



LANCASHIRE LOCAL HISTORY FEDERATION

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NO. 53, NOVEMBER 2025

COPY DATE FOR NEXT EDITION: 26 JANUARY 2026

Editor: Marianne Howell

07779677730 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 for more contact details.

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

Please send your society's events to the webmaster Our webmaster, Peter Houghton, has recently devoted many hours in searching for information from societies, so that he can update details on the website www.lancashirehistory.org. In some cases he has had to dig very deep – some societies do not have websites, some do not include their programmes on their websites, whilst others have not updated their calendar of events. Please spare a thought for Peter, and send him your programmes! The interactive map on the website enables anyone to look at each of the member societies, and is a great resource.

Two new indexes on the website There are now more than 50 editions of the newsletter. On the website you will find two new indexes. One lists all the articles that have appeared, while the other lists all the books mentioned in past issues. The editor has every issue, so if you need further information about anything listed, she will be able to help, including providing publication details or copies of articles. Some of books may no longer be available new, but it might be possible to find copies in libraries, or to buy second-hand.

www.lancashirehistory.org/publications.html

VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

The wonder of maps

I have a large collection of old Ordnance Survey maps – especially the 1 inch to the mile (1:63,360) 7th series. This was the standard type of British mapping which was published from the beginning of the 1950s until metrication in the early 1970s. It is some of the finest national mapping at that scale of any country in the world. The maps are not only tremendously detailed and accurate, but also visually beautiful in their simplicity and lack of fussy ornamentation. I have loved them all my life, ever since I discovered my father's small collection of them when I was a little boy. I used to save up pocket money to buy new ones (sad, I know!). They mostly cost 6s 6d on paper, a little more on cloth, in the early 1960s. When decimalisation came in 1971 (by which time the maps had shiny red covers) they were generally 44p.

These maps give a wonderful picture of past landscapes, since they are now potentially 75 years old and therefore historic. They capture a world where railways were still (just) the main means of inter-urban transport, coal-mining was a vital major industry, urban sprawl had only recently begun to creep slowly over the green fields, and there was not a foot of motorway in the whole of England. As successive editions were published we can trace changes under way and observe the transformation of our landscape in progress.

I can lose myself completely in the Lancashire of the 1950s by studying these maps, noting what's different and what is recognisably the same. Perhaps the most startling difference, in retrospect, is the absence of the M6 (and of course the M62, M60, M61, M65 and the others). These roads have become the structural framework of the County Palatine, and it's hard to imagine the world without them. They now shape our geographical perceptions and our mental maps, and they have dictated or enabled key aspects of modern life, from long-distance commuting to shopping, from access to leisure and the countryside to office parks at key junctions. Like it or not, motorways are central to our daily lives.

We can trace the line of the A49 through the county. Slightly implausibly, it links Preston with Ross on Wye in Herefordshire, because when road numbering was introduced in the early 1920s certain major inter-regional routes were defined. Other examples include the A57, from Liverpool via Warrington and Manchester to Lincoln; the A59 from Liverpool to Preston, Clitheroe and on to York; and the A58 from Prescott via Rochdale and Halifax to the A1 at Wetherby.

My old OS maps show the A49 as it winds across the county, passing through the centres of Warrington and Wigan, and linking a sequence of smaller communities - Ashton in Makerfield, Earlestown, Standish, Euxton. Slow, congested and indirect, it was an obvious candidate for a parallel motorway. In the long history of Lancashire, the building of the M6 was among the most important events. The road is one of the factors shaping our local history.

What else do my maps show? There are many local railway lines which were closed in the 1960s and 1970s, serving places like Skelmersdale, Horwich, Bacup, Hornby and Coniston. The area between Bolton, Wigan and St Helens is dotted with the stippled symbol of waste-tips and the mineral lines serving the numerous collieries that were still working in the 1960s. In Openshaw, on the east side of central Manchester, is the level crossing on Ashton Old Road, where a works railway linked

the two halves of the great Crossley's engineering works, a few hundred yards from where my grandparents lived. One of my earliest – and most exciting - memories is watching as a small locomotive hauled a few wagons across the main road.

These Ordnance Survey maps are more than just maps. They are a treasury of local history knowledge and information, from a time which before too long will begin to slip from memory. We should all be recording the history of the 1950s and 1960s, the BM of chronology (BM = Before Motorways). On which note, we used to go from Surrey to Manchester to see my grandparents every half-term. In an era before the M1 and M6 were built through the Midlands, it might take 8 or 9 hours. Tell that to young people ...

Alan Crosby

NEWS FROM ARCHIVES

LANCASHIRE ARCHIVES & LOCAL HISTORY

DATES FOR THE DIARY

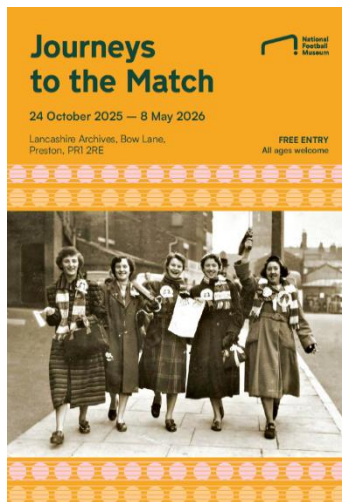
Friday 14 November: The Lancashire Record Office at 50: A tour with a difference – for one evening only! Join us for a unique event taking you behind the scenes to learn about the history of the building. £2.50, children free. To book see: <https://tinyurl.com/ad7ax5u9>

Standing on the corner of Bow Lane and Arthur Street, once the site of an iron foundry, sits an iconic 1970s building on stilts. Known originally as the Record Office, it has provided an archive service for Lancashire since 1975. Designed by a team led by County Architect, Roger Booth, and purpose-built to hold Lancashire's historic records going back 900 years, it is a superb example of post-war modernist architecture.

