



LANCASHIRE LOCAL HISTORY FEDERATION

NEWSLETTER ISSUE NO. 56, AUGUST 2026

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Editor: Marianne Howell
01942 492855 mariannerh@hotmail.co.uk

Chair: Dr Alan Crosby	01772 827835
Secretary: John Wilson	03330 062270
Treasurer: Peter Bamford	01253 796184
Membership Secretary: Zoë Lawson	01772 865347
Website Manager: Peter Houghton	01772 641604

Please see the website www.lancashirehistory.org for more contact details.

DATE FOR THE DIARY

FEDERATION DAY SCHOOL: SATURDAY 24 OCTOBER

Lancashire Diarists

The Federation is organising a day school on Saturday 24 October on **Lancashire diarists**. There is an excellent line-up of speakers, starting with **Dr Alan Crosby** who will give a general overview of Lancashire diarists. Alan is a freelance local historian, editor and lecturer and is Chair of the Federation. He has edited *The Family Records of Benjamin Shaw, Mechanic of Dent, Dolphinholme and Preston, 1772-1841*, published by the Record Society of Lancashire & Cheshire, vol. 130, 1991. The original diary is held at Lancashire Archives. Alan has also researched a wide range of other Lancashire diarists.

This will be followed by a talk from **Alan Roby** on the diaries of Nelly 'Ellen' Weeton (1776-1849). Alan is a local historian who has edited the journal entries and other

writings of this interesting woman, published in the book entitled *Miss Weeton, Governess and Traveller*, published by Wigan Archives in 2016. The original records are held in Wigan and Leigh Archives and form an excellent source for women's history in the early 19th century.

In the afternoon **Dr Eleanor Fisher** will be looking at the diaries of James Garnett of Waddow Hall (1858-1900), a cotton manufacturer of Low Moor Mill, Clitheroe. Eleanor is an independent social historian based in Lancaster, and has been involved in the transcription of the Garnett diaries. These diaries covering the years 1852-1914 are available as a searchable transcription at Lancashire Archives, along with the original records, and are an important source for Lancashire textile history.

The day will conclude with a talk by **Andrew Hobbs** on the diaries of Anthony Hewitson, who was a provincial journalist in the nineteenth century working in Preston and covers the years from 1865-1912. Andrew is an Honorary Senior Lecturer at the University of Lancashire. He specialises in the history of journalism and was formerly a reporter himself. Andrew has edited the diaries of Anthony Hewitson which have been published in 2 volumes by Open Book – Vol. 1 in 2022, and Vol. 2, just recently in 2026. The original diaries are now in Lancashire Archives.

The day school will be held at one of our more popular venues, the Preston Masonic Hall, which has plenty of local parking and easy access by bus or train. It's sure to be a most interesting day, so do come along. [\[See the booking form, pages 6&7\]](#)

HISTORIC PRESTON

**'At Home' with Preston Historical Society and the Friends of Winckley Square
in partnership with Lancashire Local History Federation**

Each year the Federation invites a member society to host an 'At Home', where attendees can learn about the area. On 4 July this year Preston Historical Society and the Friends of Winckley Square worked together to provide an ambitious and attractive programme. We met first in the newly-reopened Harris and were greeted



by the host, Patricia Harrison. She introduced the Mayor, Nweeda Khan, who is one of a small number of women to have become mayor, and the first Muslim. Nweeda gave a warm welcome to the participants and hoped that they would enjoy learning more about the rich history of Preston.

The keynote speaker was **Steve Harrison**, whose theme was ***How what happened in Preston changed Lancashire, Britain and the world***. After outlining its key strategic position – beginning with the advantages of its prehistoric geology and geography – he used five examples to illustrate how apt his title was.

The Battle of Preston 17 August 1648 during the Civil War, in which the Royalist forces were defeated. This was a major contribution towards ending absolute

monarchy, and the regicide of Charles I in 1649. It heralded the Commonwealth and major legislative changes still relevant today.

The 1715 Battle of Preston was the last to be fought on English soil. It laid bare the lack of popular English support for the Stuart cause. The Jacobites surrendered and the Hanoverian King George I was henceforth secure. Over 600 Jacobite prisoners were spared execution but shipped to the Americas instead as indentured labourers.

Sir Richard Arkwright was born in Preston. His influence on the industrialisation of Britain, and indeed the world, is immeasurable. With his invention of the spinning frame, later adapted to be water-powered, his patent of a rotary carding engine, and his formation of factories to produce cotton, he laid the foundations of turning what was literally a cottage industry into the mass production of cotton cloth and other materials.

Joseph Livesey and the Temperance movement. From humble beginnings in Walton-le-Dale, Livesey became a successful merchant and a prolific philanthropist. He and other men signed a pledge in 1832 to abstain from intoxicating liquors. The temperance movement grew exponentially, building temperance halls and hotels and forming societies. It spread throughout Britain and to other countries, forming one of the largest social movements of the nineteenth century.

