



## LANCASHIRE LOCAL HISTORY FEDERATION

### NEWSLETTER ISSUE NO. 55, MAY 2026

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

**On the following two pages you will see the programme and booking form for the annual At Home, arranged in conjunction with the Federation.**

**Preston Historical Society and the Friends of Winckley Square have arranged a varied and interesting programme for Saturday 4 July in Preston.**

**We encourage all members and their friends to come to learn more about Preston's fascinating history.**

## HISTORIC PRESTON

### Lancashire Local History Federation

'At Home' with Preston Historical Society and Friends of Winckley Square

Saturday 4 July 2026

### PROGRAMME

#### THE HARRIS: MARKET SQUARE, PRESTON PR1 2PP

- 9.15 Registration with refreshments
- 9.30 Welcome: Mayor of Preston Nweeda Khan
- 9.40 M.C. **Patricia Harrison**: Outline of the day
- 9.45 **Steve Harrison: How what happened in Preston changed Lancashire, Britain, and the World**
- 11.00 *Comfort Break and meet your morning tour guide*
- 11.15 **Optional Visits and Guided Walks**: repeated in the afternoon.

#### CENTRAL METHODIST CHURCH: LUNE STREET, PR1 2NL

- 12.30 **Lunch / Preston in the 1950s Exhibition**
- 13.30 **Jennifer Reid: Echoes of the Industrial North**: Lancashire Dialect Work Songs and Broadside Ballads
- 14.30 *Comfort Break and meet your afternoon tour guide*
- 14.45-16.00 **Optional Visits & Guided Walks**
- 14.45- 16.00 **Judy Beeston Meet Edith Rigby**: A presentation in role. *For members who are less mobile and would prefer to remain seated for the last session of the day. This choice will be dependent on the demand being more than 10 people.*

#### OPTIONAL VISITS & GUIDED WALKS WITH FRIENDS OF WINCKLEY SQUARE

**GUIDES** *Further details of each will be sent with confirmation of booking.*

1. **The Harris Tour**: James Arnold
2. **Tour of Lancashire Archives and Local History**: Alex Miller & Vicci McCann
3. **Preston the Jerusalem of Temperance**: Guided Walk Steve Harrison
4. **The Cotton Lords of Preston**: Guided Walk Susan Douglass
5. **Preston: it's a Gas**: Guided Walk Peter Wilkinson
6. **Drawing Board Dreams: the reinvention of Preston**: Guided Walk Michael Akers
7. **From Anchor to Plau: Historic Inns & Taverns of Friargate**: Guided Walk Steve Halliwell
8. **Edith Rigby: A Life that scandalised Preston**: Guided Walk Judy Beeston
9. **'Old and New', Preston's Tram bridge and its Lancaster Canal heritage**: Guided Walk Nigel Hardacre

## BOOKING FORM

The fee is £20 p.p. **Bookings to be received by 26 June.**

Please book through 'Try Booking' at: <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/GIQN>

*After booking, delegates will be contacted and asked for their choices of optional activities, one for the morning, one for the afternoon and a reserve as numbers will be capped.*

**If you wish to pay by BACs or have any problems with booking, contact**  
Patricia 07813213629 or Email: [patricia@prestonhistoricalsociety.org.uk](mailto:patricia@prestonhistoricalsociety.org.uk)

**Alternatively, send the completed form to:**  
Patricia Harrison, Starkie House, Winckley Square, Preston PR1 3JJ

Cheques to be made out to Friends of Winckley Square.

### PLEASE PRINT IN CAPITAL LETTERS

Do you have any special any dietary requirements?

.....

Name / s .....

Address .....

Email.....Tel No. ....

**Choose 2 Options from the Activities listed: Please indicate a first and second choice**

Name of activity:	1 <sup>st</sup> choice No:	2 <sup>nd</sup> choice No:	Reserve No:

## VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

### Alan Crosby writes: *Buildings on the brink: the need for vigilance*

I've been looking at the **Heritage at Risk** list\*, part of the Historic England website. It is an inventory of the listed buildings and other heritage sites, structures and monuments which, in the view of the organisation's inspectors, are physically at risk from deterioration and decay, or are threatened by other development which will diminish their context or impinge upon them physically. It's a national exercise and resource, with almost 5000 sites recorded in the list. There is an interactive map, which is very helpful when studying a particular area, and associated with it are databases (on spreadsheets) showing the lists themselves (with many categories of information) together with a list of those sites which have been added in the last 12 months and, the converse, those which have been removed in the last year, mostly because of improvement rather than physical destruction and disappearance.

Of course, I was looking at Lancashire, where over 200 places are pinpointed - some of them are individual buildings, others are wider areas, but all of them are in danger. Unsurprisingly, there are clusters of buildings or sites around Liverpool and Manchester and thinner scatterings elsewhere in the county. The density is variable, and it is a little difficult to ascertain how complete the survey is in relation to the actual scale of the problem. It is apparent that, because of the limited resources available to Historic England, the condition of some of the sites which are listed and have descriptions has in fact changed since these were written. For example, Woodfold near Blackburn is described as a derelict mansion but it has now been restored and converted into residential accommodation. The entry is therefore out of date. However, the majority are still valid and, as the addition and subtraction of sites indicates, the list is kept updated as far as possible. But inevitably, it is not possible to check every site every year.

