack. The book's sub-title tells of its emotional 'target market': 'containing all that appeals to the heart and the imagination in the Lancashire of to-day and of many yesterdays'.

It is a hefty volume – a 452-page hardback with thick, soft paper, now a trifle foxed and discoloured, and it has an index. It comprises no fewer than 159 chapters or tales, many of which are illustrated by woodcuts and engravings, which range from the good quality and familiar - often recognisable because they have also been published in other books - to amateurish drawings which are clearly there primarily to fill a space. My pleasure is guilty, because this is absolutely and categorically the sort of volume which several generations of serious local historians, including me, have denounced as unhistorical, inaccurate, popular (how terrible is that!), unscholarly, fanciful, implausible, fictional, and much else besides. I love it!

Hird's foreword begins in forthright fashion, with a sentence with which we must surely agree wholeheartedly: 'From whatever point of view it may be approached—

topographical, archaeological, commercial or romantic—no county possesses so varied a history as Lancashire’.

He then states that the county has six divisions:

‘Furness, with its northern border of beautiful mountains, and southern border of wide-ranging sands; the Fylde, with its prosperous dairy-farms, the mirror of all agriculture in England; the wild hills and dales that Lancashire shares with Yorkshire upon her north-eastern boundary, ending in Pendle Forest, where the belief in witchcraft is, even now, not wholly dead; the north-central portion, which forms a triangle with historic Lancaster at its apex, Preston and Blackburn at its base. Then comes the long stretch of teeming mine and factory land from Burnley to Manchester, with its myriad shuttles, its ceaseless industrial labour; and finally the south-western portion of the county, another stupendous hive of human activity, dominated by Liverpool’.

Hird said that there were so many stories from the Manchester and Liverpool divisions that separate volumes had to be created for them. I’m not too convinced by those six divisions - the ‘north-central portion’, if you think about it, is a narrowish strip of land along the A6 north of Preston, and I’d have said that the Ribble Valley was a more meaningful division, but never mind. It’s a very subjective concept anyway.

The ‘stories’ range from the absurd and nonsensical (the Boggart of Boggart Hole Clough, or ‘Dildrum, King of the Cats’ ... no, don’t ask!) to the recent and more serious (the Cotton Famine, Peterloo, ‘The Driver of the First Passenger Train’). Many of them are familiar, not only because they are about well-known people, places or events, but because they appear in dozens of older and heavily anecdotal ‘local history’ books of the early twentieth century - the sort of histories which were written before there were record offices and access to archives, when ghost stories, legends and romanticised tales were meat and drink for the compilers of such works.

Some of them give specific detail to suggest that the story is reliable, even if it is apparently fiction. ‘Pea Soup Year’ tells the tale of the ship wrecked on the shore at Blackpool during a great storm, its crew being heroically rescued by local men. It was said to have happened in 1799 (that ‘specific detail’), at a time when the harvest had failed and the people of Blackpool faced ‘absolute starvation’. Wondrous to relate, the ship was laden with peas, which were shared out among the Blackpudlian population, saving them from starvation, but giving them a considerable aversion to peas thereafter. A fine story – and, sadly, there’s not a shred of reliable historical evidence to confirm it.

So, a thoroughly enjoyable and dangerously unreliable volume. And who was Frank Hird, the author? Another strange tale ... he was born in Hull in 1873, and when he was 20 he met, and became the lover of, 48 year old Lord Ronald Gower (full name: Lord Ronald Charles Sutherland-Leveson-Gower) the youngest son of the 2nd Duke of Sutherland, a sculptor and a celebrated – indeed, notorious - figure in high society. Oscar Wilde knew the couple well, and made one of his witticisms about them. In the Gower household, he said, ‘Frank is seen, but not Hird’. Gower died in 1916 and in 1921 Hird married Gladys Sinclair, described as a ‘a nice young lady, suitable in every way and with money’. She was in fact 42 and relatively poor. Hird, who lived until 1936, wrote various plays, short stories, a couple of biographies, and a crime novel or two. And *Lancashire Stories* ... and that baffles me, as I can find no

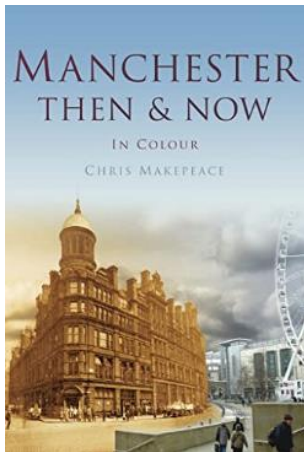
connection at all between Frank and Lancashire, and I don't even know that he visited the county, since most of the work for the book was done in the London Library or by the librarians in Manchester Liverpool, Rochdale, Warrington, Lancaster and Preston, who collected material for him.

Therefore, can any reader answer this simple question: 'Why, or at whose prompting, did Frank Hird write or compile *Lancashire Stories*'?