Join us for a return to the 1970s where you can explore the building and take a guided tour around some of the hidden areas, while learning about the architectural history, looking at some of the key design features, and hearing Lancashire Sound Archive recordings of members of staff talking about the building when it was first opened in 1975.

Friday evening 28 November: Friends of Lancashire Archives Winter Social

The evening will include a buffet supper and a performance by local members of the 12th-century living history group *Historia Normannis*. They will recreate some interesting medieval manor court legal cases - expect boundary disputes, reports of violence and maybe a few surprises! The group works in a historically accurate, engaging and exciting way - they will educate and entertain us in the best tradition! For booking information please contact the Friends at [Contact us | About us | Friends of Lancashire Archives](#) or welcome@flarchives.co.uk



JOURNEYS TO THE MATCH

New Exhibition at Lancashire Archives and Local History - Until 8 May 2026

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.

Join our friendly team based at Lancashire Archives across school half terms for seasonal focused story times and lots of fun, drop-in craft activities!

February half term 11.00am–3.00pm: Tuesday 17 & Wednesday 18 February

Easter holidays 11.00am–3.00pm: Tuesday 31 March; Wednesday 1 April; Tuesday 7 April; Wednesday 8 April.

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). Finish off with Ann Heppell's Chipping archival mystery and 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 or call 01772 533039.

If you have an idea you'd like to discuss, please email us. You can find out more about how to submit an article by visiting our website at: [Ordering copies and publications - Lancashire County Council](#)

You can now read [previous editions of the magazine online](#). Issue 7 will be on sale from 1 December 2025.

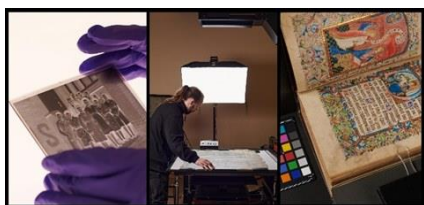
News from the Archives

Our monthly digest of updates and news from Lancashire Archives & Local History is available by email. If you would like to be added to the mailing list please contact us at archives@lancashire.gov.uk and mention which format you prefer – PDF or direct web-link.



Lancashire Roman Catholic and Methodist Registers Available on Ancestry

Don't forget that you can now access 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.



LANCASHIRE ARCHIVES DIGITISATION SERVICE

The Lancashire Archives digitisation studio is equipped to make high quality copies of archive and heritage material, including bound volumes, parchment, maps, plans, photographs and negatives.

You can find out more on our website [Digitisation service - Lancashire County Council](#), or contact us at: archivecopies@lancashire.gov.uk.

Alex Miller

FROM THE FRIENDS OF LANCASHIRE ARCHIVES NEWSLETTER: VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

Lancaster Library - Volunteer project opportunities are available for volunteers at Lancaster Library to list the local history collections. There are around 30 boxes of sales catalogues from the 1800s-1900s and about the same number of scrapbooks full of treasures which will support the local community to better understand our history. We've already had a lot of interest in the volunteer role, and we are keen to get even more people involved! To find out more please visit <https://tinyurl.com/mjzcam9p> or contact Lancaster.Library@lancashire.gov.uk for an informal chat.

Rawtenstall Library and Lancashire Archives



2 - 'Burnley soldiers 'somewhere in France', Burnley Express

We have new volunteer opportunities for anyone who is interested in finding out more about the Second World War and how it impacted your local area. We are looking for volunteers to support the creation of a name index of people connected to Lancashire who have been impacted by the Second World War. Volunteers will be using the historic newspaper archives on microfilm to research the names. Email LocalHistory@lancashire.gov.uk to find out more.

For more information about the Friends, visit www.flarchives.co.uk

WIGAN MUSEUM AND LOCAL STUDIES

The museum and the local studies collection, in Library Street, Wigan WN1 1NU, will be closed from 1 November until the new year to allow for work to the building. Wigan & Leigh Archives, Town Hall, Market Street, Leigh WN7 1DY remains open as usual www.archives.wigan.gov.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 Marianne Howell, Newsletter editor.

TERENCE DEAN

Contact details: Phone: 07825 588661; email: terencerdean@icloud.com

Subject(s) covered:

1. My history as an entertainer in working men's clubs, pubs and other establishments over 50 years... more or less a paid hobby.
2. Our family research, which has resulted in our forthcoming book, *Textiles and Treason - Lieven Bauwens (1769-1822) and his English workers*. The book features how the Mule Jenny (1798) and the secrets of cotton manufacture were smuggled from England to Belgium in the late 1790s by Bauwens and the English textile manufacturers and printers... especially what happened to my four-times great grandfather, James Kenyon, and his family. Belgian biographers have written about Bauwens at roughly 25-year intervals over the past 200 years but hardly mentioned the English workers, without whom the project may have never happened. *[See the Publications of Interest section in this newsletter for more information about the book – Ed.]*

Areas where you are willing to give talks: Anywhere within the north west, Yorkshire, Derbyshire, Cheshire, North Wales, Midlands.

