



## LANCASHIRE LOCAL HISTORY FEDERATION

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Editor: Marianne Howell  
07779 677730 [mariannerh@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mariannerh@hotmail.co.uk)

Chair: Dr Alan Crosby	01772 827835
Secretary: John Wilson	03330 062270
Treasurer: Peter Bamford	01253 796184
Membership Secretary: Zoë Lawson	07471908077
Website Manager: Peter Houghton	01772 641604

Please see the website [www.lancashirehistory.org](http://www.lancashirehistory.org) for more contact details.

### SAVE THE DATE !

#### **Federation 'At Home' with Lancashire Archives**

**On Saturday 15 November** Lancashire Archives is hosting an 'At Home' supported by the Federation to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Archives. The day will start with an overview of the history of Lancashire Archives by Dr Alan Crosby, followed by a session looking at using the archives for your research, with experienced speakers who have made use of them.

After lunch there will be three sessions, including a talk about the Lancashire Printed Collections held at the archives, a tour of the archive collection and a look at the new catalogue LANCAT II and tips on how to best search for your documents.

This is sure to be an interesting day. More information and booking details will be circulated shortly.

## VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

I recently gave a talk to the Bolton Family History Society, looking at various aspects of the social history of the town in the later 16<sup>th</sup> and first half of the 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. This was based on the evidence which can be drawn from the first two volumes of the parish register of Bolton St Peter. As is all too common, the run of registers in the period is incomplete, and some which remain are defective. The first volume, which must have covered 1538 to 1573, is completely lost and has been for centuries. It was missing when Archibald Sparke, the town's chief librarian, made the transcript of the first registers, which was published by the Lancashire Parish Register Society in 1913. The next volume, beginning in 1573, is badly damaged. There are a few pages from the start and into the early months of 1574, then a long section has vanished, until the register begins again in 1589-1590. Even then there are problems – no entries for 1616-1619 (a period when even the bishops' transcripts are also missing), meaning that register-keeping stopped completely at St Peter's for three years.

Despite these problems and defects, there is a great deal of interest contained in the registers. To start, I considered the choice of Christian names for babies baptised during the period. As historians have often noted with regard to the whole country, the range was remarkably restricted. In the early decades of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, 49% of all boys baptised at Bolton were called either John, William or Thomas, while 45% of girls were Alice, Elizabeth or Ellen. Only in the 1630s did a greater variety develop, and arch-Puritan names such as Samuel, Nathaniel, Hannah and Sarah appeared.

Another topic is mortality, with special emphasis on the crisis years so familiar to demographers and medical historians, and also on the distressing and shockingly high levels of child mortality. Although the register is less specific about ages than those kept 200 years later, it is clear that even in a 'good' year over a quarter of all burials were of babies and children, while in a bad year the proportion was much higher. In 1621 two-thirds of burials were of children, page after page of them, which suggests a local epidemic of a child-killer disease such as whooping cough.

In 1623-1624 Bolton experienced the same catastrophic mortality crisis which is identifiable through much of northern England. At its peak, there were over four times more burials per month than in a normal year. This was not plague – the increase peaked in the winter, which is the opposite of the pattern with plague. It was probably a famine, perhaps combined with an epidemic disease such as typhus which is particularly associated with malnourishment. In the Bolton registers these two years have many entries such as **'a pore woman'**, **'twoe poore lades that came out of Entwisle'**, and **'a pore childe'** - the anonymous people found dead by the wayside or in their homes and carted to Bolton for burial.

The register gives us startling information about the Civil War, when (as quite a few historians suspect) Bolton probably suffered more than any other English town. It was besieged by the royalists three times, and on the third occasion, in May 1644, the victorious royal army was allowed to plunder and loot the town, the event which became known as 'the Bolton massacre'. In the register the first indication of the war is an entry on 24<sup>th</sup> January 1643: **'Two Soldieres Slayne in the batterye att Leigh'**, possibly referring to the aftermath of a major skirmish fought at Chowbent in early December 1642.

Much more dramatically, on 17<sup>th</sup> February 1643 the names of four men are given in the burial register, which describes them as 'soldiers', together with three named men who were presumably civilians, and six unnamed men laconically described as 'rebells'. The following entry is for Alice, daughter of Nathaniel Rothwell of Bolton 'killed' - and a truly vivid explanation of all of this is given in the register: **'All these were Slayne in a verey hott Skirmish att Bolton lasting 4 howers It was on Thursday Feb. 16 and the Rebells of Wiggan were beaten back aboute 4 o Clock in the afternoone The[y] had shott there greate Cannons against bolton 14 tymes, yett repulsed'**. To me that says volumes about the civil war: it was not king against parliament, but rather Wigan against Bolton.

On 29<sup>th</sup> March there was a mass burial of royalist soldiers: **'23 of the Earle of Darbyes men all in one cave'** (evidently a mistake for 'grave'). And finally, and most remarkably, five closely-written columns of names, with a marginal note: **'All these 78 of Boltoun Slayne the 28 of may 1644'**.

Even at this distance, almost four centuries later, the immediacy and unexpectedness of these horrifying entries in the parish register of a small-ish market town have a powerful and shocking effect. Reading them, I speculate about the circumstances: mass burials take place in the churchyard, shocked and shattered survivors of the massacre gather, smoke drifts across from ravaged, burned buildings, and the people of Bolton wonder what they have done to deserve this cruel judgment by a vengeful God.

Dr Alan Crosby

## COMMUNITY ARCHIVES AND HERITAGE GROUP ANNUAL CONFERENCE, HUDDERSFIELD, 19 JUNE



The editor attended this conference, which was being held outside London for the first time, at Huddersfield University.