Dr Alan Crosby

CHRIS MAKEPEACE: A TRIBUTE

Readers will be saddened to hear of the recent death of Chris Makepeace, the well-known local historian who was especially associated with the areas of Greater Manchester and north Cheshire. Chris had a life-long interest in local history, and his many publications as well as his talks to local societies have given pleasure to many of our members.



Chris started his career in the Local History Library in Manchester Central Library, later devoting his time to writing and lecturing. His particular interest was in the visual and oral record of the history of south east Lancashire from the nineteenth century onwards. In this interest he was a supporter of the establishment of the North West Sound Archive and North West Film Archive, and he himself had a fine collection of photographs of nineteenth and twentieth century towns and villages in Manchester and north Cheshire. He shared these through his many books about the area, and was always happy to give illustrated talks to local societies which were much enjoyed. In addition to his book

publications, Chris contributed the notes to a number of the well-known series of Alan Godfrey reproductions of early Ordnance Survey maps.

Chris was also involved with many societies and organisations promoting local history. He was a founder member of the Disley Local History Society in his home town. He was also a member of the Manchester Region Industrial Archaeology Society (MARIAS) from its earliest years. Professionally trained as a librarian, he took an active part in the work of the Library Association Local Studies Group, being a founder member and committee member of that group and subsequently the chairman of the group's north west branch.

Chris has been a significant contributor to the historical study of south east Lancashire, taking part in early initiatives to record and preserve its local history at a time when the importance of such conservation was becoming increasingly recognised, and sharing the interest of that history with others through books and lectures. He will be much missed, and remembered with affection by those who knew him.

Diana Winterbotham

REPORT FROM THE FEDERATION'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The meeting, held over Zoom on 18 March, was well attended by individuals and by people representing several member societies. The chairman, Dr Alan Crosby, had begun his previously-circulated report thus:

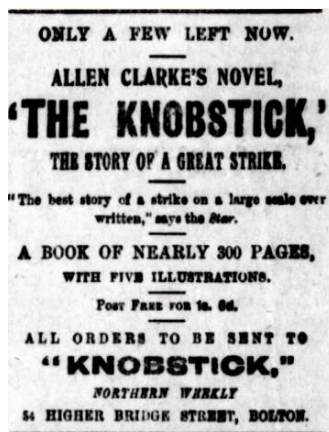
During 2024 the Lancashire Local History Federation continued to promote and celebrate the rich and diverse history of the county palatine and its many very different communities. One of the strengths of our local history is that diversity – we have great cities of global significance, lively seaside resorts, industrial towns where the economy and society of the western world was forged, country market towns, rural villages in beautiful countryside, and landscapes of national and international importance. From the Mersey to the heart of the Lake District, from Blackpool to the lonely moors of Bowland, there is historical interest everywhere in the county. We in the LLHF seek to strengthen that sense of history, and to encourage local societies and individual local historians to research, write about and highlight the history of their own areas.

Highlights from 2024 included:

- Each year we encourage a member society to host an event where they give talks about aspects of their local area and conduct tours of notable places. This 'At Home' was hosted by Chorley Heritage, and included a talk about Myles Standish and his part in establishing the Plymouth Colony in Massachusetts, an illustrated talk about the pit brow lasses of the Chorley area mines, and an introduction by the local member of Parliament, Sir Lindsey Hoyle, Speaker of the House, as well as guided visits around the town.
- The Federation day school was a joint event with the Leeds & Liverpool Canal Society, marking the 250th anniversary of the opening of the first stretch.

Members of the committee were re-elected en bloc. Alan thanked them for their contribution: John Wilson as secretary; Zoe Lawson as membership secretary, who also arranges events on our behalf; Peter Bamford as treasurer, whose stewardship ensures that we have a healthy account; Marianne Howell as newsletter editor; Peter Houghton as webmaster, and the other members of the committee.

Alex Miller, Archive & Resources Manager of Lancashire Archives & Local History, had circulated his report, which contained details of the many new and continuing projects with which they are involved.



The short, formal part of the meeting was followed by a talk by Dr Jack Southern. Jack, a member of the Federation committee, is a lecturer at UCLan and an historian of modern Britain, focusing on the social and cultural history of the North of England. His fascinating talk, about a nugget of social history, was entitled ***Knobsticks: A social history of a Lancastrian (?) term***. He looked at the word 'knobstick' (effectively a blackleg) and its uses in literature, involving strikes, songs and violent incidents. Its use in the north of England tracks with the rise and fall of the cotton industry.

NEWS FROM ARCHIVES

LANCASHIRE ARCHIVES & LOCAL HISTORY

SUNSHINE, SOCA AND SPICE: PRESTON CARIBBEAN CARNIVAL, 1974-2024.
Don't miss a chance to visit this free exhibition, at the Archives until July.