Whether you would deliver over Zoom, if asked: Happy to present via Zoom (or any other communication by computer), or in person.

Any other relevant information: We have created our own publishing company. I am a published author, and we have published a book (edited by our eldest son, Adam) written by my wife's uncle, who was a POW for the entirety of WW2. There are several other books on the way!

NEWS FROM MEMBER SOCIETIES

RIBCHESTER LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



Tuesday 11 November 7.30pm at Ribchester Roman Museum: An exciting new archaeological discovery – a large Roman bath house in Carlisle.

£5.00 to non-members (free to members), including refreshments and free entry to the museum (open from 6.30pm). **Booking is essential:** Phone 07943563169 to secure a place.

Come and hear the latest news about the remains of a large Roman bath house and an array of artefacts which have been unearthed beneath the proposed site of the new Carlisle cricket pavilion. These findings have sparked intriguing theories — including the possibility that Emperor Septimius Severus may have visited Carlisle.

BURNLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Meetings are held on Wednesdays at 2.00pm at St. John's R. C. Church, Ivy Street, Burnley BB10 1TB. Members free, guests £2.00

14 January 2026: A variety of films about Burnley presented by Burnley Film Makers

11 February: *A visual of Burnley: Then and now* – Edward Walton

FRIENDS OF PENDLE HERITAGE

Meetings are held at Higherford Methodist Church, Barrowford BB9 6JH at 2.30pm. Members £4, Non-members £6, Refreshments £1



Tuesday 18 November: *NORI – Part 1: The history of the Accrington Brick Industry*, with Graham Topping. The Accrington Brick and Tile Company Ltd began manufacturing at their Whinney Hill, Altham, location in 1887.

Tuesday 9 December: *Dr John Webster (1610-1682) of Clitheroe*, with Steve Ragnall.

John Webster, an almost forgotten figure of national importance, was an alchemist, astrologer, writer, physician, sacked cleric - and bruiser! There will be an opportunity to purchase Steve's books, which he will be pleased to sign.



Tuesday 27 January 2026: *John Pilling and Sons - a history of the firm of hand, dandy and power loom makers in Trawden and Colne 1819-2005*, with Anthony Pilling. Anthony is a descendant of a family of wool weaving farmers from Alderhurst End and Seghole Farms in Trawden, a branch of which became well known for making robust reliable looms. A donation for this talk is being made to the Grane Engineering Museum.

MOURHOLME LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Wednesday 26 November 7.30pm: *Dungeons, debtors and death*, with Dr Gregory Wright. The dark history of Lancaster Castle, highlighting the building's fascinating but often grim history.

Wednesday 17 December 7.30pm: *Ice houses and the international trade in ice, with R David*. An illustrated talk about the ice houses of north Lancashire and Cumbria, and the 19th century trade in ice. Plus the experiment to fill Levens Hall ice house with ice in 1980.

Talks are held at Gaskell Hall, 17 Emesgate Lane, Silverdale LA5 0RA. Visitors £2 per meeting. See the website for details about the society and how to join www.mourholme.co.uk

CHADDERTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

- And in God's house...No. 1: Middleton Road Methodist Church. The first of a new series about churches which no longer exist.
- Forgotten inns of a bygone age: No. 6: Melbourne Tavern, Middleton Road
- Townships that never developed: Pt. 6: Within the parish of Deane. The three profiled areas – Little Hulton, Farnworth, and Kearsley – did in fact become self-governing towns for a time.

For all enquiries about membership and the newsletter, phone the secretary 0161 652 3930, or email chaddtown@yahoo.co.uk.

BARNOLDSWICK HISTORY SOCIETY

Exhibition marking 50 years of the society

The exhibition is in Barnoldswick Library throughout the whole of November.

Please check the library's website for details <https://tinyurl.com/3n5vjw25>

The photograph captures the demise of the cotton industry, with the demolition of Wellhouse Mill in 1988.



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

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

8 December: *Strawberries and Villas – the development of a freehold land society estate in mid-Victorian Ashton-on-Ribble*, with Sue Latimer

9 February 2026: *Plague and hunger: mortality in the Preston area 1590-1650*, with Dr. Alan Crosby

See the website for further information 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

HORWICH HERITAGE

Stuart Whittle celebrates 40 years of the society

Who would have thought that a chance meeting between me and the much-missed Geoff Waine at the end of 1984 would lead 40 years later to the flourishing Horwich Heritage Society we have today with over 300 members and a Heritage Centre that is the envy of many other heritage groups! In June this year Horwich Heritage celebrated its 40th anniversary, having been formed in 1985 in the wake of the closure of Horwich Loco Works. From small beginnings the society has gone from strength to strength over the years and is now a valued part of the Horwich community. We provide a monthly programme of speakers (over 400 to date) at meetings which are extremely well attended (100 on a regular basis), as well as organising trips and walks and a regularly changing set of exhibitions (over 100 to date) at our Horwich Heritage Centre which is open every weekday 2.00-4.00pm and Saturday mornings 10.00am-12.30pm.



*The 'Founding Fathers'
Myself & Geoff Waine*



*Two Mayors opening the
Heritage Centre in 2006*

The centre is free to visit and attracts over 2000 visitors a year including a large number of local school groups. It provides a range of professionally-produced displays on subjects such as the Loco Works, a Victorian kitchen, The Way We Were, World War II, Winter Hill mines and the turnpike roads. These are supplemented by special exhibitions launched at 'Open Days' on 5-6 occasions during the year – the latest one is 'Our Ancient Past' The centre also has a shop, AV area, reference, research & archive facilities and welcomes enquiries about family

history. Horwich Heritage is also proud of the fact that we produce our own books & films about the Horwich & Rivington area.