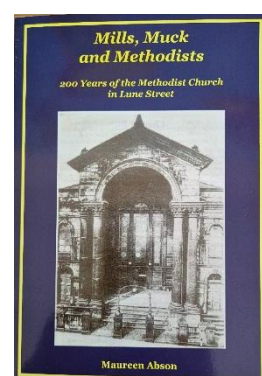
Preston North End football club Its influence cannot be overstated. PNE was a founder member of the Football League in 1888, and pivotal in writing the rules for the new professional league structure. Football is, of course, the most popular team game in the world.

The first round of visits then followed. Visitors had opted for a first and second choice in advance, so everyone was able to see two aspects of Preston history (choices below). After that, we moved to Central Methodist Church in Lune Street for a relaxed lunch. We were then treated to a singing session from **Jennifer Reid**, whose theme was ***Echoes of the industrial North: Lancashire dialect work songs and broadside ballads***. Jennifer combined extensive research and a passion for the subject with wholehearted renderings of the songs.

Whilst at the church it was possible to buy copies of the book *Mills, muck and Methodists*, by Maureen Abson. From their formation as a small group of worshippers in 1759, Methodism built a small chapel in Back Lane in 1787; the present church was built in 1817.

The guided walks offered a rich assortment of different aspects of Preston's history, and were led by knowledgeable people. They were:

- A tour of the Harris
- A tour of Lancashire Archives & Local History
- Preston: the Jerusalem of Temperance
- The cotton lords of Preston
- Preston: it's a gas



- Drawing board dreams: the reinvention of Preston
- From Anchor to Plau: historic inns and taverns of Friargate
- Edith Rigby: a life that scandalised Preston
- Old and new: Preston's tram bridge and its Lancaster Canal heritage

It was clear that a great deal of planning had gone into the day, thanks to the efforts of many people – organisers, speakers, walk leaders, stewards and others. It counts as one of the most successful of the 'At Home' events held in collaboration with the Federation.

Marianne Howell

NEWS FROM LANCASHIRE ARCHIVES

NEW EDITION OF ARCHIVES Our eighth issue of Archives celebrates another year of anniversaries for the Archives, as we celebrate 40 years of the Friends of



Lancashire Archives, our amazing supporters' group who since 1986 have raised over £400,000 for projects at the Archives. This edition brings our usual wide range of themes and historical periods. **Bernard Melling** looks at the contemporary view of the county asylum at Lancaster Moor, and **Keith Vernon** examines the story behind the building of the Avenham Institute in Preston. Two remarkable lives are shared, by **Jill Liddington** recounting her research into the Nelson suffragist and campaigner, Selina Cooper, and by **Shaun Corkerry** who gives us an insight into the inventions of John Kitchen of Lancaster. We're pleased to share

an update on the project to commemorate the 1826 Weavers' Uprising in Pennine Lancashire, and **Janet Rigby** brings us further stories from Lancashire's inland waterways.

Archives is available to purchase in all Lancashire County Council libraries and at Lancashire Archives, priced at £3. It is possible to order copies online to be posted out to you; to read previous editions online; to discuss an idea for an article for a future edition; to read how to submit an article. Email archives@lancashire.gov.uk for further information.

HANDS ON WITH HISTORY - FAMILY HISTORY DROP-IN If you're searching for your ancestors and need a little help or advice, we have volunteers from Preston Family History and Heraldry Society available to answer your questions, help you with your family history research and show you family history resources available that we've paid for so you don't have to. These are **free** sessions, with no booking required, which take place every third Friday of the month from 10:00am to 12:00pm.

NEW PUBLIC ONLINE CATALOGUE The catalogue continues to provide online access to information about the collections held by the Archives, with improved

search functionality across the database. Over time the service will be developing further online digitised collections access, making more born digital collections accessible via the catalogue, and adding new collections guides and indexes.

Access to the catalogue is through the Archives service website or via the existing web address at <https://archivecat.lancashire.gov.uk> If you experience any difficulties in accessing the catalogue, please contact the service at archives@lancashire.gov.uk.

If you are a member of a Lancashire family or local history group and would like to request an online tutorial for your members to familiarise yourselves with using the catalogue, please contact us.

TEACHING LOCAL HISTORY IN SCHOOLS

We would like to hear your views and experience

Lancashire Local History Federation would greatly appreciate details of the local history work being undertaken in schools, both at primary and secondary level. The objectives are to discover the themes being covered and the sources being used, along with any observations on matters arising.

Brief comments on any aspect of the work being undertaken would be welcome, as would more substantial contributions, perhaps highlighting the successes achieved; any problems arising; and/or the reactions of those being taught. Contributions would clearly be welcome from teachers, but also from those involved in assisting them, including local history librarians and members of local history societies.

Space will be made in future newsletters to publicise the responses and to encourage discussion about them. Email the editor with your views mariannerh@hotmail.co.uk.

Geoff Timmins

Dr Timmins is Emeritus Professor in the School of Humanities, Language and Global Studies at the University of Lancashire. His research interests include the learning and teaching of history.