Some conservation areas are listed, which is particularly worrying. Some are sizeable areas of town centres, as at (for example) Tyldesley, Bury, Carnforth and Middleton, which are all described as being in a bad state and endangered by development. Other areas listed as causing concern include the Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway locomotive works at Horwich, and Fishergate Hill in Preston, and there are smaller conservation areas scattered across the county. The listing also covers parks and gardens which are designated as being of historical and landscape interest, but which are threatened. Examples in Lancashire include Corporation Park in Blackburn, Scarisbrick Hall and Park, near Ormskirk, and Wavertree Botanic Gardens in Liverpool.

The majority of entries, however, are for individual buildings, quite a few of which were surprising to me, because my assumption has been that they weren't in danger, or not in any serious sense. But nonetheless Historic England classifies them as 'at risk', and at serious risk at that. An example is St Mary's priory church at Lancaster, one of the great churches of Lancashire, which is of major historic interest. Of course it is in the centre of the city, next to the castle and highly visible, but it's regarded as in poor condition and deteriorating. Another, more dramatic instance, St Wilfrid's church at Standish (below), the only Grade 1 listed building in Wigan borough, has the earliest example of the architectural use of Tuscan columns

in England, and is a very rare example of a late 16th century church building. The risk here is an infestation of death watch beetle, an example of how a more urgent crisis can emerge. Another important listed church is St Thomas the Martyr at Upholland, which is the nave of the priory founded in 1319 - the last major monastic foundation in the country. There are many other churches and chapels in the county, particularly neglected Victorian ones. Other categories which, not surprisingly, are included are industrial buildings and 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> century timber framed houses such as the black and white halls of South Lancashire.



The listing includes information about the relative state of the decay and deterioration of structures, and whether work is in hand or planned to remedy this. In a depressing number of cases the answer to that question is “no, it isn’t”, and that answer doesn’t seem to be necessarily related to the ownership of the property. It is



associated in many cases with public policy, particularly on the part of local authorities, but we can’t always blame them for the deterioration. In general, the days have gone when Lancashire councils wantonly and deliberately destroyed heritage as in the destruction of Alkincoats Hall at Colne (left) which was demolished in 1957, or Manchester’s neglect and then demolition of two of its black and white hall houses around the same time. The problem now is that resources are just so scarce. This is something which local history

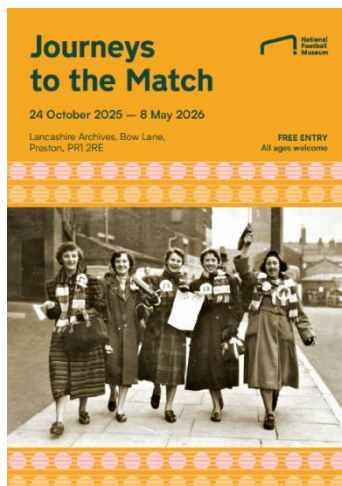
societies can and should campaign about - the deterioration of heritage and ‘Heritage at Risk’, and the need for alternative uses even after restoration. It’s all very well to improve them and restore them but if there’s nothing that can be done to make them useful people will ask “why bother?”. Some buildings in the county have been taken off the register because they’ve been restored. On the other hand, there are new entries. We should all be vigilant and monitor this situation.

\*<https://historicensland.org.uk/listing/heritage-at-risk/search-register/>

## LANCASHIRE ARCHIVES & LOCAL HISTORY

### *JOURNEYS TO THE MATCH*

**A FREE EXHIBITION AT THE ARCHIVES, UNTIL 8 MAY  
LAST CHANCE TO SEE!**



Celebrate the rituals, friendships, and joy of a match day. Journeys to the Match is a community focused exhibition, exploring the everyday traditions of football fans and what makes their match day special.

From a deep dive into the transport that fans have taken through the years, to lucky charms and match-day mates, this experience celebrates the simple joys that unite us all - no matter which teams we support.

## **THE LANCASHIRE WAY WITH NEIL HARWOOD**

A talk exploring Lancashire's geography and history, via a "walk" along the 473 miles of the Lancashire Way long distance path.

Join us for a wonderful pictorial journey through our beautiful and historic county, whilst discovering the background to its origin and creation.