The 40 year celebrations began on Saturday 24 May with an Open Day/Exhibition at the Heritage Centre which focussed on the group's achievements, with a 'memory lane' of photographs and artefacts, including a display of hidden gems from the archives. This was followed by a celebration party at the AGM in June.



Exhibitions have ranged from a Victorian childhood to Local transport

Horwich Heritage is especially grateful for the continued support of Horwich Town Council which has enabled us to run the centre (in the former barracks rifle range) since 2006. During that time the society has put on no less than 110 different exhibitions, produced over 20 publications and 25 films. We are proud to have played such an important role in documenting the fascinating history of the area. In recognition of its role in Horwich public life, 3 members of Horwich Heritage, Geoff Waine, Carol Walker & Norman Pendlebury were given Horwich Civic Medals and I have been given the Rotary Club's prestigious Paul Harris Award for service to the community.



A wartime theme at Horwich Carnival



A 'loco' theme

There have been many stand-out moments during the past 40 years including: a decade of period-costume appearances in the Horwich Carnival (1985-95) and 16 years of Gift fairs/Exhibitions (2002 -2016), organising the VE Day 50th Anniversary bonfire on Rivington Pike (1995), hosting the commemorations to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Winter Hill air crash (2008), numerous exhibitions & events to mark landmark moments in the history of Horwich Loco Works, including the 100th birthday of the 1st loco built there, No.1008 (1989) and commemorations of the start and end of WWI (2014 & 2018), including research into the Horwich soldiers who fought and died, which resulted in the unveiling of a new Roll of Honour.



Our annual trips have taken us up and down the country

As I always say, none of this could have been achieved without the exceptional efforts of the society's committee and volunteers who ensure that the centre is open 6 days a week and that a steady stream of new speakers, events, exhibitions, displays and archive material is produced. We also wish to acknowledge the support of all our members during the past 40 years and hope to continue to deliver this high level of public service for many more years to come.



Committee members 2025



Horwich town centre walk 2024

Tuesday 11 November 7.30pm: *Edith Rigby*, a talk by Judy Beeston

See the website www.horwichheritage.co.uk for more information

WESTHOUGHTON LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Although a China anniversary is a relatively modest milestone in the life of an organisation, throughout 2025 the group has been celebrating its 20th birthday in high-profile fashion, prompted primarily by the realisation of the exponential growth of the town's heritage organisation since its formation in modest fashion in 2005.

Commencing as essentially a discussion group of around 15 people, after what we describe as 'two dynamic decades', the group has metamorphosed into a very substantial organisation, with 350 registered members, an average attendance of 80 at monthly meetings, and a scarcely credible 3000+ followers on its Facebook page.

But it is not only in terms of sheer numbers that the group has expanded unceasingly: from the initial 'talk-based' gatherings, the eclectic programme of activities now embraces, inter-alia: monthly guest speaker presentations; focused *Howfen History sessions; regular excursions; an impressive publishing portfolio; heritage exhibitions; quizzes; local history walks; drama performances; and the development of increasingly strong links with the civic life of the town and with fellow Westhoughton community organisations.

Throughout the year, the regular programme of scheduled events has been punctuated by many one-off commemorative and celebratory events.

One, entitled '*Howfen meets the Hong Kongers*', is particularly worthy of note. In response to the large number of Hong Kong residents wishing to escape the escalating strictures of the Chinese communist government rule, in 2021 the UK government introduced the BNO Visa - a UK immigration route for certain HK residents holding British National (Overseas) status - as a pathway to full UK citizenship.

Nearly 200,000 Hong Kongers have since taken up this option, with a sizeable community (estimated at around 120 families) having settled in Westhoughton. One of their number, Po Ling Chan, a lady who taught Chinese language and history in Hong Kong high schools, has proved a remarkable trail-blazer, joining our group in early 2024, and displaying a deep interest in the town's history. Things have developed in a most exciting fashion, with Po Ling having proved a remarkable conduit for assisting many of her compatriots to integrate fully and happily into the local community, to the point where many events in civic and church life now regularly feature the increasingly familiar faces of our friends from the Far East. If not unique, there will be very few developments in the land as successful as this.

Following hugely popular presentations by Po Ling, and an exhibition she staged with 10 of her fellow BNO Hong Kongers (entitled: '*Westhoughton From Our Perspective*'), this wonderful good news story has continued, with Po Ling Chan having become a valued new member of the committee.

Reflecting with some passion and intensity on the group's story led to the adoption of the label *Memory Lane Meanders* which has been used for both a high-profile exhibition staged in Westhoughton library (until November 7th), and for a souvenir publication** chronicling the group's story in some detail, embracing its precursor groups (of which there were two, during the 1980s and 1990s), its genesis, its activities, its achievement, its personalities, and its aspirations for the future.

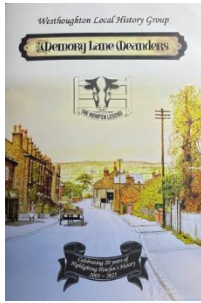
The layout of the primary exhibition mirrors the chronological narrative of the book, comprising an impressive total of over 40 display boards, and is complemented by two smaller 'satellite' exhibitions.