Lancashire Diarists

Saturday 24 October

At Preston Masonic Hall

Ashlar House, Saul Street, Preston, PR1 2QU

Programme

09.30 – 10.00	Assemble & coffee
10.00 – 11.00	Dr Alan Crosby Telling in their own words: diaries and autobiography in local history
11.00 – 11.15	Short break
11.15 – 12.15	Alan Roby Jane Austen and Nelly Weeton's battle against prejudice and bigotry in Hanoverian England
12.15 – 13.45	Lunch
13.45 – 14.45	Dr Eleanor Fisher The diaries of James Garnett of Waddow Hall 1858-1900 - a cotton manufacturer's world
14.45 – 15.00	Short break
15.00 – 16.00	Dr Andrew Hobbs The diaries of Anthony Hewitson (1836-1912) and what they can and can't tell us

Fee **£22 (to include lunch)** **£14.00 (day school only)**

Applications must be received by 15 October

Booking form for Day School 2026

Please complete and return to:

Zoë Lawson, 'Old Cuddy Cottage', Cuddy Hill, Woodplumpton, PR4 0BP

Telephone: 07471908077 email: elizoelaw@gmail.com

Please reserve me ____ place(s)

I do/ do not require a map of the location

I wish to book ____ places for lunch

Choose from: Hotpot ____ or Veggie lasagne ____

Name(s)

Address

.....Postcode.....

Telephone Email (**please print**).....

I enclose a cheque for _____ made out to LLHF

Or

I wish to pay by BACS. Please transfer funds to the following account:

Sort Code: 01-05-31 Account number 32603983.

Ensure you give your surname as reference.

NEWS FROM MEMBER SOCIETIES

FRIENDS OF PENDLE HERITAGE

Tuesday 4 August 1:30pm: *Trawden in the past* - a walk with Gillian

Greenwood. The walk around Trawden will paint a picture of what used to be. After the walk tea/coffee and cake will be available at the Lakeside Café, near Ball Grove Park, Colne BB8 7HH. Total cost for the walk and refreshments is £8pp. Please phone 07787 631078 (Dawn) or email info@foph.co.uk as **soon as possible** to find out if places are still available. No dogs please. Meeting point is outside the Trawden Community Shop (opposite the Trawden Arms), Church Street, Trawden BB8 8RU.

Tuesday 15 September 2:30pm: *A genetic prehistory of northern England:*

***Insights from ancient DNA*, with Dr Tom Booth.** Dr Booth will talk about rapid advances in DNA sequencing technology, which have meant that over the last 15 years the ability to generate whole-genome DNA data from ancient human remains has gone from extraordinary to routine. Tom will discuss what we have learned about the prehistoric societies of Britain through ancient DNA analysis of human skeletons, with a particular focus on sites from northern England.

Dr Booth is an Associate Lecturer in Later European Prehistory and Quantitative Archaeology at the UCL Institute of Archaeology, and a Senior Laboratory Research Scientist at The Francis Crick Institute.

Higherford Methodist Church, Barrowford BB9 6JH. Members £4, Non-members £6, Refreshments £1.

Tuesday 27 October 2:30pm: FoPH AGM at Higherford Methodist Church, followed by refreshments and ***Set in Stone*** – an illustrated presentation showing some of the historic and quirky features around Pendle. No charge.

MERE BROW LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

19 August: *Graveyards, gravestones and their hidden meanings*, with Louise Wade

16 September: *The life of a shrimper, part 2*, with David Rimmer:

17 March 2027: Annual General Meeting

Talks take place on Wednesdays, starting at 7:30pm at Mere Brow village hall, 65 The Gravel, Mere Brow, PR4 6JX

New members & visitors welcome. Annual membership £10, visitors £2.50 per talk.

LIVERPOOL AND SOUTH WEST LANCASHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

See the website for more information www.lswlfhs.org.uk

Tuesday 8 September 5:30pm: *Ag Labs and farm workers*, with Ian Cooper
Meeting Room 2, 4th Floor, Central Library, William Brown Street, Liverpool L3 8EW

Friday 11 September 7:00pm: *Southport street names – how they originated and why they were changed*, with David Walshe
Birkdale Community Hub & Library, 2 Liverpool Road PR8 4AR

Tuesday 3 November 7:30pm: *West Lancashire war heroes*, with Dot Broady-Hawkes
Upholland Methodist Church, Alma Hill, Upholland WN8 0NR

BURNLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

9 September: *Mrs. John Brown*, with Denise North

14 October: *Tsingtao to Skipton: the escape story of two German naval officers who ended up in Skipton prisoner of war camp*, with Anne Buckley

11 November: *The Leeds and Liverpool Canal*, with Colin Thunhurst

Meetings take place on Wednesdays, starting at 2:00pm, at St. John's RC Church Hall, Bracewell Street, Burnley BB10 1TB

MANCHESTER VICTORIAN SOCIETY

Saturday 19 September 2:00pm: *Henry Lord, Salford Architect*, with Anthea Darlington. In his long career Henry Lord designed many different kinds of buildings, usually in red brick and terracotta. Examples of those which can still be seen are the Queen's Jubilee Nurses Home (now the Working Class Movement Library); Salford Museum and Library; and Salford Lads Club.