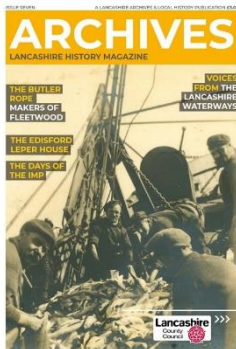
**When: Thursday 7 May 7:00-8:30pm**

**Where:** Lancashire Archives & Local History, Bow Lane, Preston, PR1 2RE

**Email:** [archives@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:archives@lancashire.gov.uk). To book a FREE place visit: [LCC Events](#)



## **NEW EDITION OF ARCHIVES MAGAZINE ON SALE NOW!**



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 brings our usual wide range of themes and historical periods. Bill Shannon looks at previously unnoticed records documenting the medieval hospital at Edisford for people with leprosy, and Bernard Kellett describes efforts to keep history alive in one of Lancashire's oldest parishes, Brindle. John Butler goes back through his family history to Fleetwood rope-makers and John Grimbaldeston shares the story of agricultural innovator, Thomas Sherdley, of Pilling. The Lancashire Museums team share updates on newly acquired bronze age artefacts and newly reviewed WWII objects from Thornton Cleveleys; and there is an update on the Fleetwood Coastal Past project at Fleetwood Library. Mike Malley returns to Darwen and the terrible treatment of children in the wallpaper works, whilst Janet Rigby and Daniel Crowther bring us insights and stories from Lancashire's inland waterways.

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.

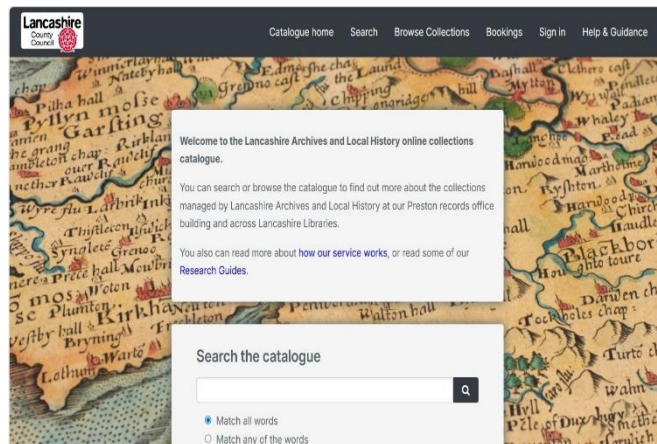
If you have an idea you'd like to discuss, please contact us at [archives@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:archives@lancashire.gov.uk) and we'd be pleased to discuss your suggestion. Issue 8 of *Archives* will be on sale from 1 June 2026.

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

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

## New Online Public Catalogue

We have re-launched our online collections catalogue. Access to the catalogue is through the Archives service website or via the existing web address at <https://archivecat.lancashire.gov.uk> As well as continuing to enable online access to information about the Archives collections, there is improved search functionality across the database.



Over time the service will be developing access to more online digitised collections, including born-digital collections, and providing new collections guides and indexes.

If you experience any difficulties in accessing the catalogue, please contact the service at [archives@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto: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.

**NEWS FROM THE ARCHIVES** Our monthly digest of updates and news from Lancashire Archives & Local History is available as a direct web-link or in PDF format, depending on how you like to take your archives news. To be added to the mailing list, email us at [archives@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:archives@lancashire.gov.uk).



## LANCASHIRE LIBRARIES LOCAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS



From city to coast to countryside Lancashire has a fascinating history. Lancashire libraries house a treasure trove of heritage where you will find local history books and online resources such as Ancestry, Find My Past and the British Newspaper Archive.

*Image caption - 'Her country residence', 1893, Sam Thompson collection\**

In the bigger branches you will find a range of resources from maps to photographs, trade directories to historic newspapers, documents to rare publications. The collections will help you uncover local people, places and events. So, if you are interested in the history of your town or uncovering your Lancashire ancestors we have lots of collections for you to browse through. The general opening times of the libraries can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/theweuwr>. During those hours the local history collections are accessible, but the times below are when staff will be available to assist you.

**Accrington:** Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays 10am-12pm, 2pm-4pm.

**Burnley:** Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays 10am-12pm, 2pm-4pm, Saturdays 2pm-4pm.

**Chorley:** Tuesdays and Thursdays 10am-12pm, 2pm-4pm, Saturdays 2pm-4pm.

**Clitheroe:** Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays 10am-12pm, Tuesdays 10am-12pm, 2pm-4pm, Wednesdays and Saturdays 2pm-4pm.

**Colne:** Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays 10am-12pm, 2pm-4pm, Saturdays 10am-12pm.

**Fleetwood:** Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays 10am-12pm, 2pm-4pm.

**Lancaster:** Mondays 2pm-4pm, Tuesdays and Thursdays 10am-12pm, 2pm-4pm, Wednesdays and Saturdays 10am-12pm

**Leyland:** Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 10am-12pm, 2pm-4pm, Fridays 10am-12pm, Saturdays 2pm-4pm.

**Rawtenstall:** Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays 10am-12pm, 2pm-4pm.

**Skelmersdale:** Tuesdays and Saturdays 10am-12pm, 2pm-4pm, Wednesdays 2pm-4pm, Thursdays 10am-12pm.

**St Annes:** Mondays 2pm-5pm, Tuesdays 10am-12pm, 2pm-5pm, Saturdays 10am-12pm.

*\*Photograph albums of the Sam Thompson collection are housed at Lancaster Library. You can read more about this collection [here](#)*

## LANCASHIRE ARCHIVES DIGITISATION SERVICE



The Lancashire Archives digitisation studio is equipped to make high quality copies of archive and heritage material in our collections, using industry standard equipment. Copies can be made of a range of document types, including bound volumes, parchment, maps, plans, photographs and negatives.