The first is a compact version of the fascinating Hong Kongers exhibition, profiling life as it was in Hong Kong, the changes under the 'new' regime, and the immigrants' perceptions of their new lives in Lancashire.

Completing the 'trio' is an exhibition dedicated to *The Life & Work of Tom Newton MBE*, a huge local personality, whose many talents included that of a renowned watercolour artist who contributed massively to numerous WLHG projects by producing many bespoke paintings illustrating publications, exhibitions, commemorative collages and Christmas cards.

David Kaye, WLHG Chairman

*Howfen is the local dialect name for Westhoughton



**** *Memory Lane Meanders*** compiled and published by Westhoughton Local History Group, to celebrate twenty years of the group's history and achievements.

Comprises 44 pages (A4) with 96 illustrations, the majority in colour.

The cost is £7.00 (£9.00 to include p&p for UK orders by post) and can be ordered via: howfenhistory@gmail.com or 07970 131460.

LANCASHIRE PLACE NAME SURVEY

Two articles about the survey – the first asking for new volunteers, and the second an outline of its history and the linguistic richness of the area

WE NEED YOU ! A PLEA FOR NEW VOLUNTEERS FOR THE LANCASHIRE PLACE NAME SURVEY

By Nigel Neil, LPNS Chair

2025 marks the 25th anniversary of the initiation of the Lancashire Place Name Survey. The progress and successes of the survey so far will be celebrated below by our English Place Name Society appointed editor, Prof. (retired) John Insley of Heidelberg University [and see Jennifer Holt's article in Transactions of the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire, Vol 162, 2013]. But, as the present chair of the survey, I have the challenge of recruiting and training a new cohort of volunteers to assist him in collecting historical forms of place names, to evidence their origins. Please contact me if you would like to learn more. nigelrjneil@googlemail.com.

Whilst some work on PRO / National Archives calendars is still needed, going forward the task will mainly involve the catalogued entries for original locally-written documents from before 1600, held in Lancashire Archives in Preston, with some work on original medieval and later deeds, surveys, and estate maps. Whilst some familiarity with using archives, and with computer spreadsheets, is desirable, we will offer training. Finishing off the collection of 'major names' for Leyland hundred is the first priority, but we will also note 'minor names' (farms, streams, landmarks, fields) given in the same documents, for publication in later volumes. Whilst much of the work could be done from the comfort of your home, using online sources, I am being encouraged by Alex Miller at Lancashire Archives to create our team within their successful on-site volunteering structure.

25 YEARS OF THE LANCASHIRE PLACE NAME SURVEY

By John Insley, LPNS Editor

The historic county of Lancashire is a creation resulting from the feudal arrangements of the twelfth century and is formed from three different regions marked by the rivers Mersey, Ribble and Lune. The area between the Mersey and

the Ribble is historically a linguistic extension of the Mercian/West Midland dialect area, and several dialect isoglosses marking off the North-West Midland dialect area from the Northern dialect area are bundled in the Ribble valley. The area north of the Ribble, the Hundred of Amounderness, is a transitional zone, while the region north of the Lune and the detached part of the county in the Furness peninsula have historical links with Cumbria. Lancashire is fortunate in having published editions of the medieval religious houses (Burscough, Cockersand, Furness and Whalley) and having a substantial quantity of calendared local deeds from the twelfth century onwards deposited in the Lancashire Archives in Preston.

The Anglo-Saxon settlement was late in Lancashire and there is a significant number of surviving British place-names, though the predominant element in the place-names of Lancashire is English. This includes collective formations of an ancient type in **-ingahām**, such as ALDINGHAM, but these are vastly outnumbered by the names compounded with the element **-tūn** 'homestead, estate, settlement'. The place-names are not only a prime source for early English topographical vocabulary, but also provide evidence for social history. Habitational names - like OSBALDESTON 'Ōsbald's homestead, estate' or RODDLESWORTH 'Hrōð(w)ulf's enclosed homestead [Old English **wordō**]' - have implications of seignorial lordship, despite Ekwall's reservations.

The Scandinavian element resulting ultimately from Viking incursions of the tenth century is characterized by the following features:

- (a) names formed from Scandinavian appellatives such as Old Norse **vrá** 'a nook, a corner' in WREA [GREEN];
- (b) the replacement of English elements by Scandinavian cognates, as in CARLETON in which Old English **ċeorl** 'free peasant' has been replaced by the corresponding Scandinavian **karl**;
- (c) place-names in the dative plural **-um**, such as LATHOM from Old Norse **hlaða** 'a barn';
- (d) Scandinavianization of English elements, as in *Witingaim*, an early-thirteenth-century spelling for WHITTINGHAM, in which Old Norse **-heimr** has been substituted for Old English **-hām**.

There is also a Gaelic element linked to the presence of Gaelicized Scandinavians, probably from the Isle of Man and the Hebrides, as manifested in the colonial Norse loan-word ***áergi** 'a shieling', a borrowing of Gaelic **áirge**, which occurs in such Lancashire place-names as GRIMSARGH and KELLAMERGH. An element which was underestimated in the past was that involving continental Germanic personal names introduced from northern France and Flanders.