As stated in their logo, their role is to support and promote community archives in the UK and Ireland. The subtitle of the conference was the (not very snappy!) *Community voices, city heritage – preserving, sharing & celebrating diverse histories and traditions.*

Everyone is welcome to become involved with and to benefit from the group, simply by requesting to join the email list [www.communityarchives.org.uk](http://www.communityarchives.org.uk).

The conference (including a buffet lunch) was free to attend, and drew people from groups across the country. In addition to the set programme there were displays from several community groups.

The well-organised programme consisted of short presentations, which meant that we were able to hear about a wide variety of projects and their very diverse interpretation of community archives.

The day began in the best way, with the Huddersfield Community Gospel Choir. We clapped, sang and swayed to the highly appropriate 'Somebody to lean on'!

**The keynote address was given by Pen Foreman from Historic England**, who outlined the grants available to people and organisations that wish to explore and celebrate the history of an area. She emphasised that the organisation wishes to make the application process as simple and straightforward as possible.



[www.historicengland.org.uk](http://www.historicengland.org.uk).

**Other grants were detailed by Jack Butterworth, from the National Archives.** He gave a summary of a programme *Spaces, places and belonging*, funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), which will award grants at three levels:

**Individuals** can apply for bursaries of up to £1000 to help them build the skills needed to set up research and

outreach projects.

**Seed-corn grants** of up to £3000 will be available to support early-stage or pilot projects to engage communities with research.

**Larger grants** of up to £30,000 will be awarded for collaborative projects of significance to local people, where community groups are working hand-in-hand with cultural organisations.

Jack was at pains to emphasise that the initiatives would come from applicants, that there would be no rules about how the money should be spent, and (as with Historic England) the application process would be as simple as possible.

The project is being developed. For further information email [sophie.anstedemas@nationalarchives.gov.uk](mailto:sophie.anstedemas@nationalarchives.gov.uk)

After lunch, Jack returned to lead a brief, innovative session, asking participants about various aspects of grant applications – the good and the bad, how the process could be improved, and what kind of projects should be given priority. Attendees responded to the questions via laptop, tablet or phone, and the answers were displayed on the large screen in real time as a word cloud. The results from this informal session will be used as the basis for a larger, formal and detailed survey later in the year.

**CAHG Group of the year award.** Each month the CAHG profiles a community group, and from them chooses the group of the year – this year it is **Our Warwickshire** [www.ourwarwickshire.org.uk](http://www.ourwarwickshire.org.uk)

A particularly poignant presentation came from the archivist of **The Electric Palace in Harwich** [www.electricpalace.com](http://www.electricpalace.com). It was built in 1911, but was ruined in the terrible east coast floods of 1953, as a result of which it and the whole street (including a row of Georgian houses) was scheduled for demolition. After a prolonged period of neglect, in the early 1970s a local doctor, Chris Strachan, helped to lead a campaign to restore the building as a working cinema. Dr Strachan recently died after living with dementia, and may no longer have been aware of how important his contribution was.

The sessions were rounded off as they had begun - with music, this time in the form of a beautiful Indian dance.

Several thoughts occurred to the editor as a personal summary of the day.

- Community archives are the bedrock of the sector – because they are collected from people's lived experiences. They are emphatically not the poor relation of statutory and national archives.
- Culture is not an added extra, but an essential part of helping people to feel part of a community.
- Culture happens everywhere. It often goes unnoticed but should be recorded and celebrated.
- The legacy can take many forms – film, braille, photographs, art, dance, asking people to bring memorabilia, sound recordings, displays, open days, and many more.
- Individual people with passion and commitment can make a difference.
- There are many sources of grants available which could be investigated and approached.
- Individuals and societies can benefit greatly by subscribing to CAHG emails [www.communityarchives.or.uk](http://www.communityarchives.or.uk).

**Marianne Howell**

## **LANCASHIRE ARCHIVES AND LOCAL HISTORY**

**Save the date for these events at the Archives**

- **Saturday 20 September: Heritage Open Day**
- **Saturday 4 October: Fun Palaces**
- **Friday 14 November (evening): Record Office 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event**
- **Friday 28 November (evening): Friends of Lancashire Archives winter social**

Look out for our autumn events programme, and keep an eye on our social media and events pages for more information on bookings.



## Lancashire Local History Publication – *Archives*



The sixth issue of *Archives* is now on sale. Our local history magazine celebrates the rich and diverse history of Lancashire. It is full of stories about the people, places and events that shaped the county.

This edition takes readers across the length and breadth of Lancashire. We start on the water in Preston with Daniel Crowther's examination of the canal basin in Preston, travel with Dave Beeston to childhood memories of life in Skelmersdale, and with Stephen Henders to the Queens of Barton in Downholland. Turn the page to paper making in Darwen with Mike Malley and a page-turner or two from Lancastrian classic crime writer Edith Caroline Rivett (E C R Lorac to many). We delve into Ann Heppell's Chipping archival mystery, and

finish by joining Michael Ackers in the search for a lost Lancashire city... All that and more without leaving the comfort of your armchair!

The magazine is on sale at Lancashire Archives and all Lancashire libraries priced at £3. Please contact Lancashire Archives for postal orders of the magazine, email us at [archives@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:archives@lancashire.gov.uk) or call 01772 533039.

If you have an idea you'd like to discuss, please contact us at [archives@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:archives@lancashire.gov.uk) and we'd be pleased to discuss your suggestion.

You can now read [previous editions of the magazine online](#)

The deadline for submissions of articles for the sixth edition is 1 September 2025.