With costumes on loan from Preston Caribbean Carnival, this exhibition is a celebration of the contribution this wonderful, vibrant carnival has made to the cultural landscape of Preston and Lancashire since 1974.

In partnership with the Preston Caribbean Carnival and historian, Stephen Poleon, and Lancashire County Museum Service.

Lancashire Local History Publication – *Archives*

The fifth issue of *Archives* is still on sale, featuring articles from all corners of Lancashire and beyond. *Archives* is available to purchase from all Lancashire County Council libraries and at Lancashire Archives, priced at £3. If you'd like to receive a copy by post, please contact the Archives at archives@lancashire.gov.uk.

You can now read [previous editions of the magazine online](#). You can find out how to submit an article for a future edition by visiting our website at: [Ordering copies and publications - Lancashire County Council](#)

Issue 6 will be published on 1 June 2025.



CLARETS COLLECTED: WE'RE FUNDRAISING - JOIN THE CROWD!

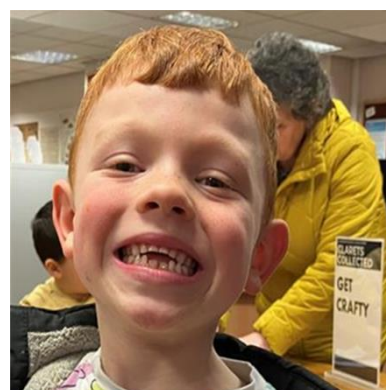


Clarets Collected has been so successful over the last 18 months that we want two more years at Burnley Library! The Friends of Lancashire Archives are aiming to raise just over £36,000 to make this happen, so [Lancashire Archives and Local History](#) can deliver more events and exhibitions, more free sessions for primary schools and more volunteering opportunities.

You can help by making a pledge! It doesn't need to be much – even £2 shows your support and encourages others to give.

Find out more and support our crowdfunding campaign. Just click on the Spacehive link...
<https://www.spacehive.com/more-clarets-collected-2>
Every £2 / £5 / £20 / £100 helps!

And here's just one of the many smiling faces *Clarets Collected* has created over the first phase!



Check out the story so far on our [project blog](#)

LANCASHIRE ARCHIVES DIGITISATION SERVICE



Can't make it to Lancashire Archives but need a copy of something in our collections? The Lancashire Archives digitisation studio is equipped to make high quality copies of archive and heritage material. Our digitisation team use a professional DSLR

camera and industry standard imaging software to create images of a range of document types, including bound volumes, parchment, maps, plans, photographs and negatives.

You can find out more on our website about:

- Ordering copies of the Lancashire Archives & Local History collections
 - Our services for digitisation projects for individuals, local historians, academics, museums and galleries, and for digitising old documents you have at home
- Contact us at: archivecopies@lancashire.gov.uk. [Digitisation service - Lancashire County Council](#).

NEWS FROM THE ARCHIVES

Our monthly digest of updates and news is now available as a direct web-link or in PDF format, depending on how you like to take your archives news.

If you would like to be added to the mailing list for *News from the Archives*, please contact us at archives@lancashire.gov.uk.

IMPROVING STORAGE FACILITIES AT LANCASHIRE ARCHIVES

Work continues on the New Stacks to help safeguard Lancashire's archive collections for the future, by future-proofing our strongrooms to make sure we can continue to provide the best care for all types of records including digital, photographic and written collections.

During this time some records will be temporarily stored off site, which will have an impact on our ability to deliver on-the-day access to some collections. All archives affected will have a note on LANCAT, our online catalogue. This will let you know that advance notice of 10 working days will be needed in order to access these items. This will apply to around 10% of the records in our care and most records remain accessible on the day.

Please continue to book and visit the Archives as usual and if you have any questions please get in touch.

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/lancsarchives> and on X (formerly Twitter) at <https://twitter.com/LancsArchives>

Alex Miller

SPEAKERS' CORNER

We invite speakers to contact the newsletter to publicise their talks to a wide audience. If you would like to do so, please send:

- Name
- Contact details
- Subject(s) covered
- Areas where you are willing to give talks
- Whether you would deliver over Zoom, if asked
- Any other relevant information

Please do not include details of fees, as this can be discussed with the organisation when you make contact.

Any agreement will be made between the speaker and the group, so the Lancashire Local History Federation cannot accept responsibility for any aspect of the arrangement.

mariannerh@hotmail.co.uk Marianne Howell, Newsletter editor.

JOHN BIRCH

CONTACT DETAILS: johnbirch1960@yahoo.co.uk or 07944 136051

SUBJECTS COVERED:

- **The Whitworth Doctors:** Serving the poor (overseers accounts, superstition, charms, frogs, Brown Wardle Doctor, etc.) – for animals and people
- **The Whitworth Doctors:** The origins of their great wealth
- **Henry Krabtree, Curate of Todmorden:** Curate, Quaker-hunter, astrologer, necromancer, and author of the 1685 almanac, *Merlinus Rusticus*
- **James 'Treacle' Sanderson:** The famous pedestrian of Whitworth - his achievements and efforts as a trainer

Talks may be adapted to suit either casual interest or historians / researchers.