You can find out more on our website about:

- Ordering copies of the Lancashire Archives & Local History collections
- Our services for digitisation projects for individuals, local historians, academics, museums and galleries, and for digitising old documents you have at home

Contact us at: [archivecopies@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:archivecopies@lancashire.gov.uk)

[Digitisation service - Lancashire County Council](#)

**Can you help the Friends of Lancashire Archives?  
Get involved as a committee member for The  
Friends in their 40<sup>th</sup> year!**



The Friends are looking for new volunteer committee members to join a wonderful team that is working to support Lancashire Archives' valuable work. You don't need to be an expert on the archives, but be ready to learn and take an interest in the work of the service. The Friends are looking for people with a range of skills and experience and the whole committee are here to help new committee members with lots of support; and the perks definitely include some excellent cakes!

The Friends are Lancashire Archives' supporters club – since 1986 they've raised over £395,000 to help promote the work of the Archives across the county. For 35 years the Friends have supported the service by purchasing collections and equipment, funding conservation of the collections, and actively promoting the Archives for researching, and for connecting people with their Lancashire heritage.

The work of the committee is vital in ensuring the Friends can continue their support for the Archives service in preserving the heritage of communities throughout Lancashire, whilst upholding the good governance of the Friends as a charity.

We encourage anyone with an interest in joining the committee to contact the Friends or Lancashire Archives to arrange for a chat with some of the current trustees to talk about how you could get involved.

Please contact us at [welcome@flarchives.co.uk](mailto:welcome@flarchives.co.uk) or [archives@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:archives@lancashire.gov.uk) Find out more about the Friends here: <https://www.flarchives.co.uk/>.

## NEWS FROM MEMBER SOCIETIES



The Society wishes to appoint a new Hon. Secretary, ideally someone based in the North West. If you are interested in taking on this role, please contact the existing postholder, Dr Andrew Hobbs, who would be very happy to provide more information [andhobbs@hotmail.com](mailto:andhobbs@hotmail.com).

Looking further ahead, it is likely that within the next two years the Society will also need to recruit a new editor of its annual *Transactions* (published under the imprint of Liverpool University Press). If this would interest you, please get in touch with the President, Prof R.C. Richardson [roger.richardson@winchester.ac.uk](mailto:roger.richardson@winchester.ac.uk). See the website for information about the Society [www.hslc.org.uk](http://www.hslc.org.uk).

**Wednesday 6 May 5:30pm: Mike Stammers memorial lecture**

**Speaker: Robb Robinson, University of Hull** (Title to be announced).

Venue: Museum of Liverpool

**Saturday 20 June 11:00am: Field trip hosted by the Sankey Canal Restoration Trust.** Further details to follow.



The society's reference library is housed at the Liverpool Record Office and is available for consultation by members of the society and the public. The library's contents have been added to the Record Office catalogue. The collection includes a wide range of books and journals, a complete set of the Transactions, and transactions of other societies.

3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Liverpool Central Library, William Brown Street, L3 8EW. 0151 233 3069  
<http://liverpool.gov.uk/libraries/archives-family-history/>

## **LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY**

### **TALKS**

**Wednesday 13 May 3:00pm: Zoom talk: *Robert Rose, the Bard of Colour*, delivered by Testament.** Robert Rose was a Black poet living in Manchester 200 years ago. He was part of the Sun Inn group of poets, alongside Samuel Bamford, John Critchley Prince and Isabella Banks. Testament is writing a play about Rose; he is a rapper, poet, playwright – and world record-holding beatboxer. He was writer in residence at the Royal Exchange Theatre in 2019, and is currently host of BBC Radio 4's *The Adverb*.

**Wednesday 17 June: *Tales from the Together Trust Archive*, by Caroline Flint, Records and Archives Officer.** The Together Trust is a charity based in Cheadle which delivers care, support and education services across the north west. Services include caring homes and education for young people with disabilities and complex needs, and support for their families, as well as community services for adults with complex needs. The charity began in 1870 on Quay Street in Manchester by opening a homeless shelter for 12 boys over the age of ten. Through the subsequent decades it has evolved and grown. Caroline will provide an overview of its history, and use records from its early years to explore some of the services offered and the young people who used them. [www.togethertrust.org.uk](http://www.togethertrust.org.uk).

**Wednesday 15 July: 3:00pm: Zoom talk from the Touchstones Gallery in Rochdale**, about its history and museum. Further details to follow.

**PUBLICATIONS** The LCAS website has a publications page listing several books of interest to local historians in the area, such as:

- Lucy M Evans - *Axonia: William Edward Armytage Axon (1846-1913) and the communities of print* (available to download). Axon was a journalist (he spent 30 years at the Manchester Guardian), librarian, commercial secretary, and freelance author, amongst his many accomplishments.
- Roger N Holden - *Manufacturing the cloth of the world: weaving mills in Lancashire*.
- Joanna M Williams - *Manchester's radical mayor: Abel Heywood, the man who built the Town Hall*.
- Dean Kirby - *Angel meadow: Victorian Britain's most savage slum*.