Tickets £10.00 via Eventbrite or email manchestervictoriansociety.org.uk

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

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

<https://www.victoriansociety.org.uk/regional-groups/manchester/>

LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

The society offers Zoom talks which are free to members and non-members, but asks for a donation via the section 'About the Society' on the website www.landcas.org.uk

Wednesday 23 September: *Lancashire hospitals 'Stuffed full of frail humanity who've got into disgrace'*, with Helen Corlett. The talk will plot the decline and fall of a 'Manchester man' in the 1870s-80s, showing the challenges both of reconstructing a lost patient story through the asylum records, and of historicising mental health.

Monday 12 October: *Ornaments of Grace*, with Chris Fogg. Chris will speak about his sequence of 12 novels, all set in Manchester, which he describes as his 'love letter to the city'. The over-arching title for the series is taken from a verse from the Book of Proverbs which is inscribed around the domed ceiling of the city's central reference library. The twelve books tell the story of Manchester through some of the key events which occurred there, changing it from an 18th century town to a world-class, diverse city. Individual novels also focus on some of the communities which have made their home there from around the world.

Wednesday 25 November: *The historical boundary between Lancashire and Cheshire*. Steven Dickens will speak about his study of the subject, following his award of a research grant.

News about *Transactions*. Since its foundation in 1883, the Society has published 115 volumes of its *Transactions*, a refereed journal, which includes not only the best of the papers presented to its members at meetings, but a selection of others offered to the Society for publication. Members receive a copy of each volume as it is published, and many important libraries in Britain and abroad are subscribing members, some holding complete sets.

Two years ago, copies of *Transactions* from 1883 to 2006 were digitised and are now available on our website in the members-only area of our website:

<https://www.landcas.org.uk/members.php> There is also a searchable Excel spreadsheet to help researchers. To make these more widely available, we are offering an annual 'Digital only' membership for £15. All normal benefits apply, apart from a copy of *Transactions* and subsidised fees to our trips.

THE HISTORIC SOCIETY OF LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE

Forthcoming talks will be delivered on Zoom. Those interested should see the website for details of how to request the link, which is usually sent out about a month before each event. www.hslc.org.uk

Wednesday 21 October 2:00 pm: *The Cheshire lady 1600-1800*, with Daisy Hughes (Bangor University).

Wednesday 18 November 2:00 pm: *A seventeenth-century Nantwich apothecary's tale*, with Helen Cooke (Nantwich Museum)

MOURHOLME LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Wednesday 30 September 7:30pm: *A virtual tour of medieval Lancaster, with Dr Chris Tinmouth.* This talk will take you into the streets, yards and houses of Lancaster through John Speed's map of 1610.

Wednesday 28 October 7:30pm: *Muncaster Castle's wartime secret.* During World War II a significant proportion of Britain's national modern art collection was moved from the Tate Gallery in London to Muncaster Castle, to save it from the danger of bombing.

Gaskell Hall, Silverdale LA5 0RA. Free for members, £2.00 for visitors. See the website for more details www.mourholme.org.uk.

REGIONAL HERITAGE CENTRE

The centre has outlined two forthcoming full day events in the Autumn. Each day will study the topic in depth, with contributions from speakers with extensive knowledge of their subject. See the website for more information, and details of when booking will be available. www.lancaster.ac.uk/regional-heritege-centre/

Saturday 10 October: 200th anniversary of the 1826 Loom Riots

Saturday 21 November: Railways: 200 years that transformed Britain.

LANCASHIRE FAMILY HISTORY AND HERALDRY SOCIETY

Wednesday 30 September: *Lathom Remount Centre – Training cavalry and supply horses for service in World War I, with Dot Broady Hawkes*
Kingsfold Methodist Church, Padway, Penwortham, Preston PR1 9EJ

Wednesday 4 November: *Three young men whose lives were shaped by events in the Battle of the Atlantic in World War II, with John Wilson*
Accrington Sea Cadets, Harvey Street, Oswaldtwistle BB5 3LT

For further details visit: www.lfhhs.org.

NEWS ROUNDUP

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Saturday 17 October 12:00: *The pit brow women of the Lancashire coalfield, with Alan Davies*

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

Free for members; suggested donation of £4 for non-members. For further information phone 07938501598

LANCASHIRE WEAVERS' UPRISING



2026 marks the 200th anniversary of the Lancashire Weavers' uprising. Thousands of desperate handloom weavers from across Pennine Lancashire took to the roads demanding help in the face of starvation. Their protest were met with brutality from the authorities.