You can find out more about how to submit an article by visiting our website at: [Ordering copies and publications - Lancashire County Council](#)

## Keeping East Lancashire in the Picture: Named as winner of ARA Archive Volunteering Award 2025

During Volunteers' Week 2025 we were delighted to announce that the Keeping East Lancashire in the Picture project has won this year's national ARA Archive Volunteering Award.

The award was presented at Lancashire Archives on Tuesday 3 June by the President of the Archives and Records Association UK and Ireland. The award is given each year to projects which demonstrate how archives have supported volunteers in the previous 12 months.

The judging panel said:

"This is an ambitious and impressive project with real local significance, reaching groups that are under-represented as users of archives and heritage collections. It is

also a good example of archive services working with colleagues in libraries to increase access to collections and improve the standard of care.”

The Keeping East Lancashire in the Picture (KELP) project has brought together volunteers of different ages and backgrounds to make the historic photographs stored in four Lancashire libraries (and managed by Lancashire Archives) more accessible, inclusive and sustainable. The project was funded by: The National Lottery Heritage Fund (£192k) and The Friends of Lancashire Archives (£30k.)

75 volunteers across the four libraries, supported by a project archivist and project assistant at the time of submitting the award nomination had given 5,489 hours of time and scanned 47,500+ images. These will be made available for people to view free via Lancashire Archives’ Red Rose Collections.

KELP has also worked closely with eight primary schools (engaging with 448 pupils), one secondary school (working with 30 pupils) and two South Asian heritage community groups, to create new photographic content for the collections, and new digital images are being added with significant collections of photographs donated by local voluntary photographic societies, families and other community projects.

As well as improving access to photographic collections in East Lancashire, there is an additional focus on developing opportunities for volunteering within the South Asian heritage community, younger people, and people interested in the history of their local area.

Sharing the project with the people of the area, historic photographs provided to a local newspaper during 2024 resulted in 92,902 views and over 8,300 people engaged with the exhibitions held in the four participating libraries. Over 6,900 people attended KELP events. Lancashire Archives’ collaboration with Aawaz (South Asian Heritage Women's Group) involved 337 visits from volunteers to contribute their time over 278 hours and a joint engagement project with Hyndburn District Council in the Enlighten project resulted in 5,000 attendees over the weekend event.

The project has significantly increased the number of volunteers with Lancashire Archives and introduced archive volunteering in East Lancashire. Volunteers include people of South Asian heritage; two younger volunteers have secured full-time work since finishing a volunteering role; and volunteers have enjoyed organised trips to Lancashire Archives, Queen Street Mill, and had the opportunity to meet the Lord Lieutenant of Lancashire.

Volunteers said:

"As a genuinely computer illiterate, I feel I have gained some skills . . . We have both felt a sense of community, meeting like-minded people. Our overall experience of KELP has been, and no doubt will continue to be, positive and enjoyable. By contributing in our small way to a greater project, we have gained a sense of renewed love of our own heritage"

“Through the journey of the project I have learnt how to digitise images and realised how important it is to preserve our history and culture for our future generations”

"I have been having conversations with my grandchildren about heritage items, they were very keen to know about the project. Lots of questions from my granddaughter, and I have been telling stories about my childhood and how important these items are"

## Clarets Collected: We're funded!

An update on the Clarets Collected project from our Engagement Officer, Keith Burrows:

As you may be aware from recent updates our main focus over the last few weeks has been our crowdfunding campaign to try to raise enough funds to allow Clarets Collected to continue for another two years, leading up to Burnley's Year of Culture celebrations in 2027.



The wonderful news on that is, as celebrated on our [social media post](#), the campaign was ultimately successful! In the end we had 40 different people and organisations support us, with amounts ranging from £2 up to the £5,000 from ex-BFC Chairman Mike Garlick, £9,500 from the Lancashire Culture & Sport Fund, and further generous support from the Friends of Lancashire Archives. The search to recruit Keith's successor for when he retires this September is now on!

Whilst all this has been going on, Clarets Collected has of course been conducting business as usual. Donations are still coming in – recently we had gifts from a gentleman whose donations ranged from "vintage" newspapers to a programme from the Clarets' Europa Cup qualifying round game at Aberdeen in 2018, the latter fitting in very nicely indeed with our ongoing exhibition of "Europe and beyond: Burnley FC's European competitions and worldwide friendlies".

Recent highlights of our "extra" activities include a visit to Coal Clough library - one of the satellite branch libraries in Burnley – to help them celebrate their Golden Anniversary of opening to the local community, and also an evening with prolific Burnley FC author Dave Thomas who talked about his experiences and the people he had met whilst writing his 20+ books on the Clarets.



Here's to another two years of similar events and continued Clarets Collected!

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.



The team use a professional DSLR camera and industry standard imaging software to create images of a range of document types, including bound volumes, maps, parchment, plans, photographs and negatives. [Digitisation service - Lancashire County Council](#)

You can find out more on our website about:

- Ordering copies from the Lancashire Archives & Local History collections
- Our services for digitisation projects for individuals, local historians, academics, museums and galleries. Contact us at: [archivecopies@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:archivecopies@lancashire.gov.uk)

### ***News from the Archives***

Our monthly digest of updates and news from Lancashire Archives & Local History is now available as a direct web-link or in PDF format, depending on your preference.



If you would like to be added to the mailing list for News from the Archives, please contact us at [archives@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:archives@lancashire.gov.uk) and mention which format you would prefer.

## Lancashire Roman Catholic and Methodist registers available on Ancestry

Lancashire Archives have been working in partnership with Ancestry to make more of our church registers available online. Ancestry have recently launched a collection of Lancashire Roman Catholic records and Non-Conformist registers which contains high quality, colour images of many of registers. There are nearly 3,000,000 Roman Catholic church register entries and 450,000 Methodist church entries covering baptisms, marriages and burials. The collections are fully indexed so you can either search by name across the whole set of records or browse through the images of an individual register.