Visit <https://www.landcas.org.uk/newpublications.php> to see a full list.

## GLOBAL LINK

### **Carnforth Library 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Project – 18 July Open Day**

It is almost exactly a year since we began our latest community heritage project, working with an enthusiastic group of around 12 volunteers to research and celebrate the library's 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary <https://tinyurl.com/mr34r3xs>. We have been very fortunate to be supported on this National Lottery Heritage Fund project by fellow LLHF members, including Lancashire Archives & Local History, the Regional Heritage Centre at Lancaster University and the Mourholme Local History Society.

If anyone imagined that a small public library had few stories to tell, they would be very much mistaken! Our research has ranged widely, from examining early library committee minutes to engaging with contemporary debates around book censorship. We have explored how the library responded to crises like WWII paper shortages, and concerns about disease transmission during the COVID-19 pandemic. We have uncovered the remarkable lives of some of our earliest librarians, several of whom went on to undertake pioneering work in libraries around the world. We have also spoken to more recent staff about how the transition from an analogue to a digital environment has shaped their roles. We have also gathered memories from local people, capturing how the library has evolved over time, both physically and socially.

As we move towards the conclusion of the project, we are focusing on our final outputs. One of these is a 'libraries and reading' memory box, designed to support reminiscence with older people and those living with dementia. The box includes a range of evocative items such as old photographs of Lancashire libraries, an original library date stamp, index and library cards, children's books from the 1940s and 1950s, historic newspapers and a book of memories compiled by our volunteers.



We are preparing a booklet that brings together our research into the history of the library. It will be launched at a special 90th anniversary **Open Day at Carnforth Library on Saturday 18 July, 10:00–12:00** and all are warmly invited. The event will include an exhibition featuring a display of Carnforth Library material on loan from Lancashire Archives, alongside artwork by local children. Visitors will also be able to take part in a range of fun, book-themed activities suitable for all ages.

Before then, we look forward to sharing our findings at a **Libraries study day on Saturday 16 May**, organised in partnership with the Regional Heritage Centre at Lancaster University. ***Libraries and Learning in the North West*** will include contributions on Chetham’s Library in Manchester,

early subscription libraries in Kendal and the Harris in Preston. It promises to be an engaging and informative event. Details here: <https://tinyurl.com/mr33wuxd>.

**Alison Lloyd Williams, Project Coordinator**

*[Newsletter 52, August 2025 included an introduction to Global Link – Ed.]*

## MERE BROW LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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.

**20 May: *The Lathom Park story, Part 1.* Speaker Dorothy Hawkes**

**17 June: *My walk around the boundary of historic Lancashire.* Speaker Phillip Walsh**

**15 July 2:30pm: **VISIT** to St Mary’s church and graveyard in Tarleton, with a tour and talk by Gail Sutton**

## FRIENDS OF PENDLE HERITAGE

**Tuesday 19 May 2:00pm: *A walk with Barrie Tyrer.*** Barrie will take us around the locations of excavations undertaken by Ribble Valley Archaeology, illustrated with large images of the actual trenches at the locations where they were dug, followed by an opportunity to see some finds. You will visit the locations investigated, including the Ribchester to Ilkley Roman road, the lost medieval chapel of Gazegill, and the newest area of investigation - where Roman metal work and medieval coins have been found by metal detectorists. All this work in the Rimington and Gazegill area is starting to reveal a lost landscape that dates to the middle ages or even earlier. The walk will be about three miles, with about 5 stops; there are no stiles, and the terrain is moderate, though in places might be muddy. *No dogs please.* Members £4, Non-members £6.

Meeting point is the car park at Eight at Gazegill, Gazegill Organics (///embellish.inspects.streaks) (SD 82057 46333) the car park is past the farm shop. The farm is at the end of Dancer Lane BB7 4EE. (We will then return to the cars and drive to the Village Hall (///decorator.mess.ruin) (SD 81220 45888) on Stoops Lane, Rimington BB7 4DU.

**Tuesday 9 June 2:00pm A visit to Holden Clough Nurseries.** Our tour will start in the potting shed, where you'll see a live demonstration of working a potting machine. Continuing outside to learn of the history of the family-run, award-winning nursery, which includes plant hunters exploring the world and bringing back plant specimens dating back to 1927. Tea/coffee and cream scones will be served in the café.

Total cost £10pp. Register & pay in advance for the tour & refreshments by **1 June**. Phone: 07787 631078 (Dawn) or email: [info@foph.co.uk](mailto:info@foph.co.uk) – numbers are limited.

Meet at the front of the glass house, which is the main entrance to the building and next to the botanical plant room. Holden Clough Nurseries, Holden, Nr Bolton-by-Bowland, Clitheroe BB7 4PF.