To mark the anniversary a touring exhibition and lecture series will be visiting 9 venues during the year. Each talk will explore a different aspect of the uprising, and it is hoped it will encourage audiences to learn about what happened in their locality, and to travel to other events in the region. The talks are given by **Dr David Gordon Scott, with contributions from Kate Hurst.**

Wednesday 2 September 2:00pm at Lancaster Library: *Protest, punishment and legal repression – state responses to popular dissent in the 1800s.*

Wednesday 23 September 2:00pm at Oswaldtwistle Library: *Georgian women martyrs – experiences of three women during the rising.*

Wednesday 14 October 2:00pm at Whitworth Library: *After the rising – the legacy of the 1826 uprising.*

Book free tickets at <http://tiny.cc/WUBC>

These events have been made possible by support from the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

More information can be found at www.weavers-uprising.org.uk/

COMMUNITY ARCHIVES AND HERITAGE GROUP

SPACES, PLACES AND BELONGING: TRAINING EVENTS AND WEBINARS

This training programme forms part of the wider 'Spaces, Places and Belonging: Community Hub' skills development and training programme. The [Spaces Places and Belonging](#) programme is funded by the AHRC (UKRI) and led by The UK National Archives in partnership with CAHG, Leeds Museums & Galleries and the National Library of Wales.

One of the workshops is being held in our area. **Places are limited** – if you wish to participate, see www.communityarchives.org.

Tuesday 6 October 10:30am-4:30pm: Workshop - Digital storytelling. The Bluecoat, School Lane, Liverpool L1 3BX

The workshop will explore how to use your collections to tell online stories that engage visitors, provoke curiosity and introduce new people to your collections and archives. Through a series of structured participative exercises, we'll think about audiences, and the story elements that appeal to them. We'll look at how stories can be realised using words, images and video, and at the temptations and pitfalls of using generative AI. You'll leave the workshop with practical ideas to take back to your organisation and try out.

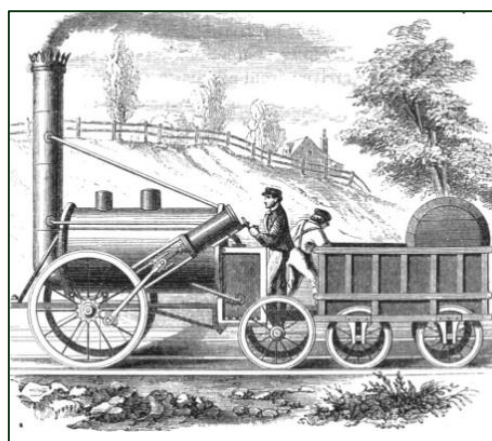
Danny Birchall, the workshop facilitator, is a freelance digital specialist, and has worked in digital cultural heritage for over twenty years, commissioning and producing digital art, games and features. At the Wellcome Collection he led the team that published stories featuring narrative non-fiction about people's lived experience of health.

MANCHESTER HISTORIES

Manchester Histories has launched the first phase of a website dedicated to celebrating 200 years since the opening of the Liverpool and Manchester railway – the world's first inter-city passenger railway. The new website

Rocket: All aboard

www.rocketallaboard.co.uk brings together research, stories, and heritage assets connected to this pioneering line, allowing for the sharing of research, uncovering hidden histories and connecting audiences with this unique heritage.



One of the features is a new timeline exploring different themes, such as political events, society and technology.

More resources will be added as the programme develops.

CARING FOR YOUR COLLECTION



The Mills Archive Trust, an accredited archive and library service in Reading, is a registered charity dedicated to the protection and preservation of the records of milling history. Its extensive collection of resources includes mills of all kinds, from watermills to cotton mills.

The trust is running a **webinar series entitled *Caring for your collection***. It will give an overview of what an archive is, why we should preserve historic records, how to start sorting collections of documents, photographs and digital files, and how to care for them. It is suitable for beginners or people with experience, and is recommended by previous participants.

Part 1: Saturday 21 November 2:00-4:00: Overview, arrangement, description

Part 2: Saturday 28 November 2:00-4:00: Preservation and access

Cost: £50.00 for both sessions; £35.00 for one; students: free – email iba.tony@millsarchive.org for details. After the session participants will have access to the recorded seminar. For more information and to book visit www.millsarchive.org/caring-for-your-collection/

[Could your society sponsor a young person to attend the course? That would assist with caring for your collections, as well as encouraging the next generation to become engaged with heritage and local history – Ed.]

THE LANCASHIRE HERITAGE EXPLORER

Lancashire County Council's Historic Environment Team has launched the Lancashire Heritage Explorer – an interactive online map showing selected information from the Lancashire Historic Environment Record. It creates a new resource for people to explore the county's rich past environment, and to discover what is on their doorstep which may be of historical interest. It is being constantly updated and enhanced as new discoveries are made and existing records reviewed. It covers the current county, together with Blackpool and Blackburn with Darwen.

To access the resource, visit <https://orlo.uk/43EqI> To search: click on the map tab; down the left side scroll down to search and filter monuments. Some suggested types are given, e.g., lime kiln, packhorse road. Users will be able to think of other categories (although it would be useful for the site to list all their categories, to save a hit-and-miss search).



Credit: A Rosevear

Once a list of, say, wells or market crosses appears, when you click on one a star appears on the map to show the location (although the precise location with a postcode or what3words would be helpful). A panel then opens up on the left with its reference

number and status. The site also includes substantial lists of links and resources, information about heritage trails, and introductory films.

The entries are taken from the Lancashire Historic Environment Record, a sub-set of the nationwide one. Lancashire's website gives details of how to access the full records for listed sites. Nationally, the Heritage Gateway, part of Historic England www.historicengland.org.uk, gives details of sites county by county for the whole country.