AREAS WHERE WILLING TO TRAVEL: West of the M1, anywhere between Rugby and Lancaster. I am available to travel on Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays or Sundays, given sufficient notice. I would be prepared to deliver talks over Zoom.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER I am a researcher and author, with an interest in the history of places and people along the southern border between Lancashire and Yorkshire, between 1600 and 1850. In 2017 I published the first book in the Local Legends series, *Henry Krabtree, Curate of Todmorden*. I currently have two books in editing, discussing the Whitworth Doctors, whom I have been researching since 1987.

I have also undertaken significant research in relation to James Taylor of Todmorden Hall; William Robertson, reporter of the Rochdale Observer; and the modes of communication and mobility between the provinces and London. I am a member of the Stourbridge Speakers Club and have made presentations / talks to a number of New Horizons clubs across the north west.

DR NIGEL JEPSON

CONTACT DETAILS: jepsonnigel@btinternet.com or 07713600282

AREAS WILLING TO TRAVEL: Within a 30-mile radius of Bury. Willing to deliver on Zoom, if invited to.

SUBJECTS COVERED:

Education across Lancashire: Nigel served as a secondary school head for 28 years, including at Haslingden High School and at other schools in Preston, Manchester and Bolton. During this time he spent years part-time gaining a doctorate based on research into the topic of 16-19 provision across the county.

Railways: Nigel offers a variety of sub-headings relating to the broad topic of railways, from *Rocket* to the present day, which can be tailored to the particular interests of any local society interested in the subject.

Cricket: In particular, the history of the famed Lancashire League from the late 19th century onwards.

The Chartist Movement: Exploring its impact across Lancashire in the 1840s, which can be tailored to ways in which different areas were affected.

MRS LOUISE WADE

CONTACT DETAILS: louise@wade72.plus.com

AREAS WILLING TO TRAVEL: South Lancashire / Liverpool / Manchester area if speaking in person, or will deliver over Zoom.

SUBJECTS COVERED:

My ancestor the Workhouse Master: About life in the Victorian workhouse and my family history discoveries about one of my ancestors who was a Master.

Graveyards, gravestones and their hidden meanings: The history of graveyards and interpretation of the symbols on gravestones, plus some moving / funny examples.

Buying and collecting family history artefacts: how to find things online / in shops that are related to your family history. Some objects I have found are available to be passed around.

Where does that saying come from?: A light-hearted chat about expressions we use every day and their historical background. This talk can be adapted to any length so could be fitted to shorter events e.g. Christmas or an AGM, where other proceedings may be going on.

A trip to the zoo: Based on Belle Vue Zoo in Manchester, a summary of the history of zoos, and what our ancestors would have experienced.

Madness! the history of mental healthcare in England: Victorian lunatic asylums, and the case study of a local man.

Not just the 3 Rs: Life in a Lancashire school: From research carried out at a local school where I was the volunteer archivist.

On the trail of Great Uncle Harry: Harry was a POW in WW2 after the Battle of Crete.

Pills, potions and poisons: About my family dynasty of chemists / pharmacists from the Victorian age until the present day. This talk also includes objects that can be passed around the audience.

NEWS FROM MEMBER SOCIETIES

REGIONAL HERITAGE CENTRE



This study day has a special low price of £15, with student tickets available for only £5. Book through the RHC online store

<https://tinyurl.com/yvpcdar2>

LEEDS & LIVERPOOL CANAL SOCIETY

SCHEDULE OF THE *KENNET*

The *Kennet* is the only surviving Leeds & Liverpool Canal short boat which travels the length of the canal and is accessible to the public.



It was built in 1947 and is now owned by the Leeds & Liverpool Canal Society. The society has a YouTube channel which hosts videos about the society and the *Kennet*. The boat's schedule follows:

14 th & 15 th May –	“Rose Illingworth: Born to the Boats” – for Schools on board & accessible performance in Roberts Park Saltaire
17 th & 18 th May –	“Rose Illingworth: Born to the Boats” on board in Saltaire
24 th to 26 th May –	“Saltaire Arts Trail” Kennet open to Public and hosting “Wukong China Art Crafts” by Su Yao
27 th May –	Travelling from Saltaire to Bingley
Dates to be confirmed –	Visit from Bingley Beavers and travelling from Bingley to Skipton
29 th June –	Kennet open at “Skipton Sheep Day”
Date to be confirmed –	Kennet returns to her home mooring at Greenberfield, Barnoldswick

LIVERPOOL & S W LANCASHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Tuesday 20 May 7.30pm: *Angel Meadow – an infamous Manchester slum*: Joe O'Neill.