**Tuesday 7 July 10:30am: A visit to Carter & Duck Blacksmiths Ltd, founded by Bill Carter and Oscar Duck.** The firm's recent work includes replacing handcrafted components on the former gas lights in historic Manchester Town Hall. A fish and chip lunch is booked at The Aspinall Arms, Mitton Road, Mitton, Clitheroe BB7 9PQ. Total cost £20pp (drinks at lunch to be paid for separately). To register and pay in advance for the tour / lunch by 1 July, please phone: 07787 631078 (Dawn) or email: [info@foph.co.uk](mailto:info@foph.co.uk) – numbers are limited.

Carter & Duck Blacksmiths Ltd, Foxfields Farm, Stonyhurst, Clitheroe BB7 9PN.

## LANCASHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

**Thursday 21 May 10:30: Guided walk around Walton-le-Dale**

No booking required. Further details from <https://lancsarchaeologicalsociety.wordpress.com/>



## LANCASHIRE FAMILY HISTORY AND HERALDRY SOCIETY

The website [www.lfhhs.org](http://www.lfhhs.org) lists events offered by individual branches of the society. Further details of the talks mentioned below can be found there.

**Wednesday 27 May: Fylde military hospitals. Speaker Jennifer Ray.** Preston branch: Kingsfold Methodist Church, Padway, Penwortham PR1 9EJ

**Tuesday 9 June: Lancashire lasses – a range of women from the county. Speaker Steve Williams.** Via Zoom.

**Wednesday 24 June: Scenes of old Preston. Speaker Peter Smith.** Preston branch.

## CHORLEY HERITAGE GROUP

### Chorley's New Official Town Trails

Last November, Chorley's two "Walking the Past" Town Trail leaflets were launched by Chorley's current mayor, Cllr Alistair Morwood. The leaflets were compiled by the Chorley Heritage Group's historian, Dr W Walker, after discussion with the group's committee members, and in consultation with other local groups and Chorley Council representatives. Additional information was drawn from local historians and authors, including John Wilson, George Birtill, Jim Heyes, Kenneth Hodkinson, Jack Smith and John Harrison. Funding for the trail leaflets, and for a forthcoming Blue Plaque Trail, was obtained from Chorley Chamber of Trade, Chorley Council and Chorley Heritage Group. The text and images were prepared by Bill Walker, Logan Santus, and Stew Grieve.



The trail leaflets cover the town centre area and tell the story of how Chorley developed from an insignificant outlying township of Croston to become a thriving borough by the end of the nineteenth century. Beginning with Chorley's oldest building, the Parish Church of St Laurence, the first trail covers the northern side of the town centre where Chorley first started to grow. The second trail covers largely the southern part of the town centre, pointing out evidence of the economy, with mention

of the new market and industry. By then, the entrepreneurial middle class had emerged to share power with the old estate owners. They made their mark on the buildings of varied religious denominations, social facilities, and in the impressive new Town Hall itself.

If you visit Chorley you can find copies of the two Town Trails in various locations including Chorley Interchange, Chorley Town Hall, Chorley Library and Ebb & Flo bookshop. The blue plaques are ready for production and should be in place later this year.

**Jenny Cree, Chair Chorley Heritage Group**

## LIVERPOOL AND SOUTH WEST LANCASHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

**Tuesday 9 June 5:30pm: *Liverpool's links with Ireland*. Speaker David Hearn.**

Venue: Meeting Room 2, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Liverpool Central Library, William Brown Street L3 8EW.

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

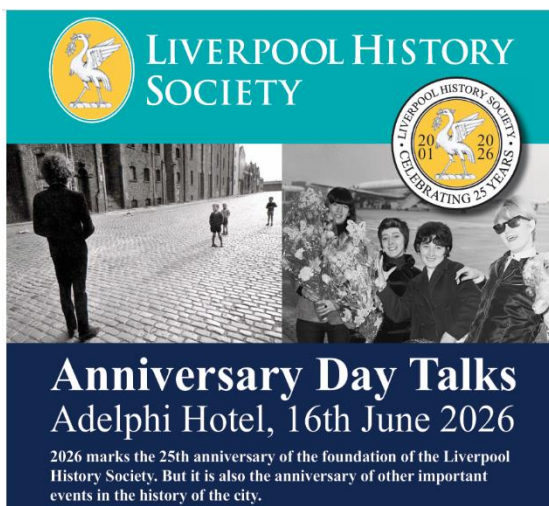
## CHADDERTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Snippets from *The Griffin*, the society's quarterly newsletter

**And in God's house...**No. 3 Chadderton PSA and Working Men's Mission. Another instalment of a series about churches which no longer exist, and one of a number of mission churches in the area. PSA – Pleasant Sunday Afternoon – was a national organisation whose aim was to win over working class men to Nonconformism. It was started by John Blackham, a linen draper from West Bromwich, who was a deacon at a local Congregational church. In Chadderton, the movement seems to have started in a small gathering in 1893. The foundation stone of the building was laid in 1910, and the congregation lasted until about 1940. The building is now used for commercial purposes.

**Townships that never developed:** Pt. 7: Within the parish of Manchester. (ii) Four townships which became part of Manchester Borough in 1838: Ardwick, Beswick, Chorlton-upon-Medlock and Hulme.