When I was appointed editor for the English Place-Name Society's survey of Lancashire by the then Hon. Director, the late Victor Watts, I was fortunate in having the help of the late Mary Higham. Mary set up and coordinated the groups of volunteers, who were engaged in excerpting Tithe Award material and in drawing up a Gazetteer for the county. We also had the invaluable assistance of the Lancashire

Record Office, where the County Archivist, Bruce Jackson, took a keen interest in the survey and played an important role in our steering committee. Mary Higham's untimely death at the end of 2005 was not only a terrible personal loss to all her friends and colleagues, but was also a considerable setback for the Lancashire survey, since it removed the linchpin connecting the volunteers on the ground with myself as editor. In the meantime, the survey has struggled to get going again, while Jennifer Holt and her successors Jacquie Crosby and Nigel Neil have acted as coordinators.

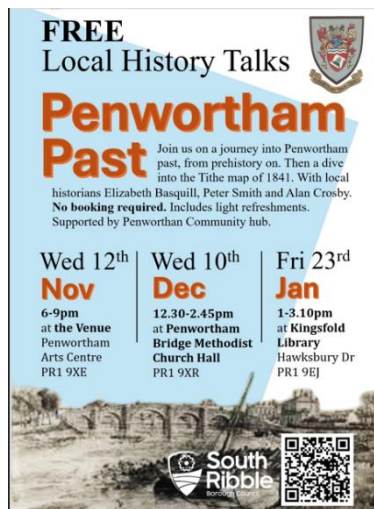
On account of the increasing complexity and size of English Place-Name Society survey volumes for individual counties, it has become apparent that there is an urgent need for single volumes covering the major names of individual counties. Such surveys may be either in the 'popular' format - that is surveys with a slimmed down apparatus - or in the traditional format, but without the large numbers of field names which are such a feature of the traditional volumes of the survey. The second type is represented in exemplary fashion by Margaret Gelling's first volume of the Shropshire survey.

In light of this, the first volume of the Lancashire survey will be a traditional survey of major names intended to supersede Eilert Ekwall's classic Lancashire survey of 1922. Obviously, such a survey will need to treat as many names as Ekwall did and to include more early forms. Primarily it will deal with the names of hundreds, parishes and townships, but also with those of hills and rivers. Ekwall's book has lasted remarkably well, but etymological research has not stood still and a sizeable number of etymologies require revision or renewed investigation.

The reorganization and decentralization of archives resulting from the administrative reform of 1974 poses problems. While these are not of major consequence in the case of the hundreds of Lonsdale, Amounderness, Leyland and Blackburn - since the bulk of unpublished material for these hundreds is still in the Lancashire Archives in Preston - the creation of the new administrative units of Merseyside and Greater Manchester has resulted in a decentralization of archive resources for the hundreds of West Derby and Salford. This means that researchers must invest more time in visiting different record offices. However, Lancashire is fortunate in having two excellent record societies - the Chetham Society and the Record Society of Lancashire and Cheshire - and in the immense volume of published material which is generally of a high standard of editorial accuracy.

Volunteers are needed to collect earlier spellings of major place-names from published sources of the period before 1600. Preferably, sources with comprehensive indices should be used. Here, PRO calendars (ancient deeds, Inquisitiones Post Mortem, Curia Regis Rolls, etc.) and the publications of the two local record societies should be excerpted according to the criteria set out in my directions for collectors and the lists of parishes and townships which will be provided.

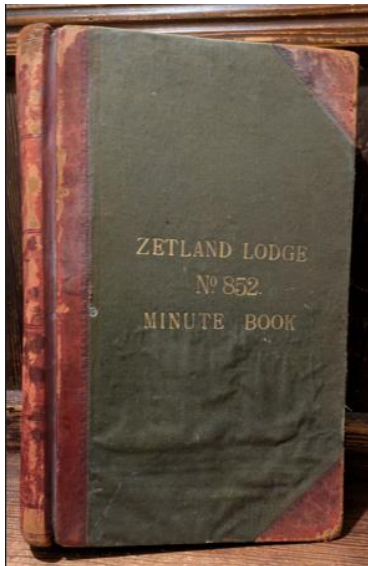
NEWS ROUNDUP



FOR THE RECORD...AN ARCHIVIST NEVER RETIRES

An intriguing discovery by Jacquie Crosby

Climbing the stairs on arrival at our holiday home in Deal last month, I spied a large volume with a worn red leather spine amongst a random assemblage of old books. After more than 40 years of working with archives, a quick glance was enough to tell me that this was not a printed work but must surely contain manuscript or typescript entries of minutes or accounts.



I carefully took the dusty volume off the shelf. Its provenance and purpose were clearly tooled on the front cover— *Zetland Lodge No 852 Minute Book; a masonic record*. It covered the years 1920-1925 and was obviously from a lodge based in the Manchester area. It was clearly, for all manner of archival reasons, not appropriate for it to be housed in a former admiralty building in Kent.

I had been thinking about the central masonic archives as a possible home, but Google proved helpful and indicated, to my amazement, that Zetland Lodge, founded on 14 January 1861, was still going strong. The secretary was delighted to hear about my find, particularly as it is the only minute book missing from the series. He told me that he still keeps manuscript minutes of proceedings in the same format, and that when a masonic lodge wishes to celebrate a significant anniversary it must demonstrate an unbroken record of its meetings. A missing minute book is not at all desirable.

My next task was to explain to the letting agents the historical significance of the volume and that Zetland Lodge remained its legal and copyright owner. Fortunately, they were quite excited by the discovery and quickly liaised with the owner of the

property who, as so often in such cases, had no personal connection with the Lodge, or the north west, but had purchased it with the house as part of the decoration! He was happy for me to repatriate it to Lancashire at the end of our stay. I am soon to have the pleasure of meeting the secretary at the Masonic Hall in Salford to hand over the volume and, I hope, fill that gap on the shelf in their archive room.