Ancestry can be accessed free of charge at Lancashire Archives and in any Lancashire library.

**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](mailto:mariannerh@hotmail.co.uk) Marianne Howell, Newsletter editor.

## PHILIP WALSH

**Contact details:** email [lancashire1182@gmail.com](mailto:lancashire1182@gmail.com)

### **Subjects:**

- Friends of Real Lancashire
- My walk around the boundary of historic Lancashire
- Lancashire Constabulary Mounted Branch - Its history and present organisation
- Tracing your police ancestors
- 

**Areas where you are willing to give talks:** Anywhere in Historic Lancashire (in person only).

**About the speaker:** I am a retired Lancashire Constabulary police officer. I am chairman of Friends of Real Lancashire and editor of its magazine *The Lancastrian*. I have also given talks on: *Marton (Blackpool) - A Domesday village*, and *My life with Gilbert and Sullivan* with songs. My talks are illustrated and entertaining!

## GARETH WINROW

**Contact details:** [garethwinrow@yahoo.com](mailto:garethwinrow@yahoo.com)

**Areas where you are willing to give talks:** As I live in Oxford, I am willing to give talks on Zoom. However, I do intend to go to Lancashire occasionally and talks could then be arranged at those times.

### **Subject(s) covered:**

- Jack Winrow (1867-1914) and the Pretoria Pit disaster in Westhoughton

- Ellen Smith/Harrison or Zorah/Zora Harris (1908-1983): Silk winder and blackfaced music hall singer from Bolton
- A Self-Made man: Charles Hornby (1816-1881) - Manager of Pin Mill, Bolton
- Poachers and Gangsters: The Jaques brothers and the notorious Long Company of Prescott
- A Watermill in Windmill Land: The Sharples family of Freckleton
- The Life of Charles Hornby Junior (1844-1912): From the cotton town of Bolton to farming on the Canadian Prairies

**About the speaker:** Gareth is an author, researcher and public speaker who was born and raised in Bolton. He worked in Istanbul for 20 years as a Professor of International Relations. He has recently been focusing on local, social and family history. He is the author of *Whispers across continents: In search of the Robinsons* (Amberley, 2019), and *The butcher, the picture-frame maker....Stories of Middle Way* (The Book Guild, 2023).

His latest book - *Past lives, forgotten stories: Cobbled patchworks of history* (The Book Guild, to be published in 2026) - is a local, social and family history concentrating on the lives of intriguing individuals from his own family who had an impact on a changing Lancashire in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Gareth is keen to give talks about chapters in this forthcoming book to local and family history societies in the Lancashire area.

## NEWS FROM MEMBER SOCIETIES

### GLOBAL LINK

*We welcome one of the latest groups to join the Federation [a bargain at only £8 per year! – Ed.]. Here, they outline their purpose and some of the projects they have been involved with. We look forward to hearing more in the future.*



We are a small educational charity in Lancaster and have been running community heritage projects since 2014, the first being [Documenting Dissent](#) (2014-16), which worked with adult and youth

volunteers to research histories of dissent and activism in Lancaster. The success of this programme led to a series of smaller projects which added to the Documenting Dissent platform, including the creation of an [LGBTQ+ Lancaster Town Trail](#) and several projects linked to First World War heritage researching [conscientious objectors](#), [women on the home front](#) and [postwar efforts for peace](#).

This last work led to a major European peace heritage project, [Learning from the Past](#) (2018-21) with activities spanning seven countries. The programme resulted in an [online exhibition](#), a physical exhibition at Lancaster City Museum and a follow-up

[training programme in heritage and global learning](#) for teachers, artists, youth and heritage workers from across Europe.

We recently completed our National Lottery Heritage Fund project, [Migration Stories North West](#) (2021-24), which involved the creation of an online interactive [migration map](#) featuring more than a hundred stories of individuals who migrated in or out of our region from the Roman period to the present day. Like all our work, this project was delivered in collaboration with local heritage organisations and historians, as well as schools, youth and community groups. We have published a [short article](#) about our methodology in the open access journal *Policy and Practice: A Development Education Review*.



Global Link's latest community heritage project is exploring the [history and heritage of Carnforth Library](#) as it approaches its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2026. This Heritage Fund project aims to engage a wide range of the Carnforth community and will lead to the production of a booklet, exhibition and library open day.

*The official opening of the library on 17 September 1936 (Red Rose collections ID: 226871)*

We are grateful to have support from other LLHF members including Lancashire Archives & Local History, Lancaster University's Regional Heritage Centre and the Mourholme Local History Society, as well as Lancaster City Museums. The project has started well and already revealed some fascinating stories. More information about our outputs will follow!

**Alison Lloyd Williams – Project Coordinator**

## REGIONAL HERITAGE CENTRE

**New development for the RHC.** Lancaster University is undergoing some significant changes and, as part of that, the RHC has been designated a Research Centre within the University's new School of Global Affairs. The school comprises History, Politics, Philosophy and Religion as well as International Relations, Languages and Global Cultures. Dr Chris Donaldson, RHC Director, writes, 'This development reflects the RHC's long and continued commitment to dynamic, place-based study and engagement, and aligns with the broader strategic direction of the University and Faculty'.

## BURNLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Meetings are held on Wednesdays, starting at 2.00pm.  
St. John's RC Church Hall, Bracewell Street, Burnley BB10 1TB

- **10 September: *From Battleground to Underground: a Lancashire architect* with Denise North.**

- 8 October: *The Book of St. Peter* with Annette Roadley.
- 12 November: *Railway development in Lancashire* with Dr. Paul Salveson.
- 10 December: Annual General Meeting.