Tuesday 17 June 7.30pm: *Leigh in the 1940s and 1950s – war then austerity*: Michael Caine

The above talks are arranged by the Leigh group of the society and are held at Leigh Town Hall, Market Street WN7 1DY. For more information, contact the group via [Leigh | Liverpool & SW Lancashire FHS](#)

Tuesday 3 June 7.30pm: *The Tawd Valley mining disaster* : Mark Boardman.

Upholland Methodist Church, Alma Hill WN8 0NR. For more information, contact the Skelmersdale group via [Skelmersdale | Liverpool & SW Lancashire FHS](#)

MERE BROW LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Talks take place on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at Mere Brow Village Hall, 65 The Gravel, Mere Brow, PR4 6JX. Doors open at 7.00pm, talks start at 7.30pm. Visitors £2.50 per talk, Annual membership £10.

21 May: *Orm - who gave his name to Ormskirk - and a short history of Ormskirk*. Jean Gidman

18 June: *The Fleetwood Heskeths from Meols Hall*. Stephen Taylor

18 August: *My father's WWII escape from France*. John Everiss

LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY



Wednesday 11 June 3.00pm

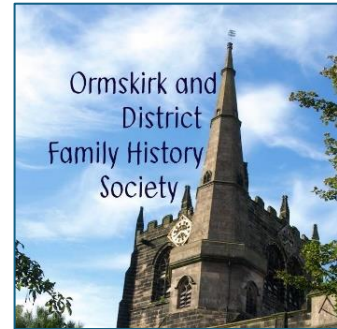
**Talk about Houghton Tower
with Steve Spencer (over Zoom)**

The talk follows on from the article Stephen wrote in *Transactions* 114. The society awarded a research grant to Jane Smith for her work on the north entrance to the tower, where it is believed a chapel predating 1565 once stood. The talk reports on the findings of that project.

Contact the society for further information
landcasociety@gmail.com

ORMSKIRK AND DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY (ODFHS)

Further details about the Society and how to join can be found on our website [Membership \(odfhs.website\)](#).



Meetings are held monthly on the 4th Wednesday of each month (except December) at the Guide HQ, Moorgate, Ormskirk, L39 4RU (opposite Hesfords). Talks start at 7.30p.m. Non-members welcome (£2 admission). Our full programme of talks, and other events, can be found on our website www.odfhs.website, and on Facebook www.facebook.com/OrmskirkDistrictFamilyHistorySociety. Our next meetings are:

- **Wednesday 25 June: Ormskirk Library – facilities for Family/Local History Research** by Elizabeth Russ
- **Wednesday 23 July: Down my Way – Emma Vickers (1894-1977), Burscough's Community Hero – her songs, stories and humour** by Peter & Barbara Snape
- **Wednesday 27 August: The Lathom Almonry** by Dot Broady-Hawkes
- **Wednesday 24 September: The Derby Cinema Restoration Project** by Kevin Whittaker

We hold a monthly **ODFHS Family History Help Desk** on the 1st Monday of each month (excluding bank holidays) from 10.30am to 11.30am at Ormskirk Library, Burscough St, Ormskirk, L39 2EN – all welcome.

ODFHS 45TH ANNIVERSARY COMPETITION

2025 is the 45th anniversary of ODFHS. We've decided to mark this with a competition, open to both members and non-members. The subject of the competition is "*Who is your most interesting West Lancashire ancestor?*" or "*What is your most interesting family discovery related to West Lancashire?*". Choose one of these and tell us about it in 300 – 750 words. Add photos and illustrations as you want. The winner will get a year's free membership. **Entries must be received by 31 May** and the results will be announced 1 August. The best entries will be published in the ODFHS Magazine "*The Ormskirk and District Family Historian*" (subject to space). Further details on Facebook and the ODFHS website.

CHADDERTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Griffin, the society's regular newsletter (issue 115), contains interesting articles, including:

- The centenary of the opening of Broadway, the A663 which runs the length of the town, and which now forms a link between the M60 and M62
- Chadderton power station 1929-1982

- Chadderton's appearance on a Russian Cold War map, showing the strategically important aircraft factory, power station, HM Stationery Office, sewage works and the Rochdale canal
- An accident and fatalities at Stockfield colliery in 1870

More details about the society from the secretary chaddtown@yahoo.co.uk

ROOLEY MOOR NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

The article below has been reproduced, by permission of the author, from *For the People: A newsletter of the Abraham Lincoln Association* (Vol. 27, No. 1, Spring 2025). As you will read, the members of the forum are concerned that a proposed wind farm would place turbines along either side of the Cotton Famine road, thus endangering this landscape of historic importance. Please contact the forum (website address at the bottom of the article) for further information, or to find out how your society can assist the forum.

England's Cotton Famine, John Bright, and Lincoln

By Alan Rawsterne, Rochdale, England

American cotton supplied the textile mills of northwestern England to great effect for both supplier and manufacturer. Yet the millhands there took an early and strong stand against the Confederacy and its reliance on slave labor, even to their own detriment.