There is much more information about the county's work on the historic environment at <https://tinyurl.com/54v6xx9w>.

Lancashire Place Name Survey

Discovering the origin of place names, their meaning, and the evolution of their spelling can be an important part of building up the history of a locale. On the LPNS website www.lancspns.weebly.com/reading.html there is a list of publications which can help researchers, such as *The landscape of place-names*, by Margaret Gelling & Anne Cole, and *English field names*, by John Field (*sic*).

LPNS is always looking to recruit new volunteers for this fascinating detective work – if you would like to discuss this, contact the co-ordinator Nigel Neil nigelrjneil@googlemail.com.

BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR LOCAL HISTORY

Ten Minute Talks

These short talks, on a wide range of topics, are available on the website. One which may be of interest to readers is *Manchester and Salford Women's College*. The college was in existence from 1877 to 1883, and was the first in Manchester to offer this opportunity to women. It is given by Tom Trafford, who is a PhD candidate at the University of Huddersfield.

BALH recommends that viewers either print out the accompanying text whilst watching, or have the text visible on a second device.

They also invite anyone who would like to submit a talk to look at their explanatory video. All information at www.balh.org.uk/ten-minute-talks.

TWO GERMAN MEN WHO PLAYED RUGBY UNION FOR ENGLAND IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

Phil Hill writes about the men who also played for Lancashire clubs

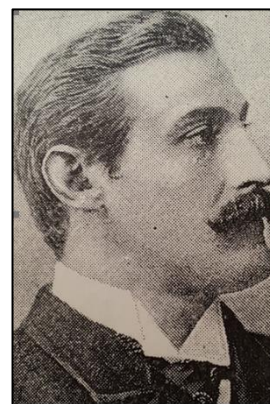


Jacob Scherer Genth was born in Ardwick, Manchester, on 17 July 1849, shortly after his parents, Charles and Maria, moved to the city from their native Germany. Charles established a thriving businesses as a yarn and cotton merchant and a shipping merchant. But it seems he wanted his son to sound more English, so changed the boy's name to James, (giving him the chance to declare "Ich bin ein Mancunian"!).

He attended Wellington College, where he learned to play rugby. He went on to play for Manchester and represented England twice in the mid-1870s. James and his brother Charles Jnr took over the business from their father. James retired in 1891, after which he spent most days on the golf course. He lived variously in Rusholme, Withington, Burnage and Didsbury, and was later based at the Clarendon Club in Manchester. By 1905 he had mothballed his golf clubs and decided to travel. There were trips to Tenerife, Buenos Aires, Lisbon, Australia, Madeira, Jamaica and Guyana.

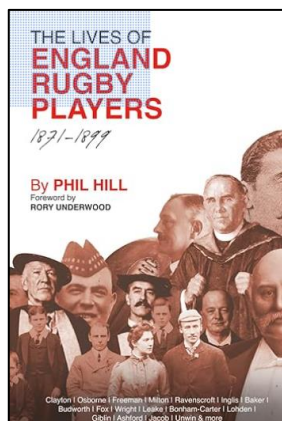
James never married, but he was accompanied on his later overseas breaks by a much younger 'Mrs Rose Genth', who gave her address as James's house in Fulham. Clearly the two were posing as a married couple, presumably to avoid a scandal. The exact nature of their relationship can only be guessed at. Maybe there was a romance, or perhaps James simply wanted some company and they were nothing more than friends. Then again, an ageing James might have employed Rose as his carer. Whatever the arrangement was, she seems to have slipped away in the mists of time without a ring on her finger. James died in Fulham on 2 April 1926, aged seventy-six.

Herman Heinrich Springmann was born in 1859 in West Derby, shortly after his parents moved to Lancashire from their native Germany. He was brought up speaking German at home, but made every effort to anglicise himself, and had changed Heinrich to Henry by the time he played rugby for Liverpool and England.



It wasn't until a year after war broke out with Germany in 1914, that he formalised his change of name by deed poll, by applying to the Central Office of the Supreme Court, to emphasise his Britishness. He placed an announcement in the London Gazette informing readers he was "a natural born British subject". He "formally and absolutely assumed and adopted the surname of Springman instead of the surname Springmann". (He had stolen a march on the monarchy who were to change their surname from Saxe-Coburg-Gotha to Windsor two years later.)

Henry's two England caps were earned eight years apart in 1879 and 1887. In the interim period he was in America. He married Violet Touzel, the widow of his Liverpool teammate and fellow England player, Charles Touzel. In 1909 he was thrown from his trap as his pony "shied" after being spooked by holidaymakers in a car in the Llanfair area where he had moved to, but fortunately escaped serious injury. He died in Llandudno on 17 October 1936, aged 77.



Phil Hill is a semi-retired local journalist. The information about Springman and Genth is included in his book *The Lives of England Rugby Players 1871-1899*.

The book features profiles of 337 players and, as well as information about their careers, he portrays their lives before and after representing their country. He has uncovered some bizarre, obscure and fascinating facts.