## MOURHOLME LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

**Wednesday 24 September 7.30pm:** *The tides of Morecambe Bay*, with Mike Warren Gaskell Hall, Silverdale LA5 0RA

Visitors £2.00. To enquire about membership [www.mourholme.co.uk](http://www.mourholme.co.uk)

	<p>St. Oswald's Church, Mourholme Local History Society and Archbishop Hutton School invite you to:</p>
<h3 style="text-align: center;">WARTON HISTORY WEEKEND</h3>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October</b></p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>10.30am to 4.00pm</b></p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>St Oswald's Church Warton and Archbishop Hutton School Warton LA5 9QU</b></p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Free Admission and Parking</b></p>	
<p>A weekend of events to celebrate the local history of the Ancient Parish of Warton.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>A series of talks</b> at St Oswald's Church ranging from the Iron Age Fort to World War I and the changes in Warton through postcards.</li> <li>• <b>A number of exhibitors</b> from historical organisations in and around Lancashire and Cumbria at Archbishop Hutton School.</li> <li>• <b>Coffee and Teas</b> available</li> <li>• <b>For further details on times of talks and visits to the Old School Brewery</b> check <a href="http://www.mourholme.co.uk">www.mourholme.co.uk</a> or email <a href="mailto:wartonheritageevent@hotmail.com">wartonheritageevent@hotmail.com</a></li> </ul>	

## LANCASHIRE FAMILY HISTORY AND HERALDRY SOCIETY

**Thursday 7 August:** *Cuthbert the Bad & Lancashire witches*, with Colin Penny – Chorley branch

**Tuesday 12 August:** *The industrial heritage of Leyland and Farington*, with Peter Houghton – over Zoom



**Wednesday 3 September: *The man who shod horses: the family history of John Westhead told in original letters*, with Martin Jones – Fylde branch**

**Tuesday 9 September: *Using newspapers for family history research*, with Pauline Chapman – over Zoom**

**Wednesday 1 October: *Calder Valley history*, with Roger Frost – Rossendale branch**

**Tuesday 14 October: *Validating family history research*, with Carol Lee – over Zoom**

For details of branches and their arrangements for events, as well as how to access Zoom talks (under 'Society Virtual Branch'), see the website [www.lfhhs.org](http://www.lfhhs.org).

## **HISTORIC SOCIETY OF LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE**



Since the first edition of the society's Transactions in 1849, over 160 editions have been published. The editions from 1849 to 2012 have been digitised. These can be searched by keyword online (under the Archives tab).

This collection represents an unrivalled portrait of the history of the area, now freely available for researchers.

For details of membership and all other aspects of the society see the website [www.hslc.org.uk](http://www.hslc.org.uk).

## **LANCASHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

**Saturday 13 September: Guided walk** starting at the Chapter House at Cockerham and continuing with a walk around Pilling. Meet at the café in Wallings Ice Cream Parlour before going to the rendezvous point for the 1.30pm start.

Everyone is welcome to join LAS: by becoming a member, you are helping to support archaeology in Lancashire. Join as a member for £12 per year, families £20, £5 for students. Click on the link to the subscription form at the bottom of the web page. Alternatively, join as a guest for occasional talks via Zoom and pay a small donation of £3. <https://lancsarchaeologicalsociety.wordpress.com/>



## **FRIENDS OF PENDLE HERITAGE**

**Tuesday 5 August 2025, 2.00pm**

**A guided walk of a section of Rimington Heritage Trail from Martin Top Chapel, led by Trevor Marklew.**

*Martin Top Chapel, Rimington BB7 4EG (Credit Rimington Heritage Trail)*

Suitable clothing and footwear for walking is recommended. No dogs please. The walk will be followed by a talk about the chapel by Pastor Alan Marsden, and refreshments. Members £3, Non-members £5.



**Tuesday 16 September 2025, 2.30pm**  
**Members' only event.** Higherford Methodist Church, Barrowford BB9 6JH. No charge.

**Linda Sawley**, award-winning author and charity stalwart, will give a talk on **Elizabeth Parker**, who lived in Georgian times at Browsholme Hall, near Clitheroe, but on her marriage moved to Alkincoates Hall, Colne (*right*). Elizabeth's diaries were used for the design and planning of the gardens at Pendle Heritage Centre. She was a woman before her time with two scandalous marriages, according to her family!

**Tuesday 21 October 2025, 2.30pm: Members' only event. FoPH AGM** followed by a local sideshow quiz by Mrs Andrea Smith and refreshments.

No charge. Higherford Methodist Church.

For details of these events email [info@foph.co.uk](mailto:info@foph.co.uk) or phone 07787 631078. To enquire about membership, see the website [www.foph.co.uk](http://www.foph.co.uk)

## **PRESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Talks take place on the 2nd Monday of the month at Central Methodist Church, Lune Street, Preston, PR1 2NL. Doors open from 6.30pm, talks 7.15-8.30pm.

**8 September: *The 'Paupers' Rebellion' of 1858: Poor relief, industrial distress and the labour test in mid C19th Preston*, with Dr Lewis Darwen.**

**13 October: *'The Battle of Bamber Bridge'*, with Prof. Alan Rice.**

**10 November: *Cornelia Connelly: Blissful bride to notorious nun*, with Judy Beeston.**

See the website for further information [www.prestonhistoricalsociety.org.uk/](http://www.prestonhistoricalsociety.org.uk/).