For all enquiries about membership and the newsletter, phone the secretary on 0161 652 3930, or email [chaddtown@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:chaddtown@yahoo.co.uk).



The poster for the Liverpool History Society's 25th Anniversary Day Talks is divided into three horizontal sections. The top section has a teal background with the Liverpool History Society logo (a swan) on the left and the text 'LIVERPOOL HISTORY SOCIETY' in white. The middle section features two black and white photographs: on the left, a person walking on a cobblestone street; on the right, a group of people, including a man in a hat and a woman. A circular logo in the top right of this section reads 'LIVERPOOL HISTORY SOCIETY CELEBRATING 25 YEARS' with '2001' and '2026' on either side. The bottom section has a dark blue background with the text 'Anniversary Day Talks Adelphi Hotel, 16th June 2026' in white, followed by a smaller line of text: '2026 marks the 25th anniversary of the foundation of the Liverpool History Society. But it is also the anniversary of other important events in the history of the city.'

The society has drawn up a programme highlighting different aspects of the city's history, to celebrate their own 26<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

<https://liverpoolhistorysociety.org.uk/>

Subjects include Bob Dylan's stay at the Adelphi; Memories of Everton FC and the 1966 World cup; the Liverbirds all-female group; and Liverpool in mid-century TV.

£20 for members; £30 for non-members.  
Tickets

[www.buytickets.at/liverpoolhistorysociety/2001784](http://www.buytickets.at/liverpoolhistorysociety/2001784)

## FRIENDS OF BLACKBURN MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

**NEWS:** The Friends of Blackburn Museum and Art Gallery were pleased to receive the 2025 British Association of Friends of Museums "Friends of the Year" award, sponsored by the Marsh Charitable Trust. The award recognised the Friends efforts in bringing new audiences into the Museum and working with local communities.

**EVENT: Saturday 19 September 2:00pm *What did the railways ever do for us?***  
The 2026 David Shipway Lecture will be given by Dr Paul Salvesson at Blackburn Museum and Art Gallery. This is a free lecture, with no booking required and open to all, sponsored by the Friends of the Museum.

## NEWS ROUNDUP



The group is free to join, simply by signing up to receive their regular emails [www.communityarchives.org.uk](http://www.communityarchives.org.uk). You can find out what is going on in the sector, and link up with other groups. Each month they profile the group of the month, and make an award to the group of the year at their annual conference.

This year the conference takes place on **8 July** at University College London. The theme is ***Preserving community memories through the use of audio and film.***

Oral history recordings are at the essence of many community archive and heritage activities. The CAHG conference this year will explore, through a keynote presentation from a community practitioner, expert presentations, panel discussion and Q&A, how individuals and groups use oral history to capture hidden and unheard memories.

## HERITAGE NETWORK

The Heritage Network [www.heritagetrustnetwork.org.uk](http://www.heritagetrustnetwork.org.uk) is a membership organisation dedicated to empowering people to rescue and reuse historic buildings and spaces for their communities.



They publish an Opportunities Bulletin by email [admin@heritagenetwork.org.uk](mailto:admin@heritagenetwork.org.uk) which gives details of grants which organisations can apply for. Some are specifically to assist them with plans to rescue and restore buildings of note which could then be used for the benefit of their communities, whilst others enable groups to carry out relevant research. Some examples are:

**The Association for Industrial Archaeology** – Community Engagement Award  
[www.industrial-archaeology.org](http://www.industrial-archaeology.org)

**The Institution of Mechanical Engineers** is concerned with recognising irreplaceable artefacts and their vital role in modern life [www.imeche.org](http://www.imeche.org)

**The Architectural Heritage Fund**, which is focused on acquiring, reusing or redeveloping architecturally significant buildings [www.ahfund.or.uk](http://www.ahfund.or.uk)

**The National Archives** – The Community Hub. It administers funds which support inclusive, community-led research in the UK's libraries, archives, museums and archives. It delivers training, digital skills development and network-buildings.  
[www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/community-hub/](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/community-hub/)

**The National Lottery Heritage Fund** [www.heritagefund.org.uk/funding](http://www.heritagefund.org.uk/funding)

## WOMEN IN STREET NAMES

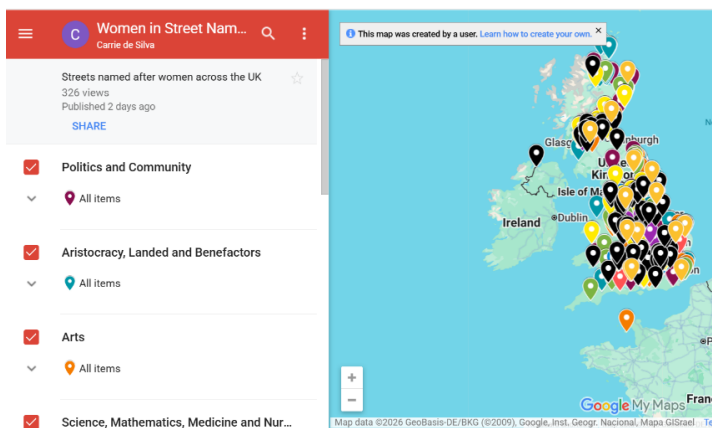
Previous editions of the newsletter (32, August 2020; 41, November 2022 and 47, May 2024) have included reports about a project *Women in street names*, by Carrie de Silva. In her latest update she gives more information about this expanding venture.