By early 1862 there were thousands of men, as well as women, out of work due to their refusal to handle the CSA's chief product; the number doubled by November 1863, to 8,400 in one town. Lincoln wrote a well-known letter "To the Workingmen of Manchester" in Jan. 1863 to thank them. Local authorities appropriated funds — analogous to the New Deal's CCC in 1930s U.S. — to put those hands back to work, even as soup kitchens fed tens of thousands.

The Cotton Famine Road, pictured here, is the chief surviving product of their work. With 327,600 stones, hammered and chiseled from local quarries, men paved more than a mile over rugged terrain in the borough of Rochdale (Greater Manchester) that served shepherds, travelers, and, then as now, bird-watchers. This borough was home to John Bright, a Quaker manufacturer and the leading anti-slavery voice in the British Parliament, a regular correspondent of Sen. Charles Sumner of Massachusetts, and thus through him a voice to Lincoln.

The anteroom of Lincoln's office had a portrait of Bright on the wall. What is more, in early 1864 Lincoln pardoned 20-year-old London-born Alfred Rubery for a federal crime, because "his pardon is desired by John Bright, of England."

Over the years our group, the Rooley Moor Neighbourhood Forum, has worked to raise the profile of the Cotton Famine Road, as we believe it to be of international im-



portance in reminding all of the determination of people across the globe to bring about the abolition of slavery. However, having defeated two previous attempts to develop this area of moorland, we find ourselves now confronting a Canadian investor whose hope is to finance a wind farm development that would place turbines along either side of the Cotton Famine Road, leaving a path a few feet wide under the turbines. If this development were to go ahead, we believe it would destroy the Cotton Famine Road and its setting in an historic landscape (as well as its bird life and views of this 'Yellow Brick Road' from miles around Lancashire and Yorkshire).

We are reaching out to any who can lend support to help us preserve this unique monument to Abraham Lincoln and the millworkers of Rochdale who took a decisive stance to end slavery. We have approached members of Parliament, and if you wish to help, please write to me at info@rmnf.org.uk. We are a registered non-profit charity. www.rmnf.org.uk/area/cotton-famine-road

BARNOLDSWICK HISTORY SOCIETY



An album containing over a hundred photographs of scouting in and around Barnoldswick was recently donated to the society's archive. Many of the photographs were taken in the 1920s and 1930s. Some are pictures taken professionally in a studio.



Some are original; others are more recent copies. It is a strange combination: the formality of what, even then, must have been an old-fashioned photographic studio with the dated backcloths, and the children or young people trying their best not to smile.

It is also odd to see members of an organisation so much associated with the great outdoors confined to the four walls of the studio.

BLACKPOOL AND FYLDE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The society celebrated its 90th anniversary



Our society was instituted in January 1935, making us one of the oldest local history societies in Lancashire. On 28 January over 40 members had a lovely evening as we celebrated our 90th birthday.

The committee had decided that we needed to push ourselves well into the 21st century so we created a hybrid event, whereby online guests could also attend our meeting. This was the first time we'd ever tried anything different to the usual format but we felt that we needed to rise to the challenge of technological advances if we were to make it to our 100th birthday!

Although it wasn't without some frustrating technical difficulties to begin with, the event actually worked well and we had 21 paying, online guests attend our excellent presentation - they were included in the Q&A and general discussion with the audience as we wanted to make sure they felt part of our meeting.

Apart from us all gathering for supper before the meeting, members had the opportunity to view a brilliant collection of local Victorian stereoview photographs through stereo viewers, as well as some fantastic albums of Blackpool and Fylde which were kindly loaned to us by our presenter, Blackpool local historian Robert Leach, who travelled from London especially for the celebration.



The whole evening was a great opportunity to socialise, push our own boundaries and celebrate the fact our society has lasted 90 years, which is quite an achievement in this day and age. As everyone seemed to give such positive feedback, we're hoping to make the society's social and hybrid meeting an annual event.

NEWS ROUNDUP

COMMUNITY ARCHIVES AND HERITAGE GROUP



New guidance on developing audiences. This online resource features an introduction to audience development, advice on how to consult the audience and evaluate your work, and examples from three archives of their experiences.

<https://tinyurl.com/4r6xvfy4>

ROOTS TECH

RootsTech took place in March, and it is now possible to view some of the presentations online. Two which may be of interest are:



- ***How does DNA fit into your family story?*** By Diahn Southard
- ***Researching convicts transported to Australia.*** By Andrew Redfern

More details here [Home](#)

BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR LOCAL HISTORY



The website www.balh.org.uk contains a great deal of information, news, resources, and guides for local historians across the country.