ISBN: 979825750445. £14.95 from Amazon.

The book contains profiles of other Lancashire men. Phil is happy to answer enquiries about people he has researched – contact him via the editor mariannerh@hotmail.co.uk.

LANCASTER CITY MUSEUM NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Lancaster City Museum is seeking to redevelop its building to revitalise and modernise its presentation and exhibits.

The team at Lancaster are hoping to be awarded £5,000,000 from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, but would greatly appreciate your support. By filling out their short online survey and sharing your words and thoughts on the museum you can help to make the case for a grant. Click on the following link to fill out the form - <https://arcq.is/1GfrLq1>.

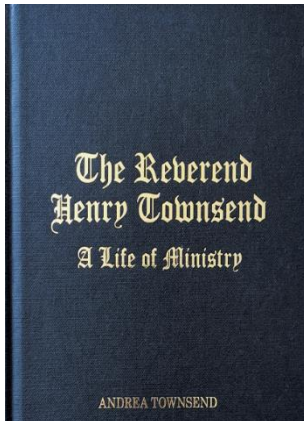


PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

THE REVEREND HENRY TOWNSEND: A LIFE OF MINISTRY

Andrea Townsend

Review by Geoff Timmins



Adding to the family history research undertaken by her mother, the author has extended appreciation of the life and times of the Reverend Henry Townsend, who became minister at Pole Lane Chapel, Darwen, in 1793. Themes covered include his Nonconformist training at the dissenting academy of Heckmondwike in West Yorkshire; his first appointment as minister at Cockermouth in Cumbria, which began in 1783 when he was in his early twenties and recently married; and the events of his Darwen ministries. Contextual comment features, including that concerning the difficulties Nonconformist clergy experienced in training for their profession, under the provisions of the 1662 Act of Uniformity.

The findings suggests Townsend would have received a thorough training in Calvinist doctrine at Heckmondwike, which would have underpinned his approach as a minister. Helpful insights are provided into his resulting beliefs. Why he chose to move the considerable distance to Darwen is unclear, but opportunity arose as disagreement occurred there amongst Nonconformists, leading to Pole Lane Chapel being constructed. Space was available on the site for a graveyard and a row of adjoining houses was constructed, one carrying an 1808 datestone.

Townsend's ministry at Pole Lane brought extensions to the chapel, with two side galleries being added in 1802. However, disagreement amongst the congregation led to his ministry being terminated in 1806, much against his wishes. However, he retained sufficient support for his work to continue as a minister at a newly established chapel situated alongside Bolton Road in Darwen town centre. Opened in 1808, it became known as Townsend's Chapel or The Refuge. In 1822, the Pole Lane and Townsend Chapels united, the former being recorded as 'Site of an Independent Cha.' by Ordnance Survey map compilers in the late 1840s.

The thoughtful conclusion considers the possible reasons for Townsend's departure from Pole Lane, bearing in mind the limited evidence available. The disagreements he had with leading members of the congregation come to the fore. The hope is that further evidence will emerge to shed light on the matter. The book is well presented, with helpful visuals of the chapels being included, along with extracts from related documentary sources.

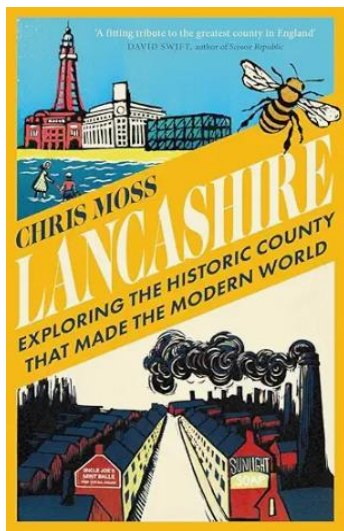
One other consideration arising from the book has occurred to this reviewer. It concerns the houses with three storeys above ground level that adjoin the Pole Lane site. Mention is made that one was a minister's house (but was not necessarily Townsend's). A question arises about these houses: why were three substantial dwellings erected in such a sparsely populated site that, as map evidence shows, was associated with coal mining?

About the author: Andrea Townsend is the fourth great-granddaughter of Henry Townsend. Another of Henry's direct descendants was Alderman Arthur Townsend (1874-1957). In 1954, at the age of almost eighty, he was one of the first 'Blackburnians' to receive a Civic Medal for outstanding and meritorious service to the town and its fellow citizens. After Andrea Townsend approach the council, a street was named after him in 2022 - 'Alderman Arthur Townsend Way'.

This photo shows the cake which was shared at the book launch on 16 May 2026.



The book is a limited edition and was published with the assistance of Carnegie Scotforth Books. The cost is £12.00 plus p&p. Contact the newsletter editor if you wish to order a copy mariannerh@hotmail.co.uk.



LANCASHIRE:

EXPLORING THE HISTORIC COUNTY THAT MADE THE WORLD.

Chris Moss

ISBN 9781913083199. Old Street Publishing, 2026. 360pp, Endnotes, Select bibliography. B&w ill. £25.