She has published chapters 1 and 2 of what will be a larger work. They are women involved in politics & community and science & mathematics respectively. Carrie says, "Further chapters will be forthcoming, and when more or less complete, I will collate a selection into an e-book for sale. Existing chapters are easy to edit so I'm very happy to receive further names".

Each chapter contains an introduction; an explanation of the categories used; an A to Z list of names; a listing by county; and concise (and sometimes lengthier) biographies, with comprehensive references.

Some examples from the north west, picked from the letter B, follow:

- Mae Bamber (1898-1987): Bamber Gardens, Southport. Local councillor and poet
- Emily Beavan (1882-1972): Emily Beavan Close, Openshaw. Local councillor and co-operative movement activist
- Annie Besant (1847-1933): Besant Close, Blackburn. Political activist.
- Bessie Braddock (1899-1970): Braddock Bluff, Blackburn. Labour MP.



Most of the street names are now pinned on a Google map <https://tinyurl.com/3r9ww8nt>

The full, ever growing, listing is on the website, along with the completed chapters. <https://carriedesilva.weebly.com/history.html>.

Carrie would be delighted to receive any new street names honouring women, and is also willing to give talks to groups about her work. Email [carrie.desilva@gmail.com](mailto:carrie.desilva@gmail.com).

**Carrie de Silva** is Visiting Professor of Real Estate Practice Law, Harper Adams University and Honorary Professor, Royal Agricultural University'

## MANCHESTER HISTORIES

This year sees the 10<sup>th</sup> Manchester Histories Festival. It will take place from **Thursday 4 June to Saturday 6 June** in and around Manchester Central Library.

The festival will celebrate the spirit of civic pride and community collaboration, inviting audiences, artists, academics and local groups to contribute to a shared story of the city's past, present and future.

On Thursday 4 June the popular Manchester Histories Slam returns, inviting the curious, the bold and the brilliant to share a piece of history you think no-one has heard yet.

The Celebration Day on Saturday 6 June will include the histories & heritage marketplace hosted in the historic Rates Hall.

For more details visit [www.manchesterhistories.co.uk](http://www.manchesterhistories.co.uk).

## 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.

## JOANNA WALPOLE

**Contact details:** Tel 07500 966376; [joanna\\_zajac@hotmail.com](mailto:joanna_zajac@hotmail.com).

**Subject covered:** *The ghosts of Chingle Hall – Britain's most haunted house*

**Areas where you are willing to give talks:** I am based on the outskirts of Oswaldtwistle near Accrington and would like to keep my talks within 20 miles of home....Blackburn, Accrington, Preston areas preferably.

**Whether you would deliver over Zoom.:** In person presentation preferred, but would deliver online if asked.

**Any other relevant information:** My one hour talk with a PowerPoint presentation is about my life and ghostly experiences as a tour guide at Chingle Hall, Goosnargh, near Preston. It explores the fascinating history of the hall. For instance, it was the birthplace of St John Wall (one of the English Martyrs) during the period of Catholic persecution, and became a secret mass centre with priest hides.

The hall was renowned for being one of Britain's most haunted houses, and there have been many ghostly sightings and legends across the centuries. I regularly hosted overnight stays there for paranormal enthusiasts. Access ceased after it became a private house in 1995 but its ghostly reputation still enthralled, and my talk is entertaining, atmospheric and full of intriguing historical detail.

I am currently a tour guide at Samlesbury Hall near Preston. I'm available to give my talk in person to historical societies, and groups with an interest in the paranormal. I have presented this talk at paranormal conferences, webinars and podcasts, as well as to smaller women's groups in private houses.

## **MIKE MILLWARD**

**Contact details:** [mike@themillwards.co.uk](mailto:mike@themillwards.co.uk) or 07952 699176

### **Subjects offered:**

- **Orthodox Christian Icons:** what they are, how they are made and why Blackburn Museum and Art Gallery has one of the largest collections in Britain.
- **Early European printing,** illustrated with examples from the Hart Collection at Blackburn Museum and Art Gallery.
- **“A few of my favourite things”** A long-retired curator talks about some of the wonderful items he has cared for during a life in local museums, plus a few he hasn't but wishes he had.

**Areas where you are willing to travel:** Throughout Lancashire and Greater Manchester. Would be prepared to try Zoom if required.

**About me:** I am a retired museum curator who worked mainly in Lancashire, mostly at Blackburn Museum and Art Gallery, which has important collections of books, manuscripts, coins, icons and Japanese prints. I am currently secretary of the Friends.

**COPY DATE FOR AUGUST EDITION: MONDAY 27 JULY**