One resource is a series of ten minute talks on a wide variety of topics, both those of general interest, and those which reveal usually little-known facts about a local area. Some which may be helpful to researchers are:

- *Researching the 'Spanish' influenza epidemic 1918-19*: Dr Andrew Jackson
- *An introduction to wills for local historians*: Joe Saunders
- *The Court of Chancery*: Susan Moore
- *Language where you live*: Fiona Douglas
- *Indexing local history*: Dr Francis Young

You are advised to print the accompanying notes or have them available on a second screen when viewing the presentation.

If you would like to submit a ten minute presentation, see the guidance at <https://tinyurl.com/4j2ane7k>

FAMILY HISTORY FEDERATION

Sadie McMullon, the Archives Liaison Officer of the Family History Federation, offers the assistance of the federation for those groups which have 'name rich' records they would like to share with the public, but who lack the resources or knowledge to start such a project.



Sadie wishes to identify the existence of 'name rich' records and support groups to bring them to the attention of family historians. If you would like to discuss how the federation could support your group, contact Sadie by email

archives.liaison@familyhistoryfederation.com



ADVANCE NOTICE OF A MAJOR EXHIBITION

For a year in 2027 the Manchester Science and Industry Museum will host *Manchester, Cotton and Transatlantic Slavery*

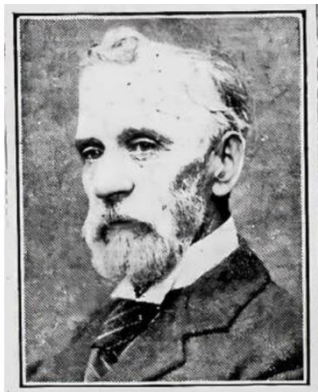
In association with the Guardian and the Scott Trust

This free exhibition and public engagement project “will reveal how transatlantic slavery shaped the city’s growth. Featuring new research, it will also explore how the legacies of these histories continue to impact Manchester, the world, and lives today”. There is much more detail on the website <https://tinyurl.com/yr4zau9>

THE FRIENDS OF SALFORD CEMETERIES TRUST

The Trust publishes a regular newsletter about the care of the cemeteries, events, and short biographies of some of the people buried there.

One person buried at Swinton cemetery has been researched by Sue Tydd.



George Charles Yates FSA (1835-1908) was born in Manchester in 1835 and grew up in Water Street. He spent most of his working life as a clerk at Salford County Court. He retired as the chief clerk after 50 years' service.

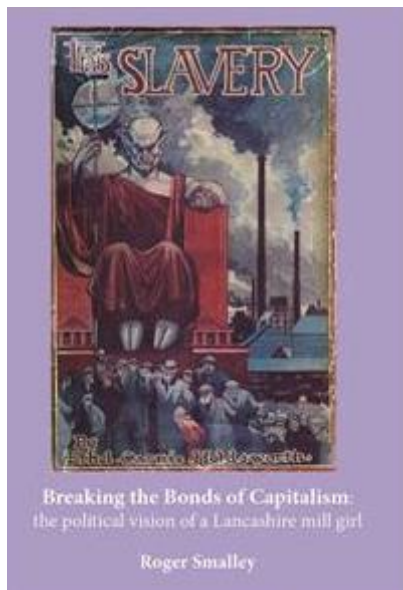
He had several interests and hobbies. He was honorary secretary of Manchester Dramatic Association and a member of the Manchester Shakespeare Company, and often appeared in stage productions. As a young man he mixed with poets and writers, and many became his good friends. One group was known as the Manchester Poets or the Bards of Cottonopolis. He also mixed with radical and forward-thinking people such as John Bolton Rogerson, John Critchley Prince, Samuel Bamford, Edwin Waugh and Ben Brierley.

He was one of the founders of the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society in 1883. He was honorary secretary of the Manchester Scientific Students Association, honorary lecturer for the Working Men's Clubs Association, and a member of the Museums Association, the Chetham Society, Manchester Library and the Society of Antiquarians of London. He also had a vast collection of prehistoric fossils and curiosities from all over the world.

Membership of the Friends of Salford Cemeteries is FREE. Email Paulcsherlock40@gmail.com The group is also on Facebook. See also the website www.WeasteHeritageTrail.co.uk

If you would like to receive the Friends' newsletter, email the editor, Pete Kilvert petekilvert@virginmedia.com.

PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST



SLAVERY

**Breaking the bonds of capitalism
The political vision of a Lancashire mill girl**

Roger Smalley

ISBN 9781862203174 157pp. b&w ill. £12.95

Order online from the Regional Heritage Centre
<https://tinyurl.com/yxr475ap>.

Ethel Carnie Holdsworth (1886-1962) was born in Oswaldtwistle and started work in cotton mills at the age of thirteen. She attended evening classes and read voraciously in a Co-operative society library. She wrote poetry, and taught at Bebel House in London.

She published novels, one of which, *Helen of Four Gates*, was filmed in 1921.

Roger Smalley has a special interest in the radical tradition and the history of political dissent in the north west of England. His 2006 PhD thesis was based on the life and work of Ethel Carnie Holdsworth.