COMMUNITY ARCHIVES AND HERITAGE GROUP

The Heritage Funding Directory is jointly sponsored by The Heritage Alliance and The Architectural Heritage Fund. The directory can be searched here <https://www.heritagefundingdirectoryuk.org>. It provides over 400 potential funding sources, together with guides and resources to assist with securing financial support for your heritage organisation.

The National Archives has published its timetables for the **UK National Archives Grant Programmes 2025-26**. You can find all the information here <https://tinyurl.com/2txmf8zj>.

HISTORIC ENGLAND FUNDING FOR AT RISK BUILDINGS



Historic England's Heritage at Risk Capital Fund, which is provided by the government, will spend £15m on helping to rescue four heritage sites in the north west. They are among 37 projects nationwide which will receive funding, ranging from Victorian market halls to churches.

Salford Lads Club, Morecambe Winter Gardens, Gawthorpe Hall and the National Waterways Museum at Ellesmere Port will all benefit.

Historic England said the work will "create amazing opportunities for people in some of the region's most disadvantaged areas".

"Thanks to this funding we are able to breathe new life into neglected historic buildings in the North West that we haven't been able to help through our existing grant schemes," said Louise Brennan, director of regions at Historic England.

www.historicengland.org.uk

Images from Wikimedia Commons attributions:

Morecambe Winter Gardens - Phantom56798; Salford Lads Club - Peter McDermott;

Gawthorpe Hall -Michael D Beckwith; National Waterways Museum -Steve F

BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR LOCAL HISTORY

LOCAL HISTORY MATTERS PODCASTS

Norena Shopland – *Supporting LGBTQ+ Studies through local history.*

Historian Norena Shopland explores how local research helps uncover and celebrate LGBTQ+ stories that might otherwise go untold.

Dr Mary Fraser – *The Role of the Police and Food Production in WWI.* Uncover the forgotten role of the British police in managing food security and supporting communities on the Home Front.

Laura Yeoman – *Engaging with Archives.* Archivist Laura Yeoman shares practical tips and insights on using archives to enrich your local history research.

Judith Rhodes – *History of health and medicine in Britain.* Explore how access to healthcare has evolved through the lens of local communities and records, with insights from nursing and genealogical research.

Geoffrey Carter – *Sharing history with your community.* Learn how to bring your local history to life through public talks, events, and community-led storytelling.

Do you want to feature on the Local History Matters podcast? Email Megan at socialmedia@balh.org.uk to find out how to get involved.

See the website for past editions of Podcasts, Ten-Minute Talks, and Blog highlights www.balh.org.uk

MARY HIGHAM 1935-2005

Some readers of this newsletter will have memories of Dr Mary Higham, who died 20 years ago this month (which really doesn't seem possible). Mary was born in Bacup in 1935, and 30 years later trained as a teacher at Chorley College. She worked as a geography teacher at Ivy Bank School in Burnley, and at the same time developed her existing interest in local history, becoming an expert in the subject and especially in the history of the landscape and of East Lancashire and the adjacent parts of the West Riding. Her 'favourite period' was the Middle Ages, and her doctorate (from Edinburgh University) was on the impact of the Norman Conquest in north west

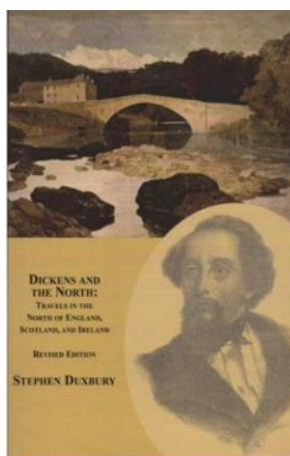
England. She developed a particular interest and expertise in place-names and their meaning, for which she was nationally known.

Mary was a very popular tutor, lecturer and speaker on local history and related subjects across the region, and published numerous papers in local and national journals*. Her contribution to local history in Lancashire was very valuable, and her early death robbed us of much knowledge and interpretation that she did not have a chance to publish. She is still greatly missed by her friends, and I wanted to mark this anniversary, in what would have been the year of her 90th birthday, by this short tribute.

Alan Crosby

*Many of Mary's papers have been republished in Alan G. Crosby (editor) ***Of names and places: selected writings of Mary Higham*** (English Place-Name Society and Society for Name Studies in Britain and Ireland, 2007)

PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST



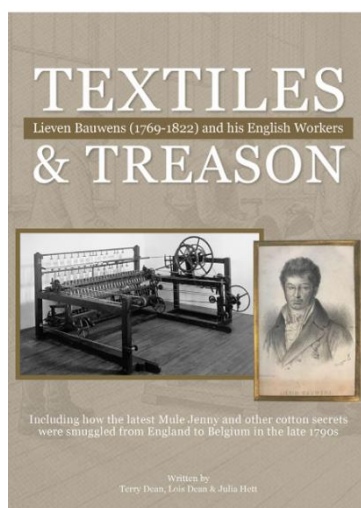
DICKENS AND THE NORTH Travels in the north of England, Scotland, and Ireland

By Stephen Duxbury

Revised ed. 2025, xv+281pp. Pbk £12.50. ISBN 971-0-7396203-4-9. Available from the publisher, Grayswood Press (grayswood.press@tiscali.co.uk)

The author's aim is to publicise the significant influence that the north and northern personalities had on Dickens's life and works, and to inform readers of his links with their particular areas. 120 pages of the book are devoted to Lancashire within its pre-1974 boundaries. Preston is well-represented, given its role in *Hard times*, and the fact that Dickens's reading tours ended there in dramatic circumstances shortly before his death. Additionally, Houghton Tower has an important role in the story. Also included is an itinerary of Dickens's travels in the north of England, Scotland and Ireland. The book aims to present obscure or previously unknown details of Dickens's life.