Chris Moss was born in Lancashire and spent many years living elsewhere, before returning to his native county after 37 years. He has written guidebooks to several countries and is a travel columnist for the *Guardian*. Each chapter deals with various themes, through the places with which they are associated. The following is not a detailed review, but a snapshot of some of the interesting details found in the book.

In the chapter about Liverpool, he gives the names of a number of famous people who were all born in or associated with Rodney Street, which contains a long range of Georgian houses. Amongst those named are William Ewart Gladstone; the first US consul, James Maury; William Henry Duncan, the first medical officer of health for Liverpool, and one of the first in the country; the Beatles manager, Brian Epstein; Lytton Strachey, one of the founders of the Bloomsbury Group; and Nicholas Monsarrat, author of *The cruel sea*. The home and photographic studio of Edward Chambré Hardman at number 59 has been preserved by the National Trust.

Chapter 4 is entitled *Cottonia road trip* and frames the history of the cotton industry via a tour of many of the towns inextricably linked with it, such as Bury, Accrington, Rochdale, and many others. After the country's complete domination of the world-wide industry, it is sobering to be reminded by the author that in 1958 Britain became a net importer of cotton goods for the first time since the Industrial Revolution.

Inventing the seaside profiles Southport and Blackpool, and their profound effect on the development of resorts around our coasts.

A further chapter addresses aspects of radical Lancashire, including witches and radical religions. There is a picture of Clarion House, near Roughlee, which is the last remaining socialist meeting house in the country. We are familiar with the mass trespass on Kinder Scout in 1932, but there was a much earlier one on Winter Hill. In 1896, after the landowner, Col Richard Henry Ainsworth, closed a path on his land, 10,000 people gathered to protest. At first his action was upheld, but in later years limited access was granted, although it was not until 1996 that public access was formally secured.

There is a lengthy chapter about sports of every kind, dealing with *schisms, rivalries and bonds*. The author makes the case that sport and social history often overlap: In the 1883 FA cup final Blackburn Olympic beat Old Etonians 2-1, the first time that a working-class team beat a public school team in such a match.

There is a chapter on cultural aspects of the county, profiling note-worthy playwrights, for example, and the huge cultural significance of *Coronation Street*.

Spike Island Discs: Twenty dedications for a family do is one of the most personal of the chapters, encompassing a wide range of tracks, from *Abide with me*, by the Haydock Band, to *You to me are everything*, by the Real Thing, and *It's grim up North*, by the Justified Ancients of Mu Mu!

The final chapter is entitled *Lancashire, Endless: Quest and escape* and is more a meditation on the author's interaction with the county, from the perspective of someone who left, who travelled extensively, and who returned after a long absence.

It is probable that much information about the county's history can be found elsewhere, but overall the author delivers an interesting, personal narrative. He intertwines historical facts with his own perspective, based on youthful memories and his accounts of revisiting places connected with his past. The index, bibliography and endnotes give weight to the substance and can lead readers to other sources of information about the complex and notable history of the county.

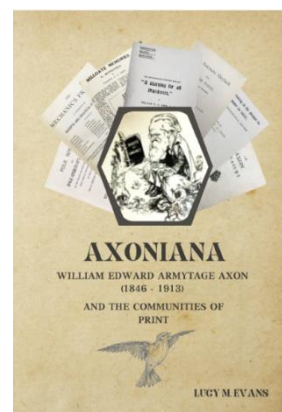
Marianne Howell

AXONIANA

WILLIAM EDWARD ARMYTAGE AXON (1846-1913) AND THE COMMUNITIES OF PRINT

Lucy M Evans

William Edward Armytage Axon, WEAA for short, was once described as 'One of the busiest men in Manchester.' He was an obsessional writer, producing an avalanche of books, pamphlets, journal articles, poems, stories, dialect pieces and a vast network of correspondence. He was a freelance author, librarian, commercial secretary, and journalist, including thirty years at the *Manchester Guardian*. Another friend described him as 'the nicest man in Lancashire', who was renowned as a peacemaker in the countless societies he belonged to. But he also passionately pursued the causes he espoused: he believed that vegetarianism, temperance, international brotherhood, humane treatment of animals, education and access to knowledge would eventually transform society. The Sunday opening of libraries, galleries and museums owes much to WEAA's efforts. Although he was a Lancashire historian, this book unfolds a much larger story, populated by a host of characters from his extensive circles of print, reform, family and friendship.



About the author: Lucy M. Evans grew up in Manchester, graduated in English at Birmingham University, dipped into gypsy and folklore studies at Leeds University, and joined the British Library at Boston Spa, eventually qualifying as a librarian. She has previously written about the longevity guru Dr. Maurice Ernest, Andrea Crestadoro, third Chief Librarian of Manchester, and has now produced this biography of his friend and one time assistant, William E. A. Axon.

The book can be downloaded as a PDF from the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society website, courtesy of the author www.landcas.org.uk

**We hope you will come to the Federation Day School on
Saturday 24 October in Preston.**

See the booking form on pages 6 & 7

COPY DATE FOR NEXT EDITION: FRIDAY 23 OCTOBER