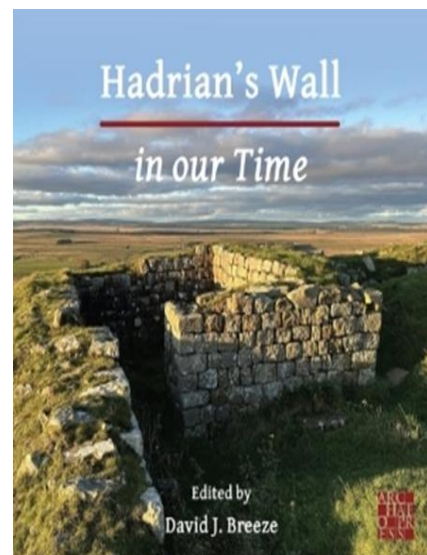
HADRIAN'S WALL IN OUR TIME

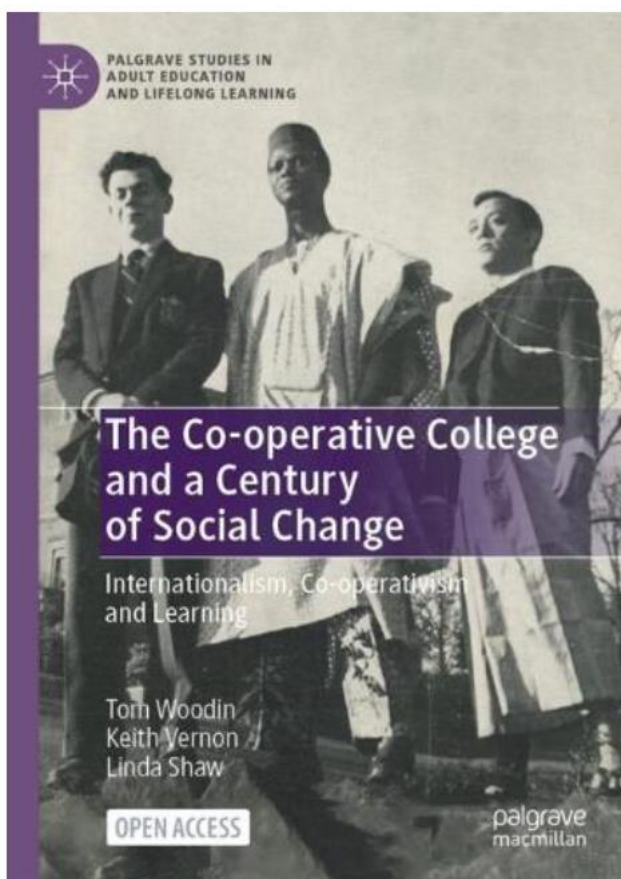
Ed. David J Breeze

Archaeopress <https://tinyurl.com/8k6e8wah>

£24.99 ISBN 9781803277349

The cutting down of the tree in Sycamore Gap on Hadrian's Wall caused widespread shock. In a positive response to this sad event, Professor David Breeze invited 80 friends and colleagues to offer personal reflections on their favourite view of the Wall, presented here in a visual celebration with photographs and specially commissioned line drawings.





THE CO-OPERATIVE COLLEGE AND A CENTURY OF SOCIAL CHANGE

Professor Tom Woodin, Dr Linda Shaw and Dr Keith Vernon

In association with the Co-operative Heritage Trust and the Rochdale Pioneers Museum.

The book is open access, and can be downloaded from here: [The Co-operative College and a Century of Social Change: Internationalism, Co-operativism and Learning | SpringerLink](#)

The book explores the roots of the international phenomenon of co-operativism, drawing on unique archival research and forming a rich visual history.

The museum has displays about the Rochdale Pioneers, who were instrumental in founding the co-operative principle which spread around the world. It hosts events, houses the co-operative archive, and has an online shop.

[The Co-operative Heritage Trust](#)

31 Toad Lane, Rochdale OL12 0NU

Photo: Alex Liivet



REQUEST

Invitation to users of archives and special collections in the Greater Manchester area to take part in a research survey

Penny M Curry is conducting research as part of her Masters course in Library and Information Management at Manchester Metropolitan University. She is researching the experiences of those who access archives and special collections in the Greater

Manchester area. The responses to the survey will aid in gaining a better understanding of how people access these services, and how accessible the collections are.

For the purposes of her research, she is excluding the use of archives and special collections outside the Greater Manchester boundary. However, researchers who use the libraries and archives in the GM area are welcome to take part in the survey. Those who use online services and complete the survey will provide valuable insights into the online services, including the experience they have when requesting copies of documents.

If you would like to take part, follow this link <https://tinyurl.com/56jv68vu> by **30 June**.

If you have any questions, please email Penny 23754713@stu.mmu.ac.uk

COPY DATE FOR AUGUST ISSUE
MONDAY 25 JULY