It also provides information about the author's own peripheral connections with Dickens. The afterword describes his 3 x great-grandfather, Edward Grattan, a native of Worcestershire and one-time Liverpool resident, who was a book and map publisher with premises at Paternoster Row, in the shadow of St. Paul's in London. He was a literary pirate who published additional Thomas Onwhyn illustrations for his editions of *The Pickwick Papers* and *Nicholas Nickleby* (Dickens referred to 'the singular Vileness of the Illustrations' in the latter book). Ironically, Grattan spent time in The Fleet debtors' prison (not for any reason concerning Dickens) - the same prison in which Mr. Pickwick was incarcerated in the novel.



TEXTILES & TREASON: Lieven Bauwens (1769-1822) and his English workers

By Terry Dean, Lois Dean and Julia Hett

Daineswell Publishing. £30.00.

James Kenyon, who was born in Ashton-under-Lyne, helped the Belgian businessman Lieven Bauwens to establish the first cotton-making plants in France and Belgium. Kenyon and other English men were at the heart of cotton-making in Cottonopolis in the late 18th century, and worked with Bauwens to smuggle themselves and vital machinery out of the UK while the country was at war with Napoleon's France.

The book recounts a tale of espionage, mutiny, betrayal, a 'hanging', imprisonment, danger, and financial risk... and, of course, love & marriage.

For the first time, more is learned about the English workers involved, something only briefly touched upon in previous publications on the subject. The book is the result of meticulous research by the authors, collaborating with descendants of the men involved, plus archivists and historians in Britain, Belgium, and France. They examined public domain documents as well as private family papers.

The bulk of the c.400 page book is the story of James Kenyon and Lieven Bauwens, with 100 pages of supporting material.

The book will be launched on 6 November in Ghent, in the Industrial Museum where an original (c.1804) Mule Jenny is kept in working order. The UK launch will follow later.

About the authors

Terry Dean is a Fellow of the Institution of Civil Engineers and a specialist in the remediation of historic brownfield contaminated land. *[See details of his talks in the Speakers' Corner section of the newsletter -Ed.]*

Lois Dean is a trained journalist, who has worked for the Bolton Evening News and the NHS. Most recently, she was the librarian at Bolton School, Boys Division. She now provides genealogical and local history services. She is a committee member and edits the newsletter of FACHRS (Family and Community Historical Research Society).

Julia Hett worked at Sotheby's in the 1970s and later with the National Trust before moving onto the College of Arms, where she was a research assistant for nearly thirty years. On retirement, Julia revived her interest in rural life and crafts and her own ancestry.

Terry is married to Lois. They met Terry's fifth cousin Julia through their research into James and Elizabeth Kenyon, from whom both Terry and Julia are descended.

They have discovered that a portrait of Lieven Bauwens is for sale, and would like to find out if it is the original or a later copy. It is purported to be the work of the Flemish artist François-Joséphe Kinsoen (1770/1-1839).

REQUESTS

SCHOOLS AND LOCAL HISTORY

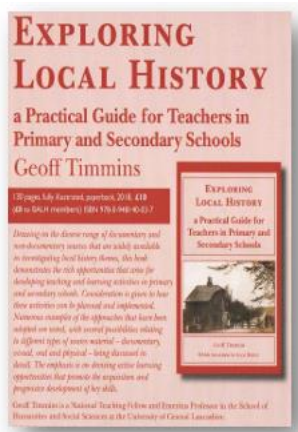
The Federation is keen to hear your views and experiences

Geoff Timmins is Emeritus Professor in the School of Humanities, Language and Global Studies at the University of Lancashire, and a National Teaching Fellow. His research interests include history learning and teaching. He writes:

The National Curriculum requires the study of local history, with opportunity for varying themes and approaches to be taken. The Lancashire Local History Federation is keen to receive details of the provision being made in response, both at primary and secondary levels. A key aim is to generate discussion that will help to develop the approaches adopted in local history teaching and learning.

The Federation will publish details received in its newsletter. No particular format is envisaged for the contributions, but accounts of the themes covered and the sources used would be welcome. Comments might also include the benefits arising and any problems encountered. Given their expertise as local historians, newsletter readers may be able to offer help in developing the provision.

Geoff has written a practical guide for teachers. The book is published by the British Association for Local History, which receives all proceeds from sales.



£10.00 (£8.00 to BALH members) + postage if applicable.

ISBN: 9780948140037

See the website for more details www.balh.org.uk

The 130-page book contains detailed guidance and case studies. Its aim is to show how to stimulate the interests of young people, and develop key skills such as numeracy and literacy. It focuses on explaining how a wealth of readily available sources – documentary, visual, oral and physical – can enrich understanding of local history. Includes and extensive bibliography and website addresses.

COPY DATE FOR ISSUE 54:
26 JANUARY 2026