Visitors pay £5.00 per talk (free for members). Contact Patricia Harrison, membership secretary, for information about how to join the society [patricia@prestonhistoricalsociety.org.uk](mailto:patricia@prestonhistoricalsociety.org.uk).

## LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

**Friday 19 September 2.00pm: Guided tour of Hoghton Tower**

**Wednesday 15 October: Talk about Hoghton Tower (over Zoom)**



**Wednesday 12 November: Thomas Tyldesley and the Lancashire plot, with Anne Charlesworth.** Anne is a member of the society and has published a book on this subject.

See the website for details of how to book for an event, how to join the society, and details of the Thomas Tyldesley book [www.landcas.org.uk](http://www.landcas.org.uk).

## FRIENDS OF WINCKLEY SQUARE

**Programme of summer walks.** All walks cost £5.00. Please see the Trybooking links below for details, locations and to book a ticket.

**Tuesday 5 August 2.00-3.15pm: *The Horrocks' family connections*, led by Susan Douglass.** Meet in the centre of Winckley Square. Horrocks, Miller & Co. was one of the largest cotton manufacturing businesses in Preston by the 1840s. The two families intermarried and occupied the premier residences of the square. Book via <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/ENHQ>

**Tuesday 5 August 7.00-8.30pm: *Edith Rigby trail*, led by Judy Beeston.** Meet in the centre of Winckley Square. Follow in the footsteps of the Preston champion of votes for women. Book via <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/ENHR>

**Saturday 9 August 10.00am-12.30pm: *The old tram road route: Bamber Bridge*, led by Nigel Hardacre.** Meet 9.45am outside Ye Olde Hob Inn, Bamber Bridge PR5 6EP. Book via <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/ENHP>

**Wednesday 16 August 7.00-9.00pm: *All the bridges that made Preston – BY BIKE*, led by Michael Akers.** Meet at Old Penwortham bridge. A 4<sup>1/2</sup> mile tour along the Guild Wheel, finishing at Halfpenny bridge at Brockholes. The tour will explore the construction and importance of the bridges. Book via <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/ENHT>

**Tuesday 19 August 7.00-8.30pm: *The bridges that made Preston*, led by Michael Akers.** Meet at Old Penwortham bridge (Broadgate side). The walk explores the construction and importance of the bridges, ending at the site of the old tram road bridge. Book via <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/ENHO>

**Friday 22 August 2.00-3.15pm: *Servants – the hidden occupants of Winckley Square*, led by Susan Douglass.** Meet in the centre of Winckley Square. Find out

about the lives of some of these hidden residents on whom the wealthy householders depended, and what became of them. Book via <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/ENHW>

**Saturday 30 August 10.00am-12noon: *Preston suffragettes and suffragists*, led by Helen Howell.** Meet at the Obelisk, Flag Market, Cheapside PR1 2AP. Learn about the differing tactics used by women fighting for the vote in Preston, some peaceful and others violent. Book via <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/76839>

**Sunday 7 September 11.00am-12.30pm: *'Drawing board dreams' and the reinvention of Preston*, led by Michael Akers.** Meet outside the Guildhall, Lancaster Road PR1 1HT. The walk will explore the ambitious plans of the 1960s and '70s to remake Preston with modernist buildings. The tour takes in the bus station, and explores the physical legacy of these ideas. Book via <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/ENHK>

For more information about the Friends see <https://www.winckleysquarepreston.org/>

## BARNOLDSWICK HISTORY SOCIETY



The society paid a well-attended visit to Ghyll Church on a beautiful summer's evening. Located at the end of a long, narrow lane, this is a place to escape from the hustle and bustle of daily life. The church is very interesting and provides a glimpse of pre-industrial Barnoldswick. There is some debate about why the church was built well over a mile from the centre of today's town.

*Ghyll Church in 1948 (credit to Barnoldswick History Society)*

The church still retains its fine Jacobean pews and a splendid oak triple decker pulpit. There is a self-guided tour which invites you to climb to the top deck. The view is magnificent.

The church is open at weekends in the summer and refreshments are available in the nearby coach house. The courgette cake is delicious!

The church's website <https://barlickbracewellparishes.org.uk/st-mary-le-ghyll-church/>

## CHADDERTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The society is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. The May edition of the newsletter *The Griffin* summarises its foundation, and its activities in the years since 1975. The article concludes:

*After half a century, the Chadderton Historical Society has made remarkable progress and is now firmly established and respected. It looks to the future with*



*confidence and enthusiasm as it continues to preserve and promote the significant and unique history of Chadderton, the town in which we should all take great pride.*

The newsletter continues its series of 'Townships that never developed' by focusing on Rumworth, within the parish of Deane.

Another article outlines the history of railway lines in the area, and mentions that a line which bisected Chadderton included the Werneth Incline which, with a gradient of 1 in 27, was the steepest passenger gradient in Britain.

*Former Oldham Werneth station in 1949. The line is now part of Metrolink. Photo courtesy of Manchester Locomotive Society*



All enquiries, including membership details, can be made to the secretary by emailing [chaddtown@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:chaddtown@yahoo.co.uk) or phoning 0161 652 3930.

## VICTORIAN SOCIETY – MANCHESTER BRANCH



### Castlefield: History and development

**Tuesday 9 September 12.30-2.00pm.** The walk will be led by architect Ken Moth, an expert on building conservation. Meet outside the Atlas Bar (376 Deansgate, Manchester M3 4LY). £10 – pay on the day, but book in advance (numbers limited)  
Email: [manchester@victoriansociety.org.uk](mailto:manchester@victoriansociety.org.uk)

At the heart of Manchester's transport development in the Industrial Revolution, by 1970 Castlefield was a forgotten area of scrap yards, barbed wire fences, guard dogs and unsavoury night-time activities. Today it is a conservation area and a vibrant part of modern Manchester. Join us to find out what makes Castlefield such a remarkable part of the city.

**G F Bodley and St Augustine's Pendlebury,  
Bolton Road, Manchester M27 8UX**

**Saturday 25 October 11.00am-2.30pm**  
£10 – pay on the day. Booking recommended  
[manchester@victoriansociety.org.uk](mailto:manchester@victoriansociety.org.uk)

Introductory talk by Neil Darlington, editor of the Dictionary of Victorian Architects  
[www.manchestervictorianarchitects.org.uk](http://www.manchestervictorianarchitects.org.uk)

Described as Bodley's masterpiece, and known locally as 'The miners' cathedral', Pevsner





described it as one of the greatest and most moving of all Victorian churches, with an interior of 'breathtaking majesty and purity'.

The **Spring newsletter** of the group contains informative articles, such as:

***Walter J Pearce and Opus Sectile Mosaics.*** Pearce (1856-1942), of Manchester and Wilmslow, was well known for his stained glass, but he also developed a medium he called Vitremure, a combination of traditional mosaic, and of stained glass without leading, which was a variant of opus sectile mosaics. Examples of his work can be found in several locations in the north west.

***Lark Hill House, Astley, Leigh – Richard Fletcher & Stephanie Boydell.*** Built about 1910 in the Arts & Crafts style, probably for the managers of the Astley and Tyldesley collieries. Attributed to Arthur Henry Walsingham. (Presently used as a nursery.)

***Lloyd George, Lord Leverhulme and the Bolton architect Jonathan Simpson – Michael Shippobottom.*** Simpson was said to be Lord Leverhulme's closest friend, and was one of the party at the latter's Wirral home, Thornton Manor, when Lloyd George came to stay for a few days. The article has details of some of Simpson's many commissions.

Contact [manchester@victoriansociety.org.uk](mailto:manchester@victoriansociety.org.uk) for much more information.



The Victorian Society nationally has announced its annual list of the ten most endangered buildings. Among them is Gwalia, off Queens Drive, in West Derby, Liverpool. It is a Grade II listed building, dating from 1854, architect unknown. It was formerly known as Sandfield Tower. It was built for Joseph Edwards, a merchant who traded with South America. It has been disused since the 1980s. The

current owners claimed in 2016 that they were in discussions with potential buyers who might convert the building to apartments.

## NEWS ROUNDUP



### **Manchester Central Library and Town Hall Extension will be temporarily closed for a Major ICT Investment.**

Manchester Central Library and the Town Hall extension will be closed for three weeks. From **2 to 24 August** there will be no access for the public or staff while the ICT networks and Wi-Fi systems are replaced and upgraded..

## NEW WEBSITE FROM HISTORIC ENGLAND

Historic England has launched a new website [Local Heritage Hub](#) which is a database containing historic images, timelines, aerial photos, videos and local stories. It is searchable by place, for example city, district or county, including historic counties such as Cumberland.

It is possible to use the hub's photos for websites and newsletters. Full guidance at [Using Images from the Historic England Archive | Historic England](#).

## LOCAL MEMBER GRANTS SCHEME FROM LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

This scheme is designed to support the work of voluntary, community and faith sector groups. The grants can be used to fund projects that will directly benefit the community.

Groups can apply for a grant and their local county councillor will decide which applications to accept, which they will fund from their own budget. Each county councillor is allocated £2,000 for a financial year.

To qualify, groups will need to satisfy the following criteria:

- have a constitution, set of rules, or articles of association in place
- have a group bank or building society account
- are a not-for-profit organisation

Projects must fit in with the council's corporate priorities, particularly 'better lives for all' and 'stronger communities'.

For further details see <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/council/grants/local-member-grants-scheme/>.

## NEW EXHIBITION OPENS AT ELIZABETH GASKELL'S HOUSE: *I'VE NEVER READ ELIZABETH GASKELL*

A bold new exhibition has opened at Elizabeth Gaskell's House this summer, open until Sunday 9 November. It introduces a new view of the author and her work. *I've never read Elizabeth Gaskell* follows a residency completed by three young writers who have spent the spring months being inspired by Manchester's only literary house. The writers are Georgia Affonso, Princess Arinola Adegbite **and** Guruleen Kahlo. The project has been supported by The National Lottery Heritage Fund in partnership with The Writing Squad and Manchester City of Literature.

This is an immersive exhibition that flows throughout the Georgian villa, with the writers' words illuminating the experience.



Elizabeth Gaskell house  
84 Plymouth Grove  
Manchester M13 9LW

[www.elizabethgaskellhouse.co.uk](http://www.elizabethgaskellhouse.co.uk)

## BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR LOCAL HISTORY



**Wednesday 8 October 7.00pm – Virtual talk**  
***Votes for women – Everywhere: 1866-1928***  
**with Elizabeth Crawford**

During the struggle for female enfranchisement, London was the scene of mass rallies and protests which naturally gained the most attention. But local suffrage societies were formed all over the country, and this talk will discuss the growth of the movement and suggest ways that a local historian may uncover how – and by whom - the campaign was conducted in their area.

**Elizabeth Crawford** is the author of a number of books and articles on the British women's suffrage movement. Particularly relevant to this talk are *The British Women's Suffrage Movement, 1866-1928: a reference guide* and *The British Women's Suffrage Movement in Britain and Ireland: a regional survey*. She has been awarded an OBE for 'services to education'.

Booking is open until Wednesday 8 October. £5.00 for non-members. Details of how to book for this virtual talk are on the website. A recording will be made available for a short time after the talk for registered participants. [www.balh.org.uk](http://www.balh.org.uk).

## HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

### MANCHESTER WITH LIVERPOOL & CHESTER GROUP

**Saturday 18 October 12noon: *Manchester and transatlantic slavery*, with Dr Natlie Zacek.** Dr Zacek is a senior lecturer in English and American Studies, University of Manchester, and has made a special study of slavery.

The Friends Meeting House, 6 Mount Street, Manchester, M2 5NS

Entry to meetings is free to HA members, non-members £4 per meeting.

For further information, please contact Sahand Razavi on 0161 2330818 or alternatively through email at [srazavi@live.co.uk](mailto:srazavi@live.co.uk)

## SHOWTOWN HISTORY CENTRE



Showtown is a major new museum in Blackpool, with immersive displays, interactive exhibits, and a programme of live entertainment. It has been designed to reflect Blackpool's unique place in seaside entertainment. At one time there were several theatres, all of which would be fully booked for every show for the whole of the summer season. Every British major star – and Frank Sinatra! – appeared there.

As part of the Blackpool Heritage and Museum Trust, Showtown is also responsible for the History Centre, through which everyone can discover the untold stories of the town and its people. It covers everything from family history to historic events, and also houses some of the museum collections.

Showtown – Corner of Adelaide Street West and Bank Hey Street FY1 4TQ. 0808 175 6929

Showtown History Centre – First Floor, Central Library, Queen Street FY1 1PX. 01253 478090.

## PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST



### ***THE RENEWAL OF POST-WAR MANCHESTER: planning, architecture and the state***

**Richard Brook**

Manchester University Press, 2025

ISBN: 9781526154972 £40.00

[www.manchesteruniversitypress.co.uk](http://www.manchesteruniversitypress.co.uk)

A compelling account of the project to transform post-war Manchester, revealing the clash between utopian vision and compromised reality.

Urban renewal in Britain was thrilling in its vision, yet partial and incomplete in its implementation. For the first time, this deep study of a renewal city reveals the complex networks of actors behind physical change and stagnation in post-war Britain.

The book explores the relationships between Whitehall legislation, its interpretation by local government planning officers and the on-the-ground impact through urban architectural projects. Each chapter highlights the connections between policy goals, global narratives and the design and construction of cities.

The Cold War, decolonialisation, rising consumerism and the oil crisis all feature in a richly illustrated account of architecture and planning in post-war Manchester.

**About the author:** Dr Richard Brook is an architect, historian and Professor in Architecture at Lancaster University. He has dedicated more than two decades to understanding the post-war development of Manchester and cities like it. His core interests lie in the relationships between space, politics and society, as manifested through the built environment.

## ***BRITAIN'S 'MR X':***

### ***Sir Frank Roberts and the making of British foreign policy, 1930-68***

**Jonathan Colman**

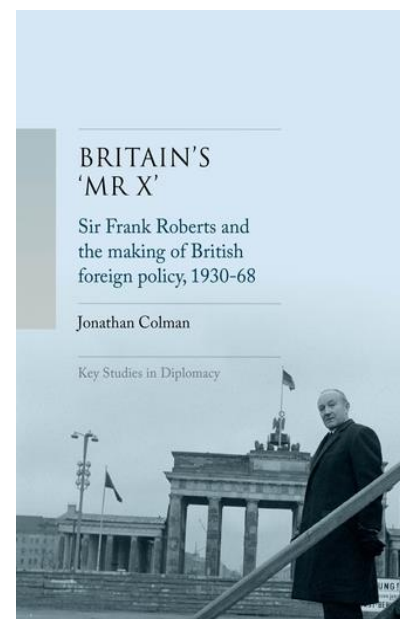
Manchester University Press, 2025

£85.00, ISBN 9781526180964

<https://tinyurl.com/yjm5k4mk>

Sir Frank Roberts (1907-98) was the grandson of the Blackburn filmmaker James Kenyon and spent some of his early years in Southport, Rishton and Accrington. After joining the Foreign Office in 1930, he served in numerous capitals to become one of the best regarded diplomats of his generation. He shaped British strategy in the early Cold War and played an integral role in the rearmament and NATO membership of West Germany. Meticulously researched, the book explores Roberts' background and his eventful career.

**About the author:** Dr Jonathan Colman is Senior Lecturer in International History at the University of Lancashire. A former By-Fellow at the Churchill Archives Centre, Churchill College, Cambridge, he has published widely on British and American foreign policies and diplomatic representation.





# REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

## Processional cultures in Lancashire and Greater Manchester



(Red Rose Collections, iBase ID: 300950).

Dr Louise Platt and Chloe Higginbottom are researching processional cultures in the area. They wish to map processions in the region, to see what has been lost, what remains, and even record one-off events.

*St James' church, Clayton-le-Moors, Whit procession 1925.*

Individuals and societies are encouraged to complete a very short survey to start the investigation, adding any processions or parades in their areas

<https://forms.office.com/e/3BjXy6WBL>

Chloe is a research assistant at Manchester Metropolitan University, working with Dr Louise Platt, Reader in Place Studies. Dr Platt's research focus is on placemaking and festivity with a particular focus on walking practices, processional cultures, and experiences of festivals and leisure spaces.

If you have any queries or wish to find out more, email Chloe

[chloehigginbottom0421@gmail.com](mailto:chloehigginbottom0421@gmail.com)

## COPY DATE FOR NEXT EDITION:

**MONDAY 20 OCTOBER**

The editor welcomes your submissions:

- News from your society – past and future events
- Research articles (ask for our guidelines)
- Requests for information
- Mystery photographs
- Helpful tips for other societies
- Publications of interest
- Speaker details
- Etc.!