



LANCASHIRE LOCAL HISTORY FEDERATION

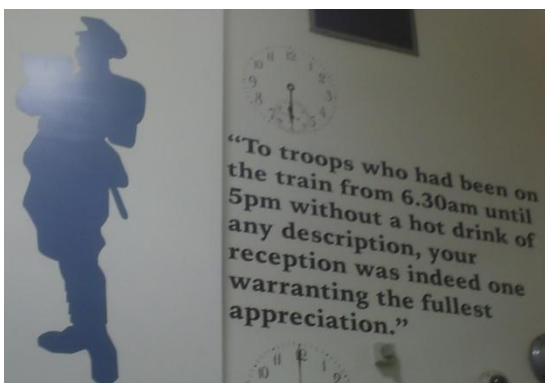
NEWSLETTER ISSUE NO. 11 MAY 2015

LLHF NEWSLETTER EDITOR: MRS. M. EDWARDS

Telephone: 0161 256 6585 email: m.edwards309@btinternet.com

***DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: AUGUST 15th, 2015**

Chairman: Julia Beeden 01995 602441 015395 61226 jmb@nasuwt.net
Vice-Chairman: Morris Garratt 0161 439 7202 morrisgarratt@sky.com
Secretary: John Wilson 01524 261594 j.r.wilson@cantab.net
Treasurer: Nancy Hollings 0161 370 3123 nanmac98@gmail.com
Membership Secretary: Zoë Lawson 01772 865347 zoe.lawson@talktalk.net
Newsletter Editor: Margaret Edwards 0161 256 6585 m.edwards309@btinternet.com
Website manager: Stephen T. Benson 01772 422808 stephen.t.benson@btinternet.com



PRESTON RAILWAY STATION'S WW1 ROLE REMEMBERED (Photos taken Jan. 15th, 2015. M.E.)

Lancashire Local History Federation
IN - HOUSE NEWS

Unfortunately, Nancy Hollings has been obliged, on account of sudden illness, to resign as our Treasurer.

As a result, LLHF now finds itself seeking her replacement as a matter of urgency.

If one of our members is willing to offer to take on this role, he or she should get in touch at the earliest opportunity with our

Secretary, John Wilson: email: j.r.wilson@cantab.net

telephone: 033300 62270

The work involved consists mainly of handling the annual subscriptions and the payments connected with our 3 annual events. A knowledge of computer spreadsheets would be of special usefulness but is not essential.

DIARY

We took you to Haigh Hall, an imposing and interesting venue, for the **FIRST** event of the year (see report on p.4). **NOW** we're taking you to another unusual venue: the **Burscough Wharf Arts Centre**, which, since its 2011 'make over', has created facilities which have brought a lively dimension to Burscough's community life.

This is the area that **Mona Duggan** knew so well and loved. Mona did a lot for our Federation and the day that we've planned spans aspects of Lancashire life which interested her, which she researched and knew. (Remember our review in Issue 6 of her book on *local sugar -making?) Our event makes such a **fitting memorial to Mona**.

MAKE SURE YOU DON'T MISS OUR DAY BY THE CANAL - SEE PROGRAMME & BOOKING FORM NEXT PAGE. **Sugar for the House: a history of early sugar refining in North West England* Mona Duggan (Fonthill Media Ltd, 2013), 175pp, illus. (pbk), ISBN 978178155403 Price: £12.95



FOR THE DIARY **LANCASHIRE FAMILY HISTORY & HERALDRY SOCIETY**
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH, 2015 10AM TO 4PM LOCAL HISTORY FAIR
AT KING GEORGE'S HALL, BLACKBURN BB2 1AA SEE WEBSITE FOR INFO.



Remembering Mona A day school in memory of Dr Mona Duggan

Saturday, 27 June 2015



at Burscough Wharf Arts Centre
Liverpool Road North, Burscough, L40 5RZ

Programme

- 09.30 – 10.00** Assemble & coffee
- 10.00 – 11.00** **Prof. Michael Mullett**
Mona Duggan and urban history: an appreciation.
- 11.00 – 11.15** Short break
- 11.15 – 12.15** **Dr Melinda Elder**
The marriage of sugar and slavery: exploring Lancaster's involvement
- 12.15 – 13.30** Lunch (optional buffet lunch or bring packed lunch)
- 13.30 – 14.00** AGM
- 14.00-15.00** **Nigel Neil**
Lathom's war horses: life & death at the Lathom Park First World War Remount Depot
- 15.00 – 15.15** Short break
- 15.15 – 16.15** **David Brazendale**
A view from the sea.

Fee £13 (to include lunch) £8.00 (day school only)

Applications must be received by 19 June



Booking form for Remembering Mona

Please complete and return to: **Zoë Lawson, "Roselea", Mill Lane, Goosnargh, Preston, PR3 2JX**
Telephone: 01772 865347 email: zoe.Lawson@talktalk.net
Please reserve me ___ place(s) A location map showing free car parks will be sent with confirmations
I wish to book ___ place(s) for the buffet lunch (vegetarian options included)

Name(s)

Address

Postcode

Telephone Email.....

I enclose a cheque for _____ made out to **LLHF**

Prof. Michael Mullett was Mona's supervisor at Lancaster University for her Ph.D. thesis on early-modern Ormskirk; Dr Melinda Elder has taught as an associate lecturer for the Open University since 1992 and has a special interest in the impact of slavery in northern England; Nigel Neil runs Neil Archaeological Services and was formerly at Lancaster University Archaeological Unit; David Brazendale's published work includes books on Lancashire's historic halls and Brierley's Liverpool, 1829-30.



REPORT

DOING YOUR OWN THING - AND GETTING AWAY WITH IT???

LLHF STUDY DAY AT HAIGH HALL, WIGAN; FEBRUARY 28TH, 2015

Perhaps you already knew, before you read the programme for our joint LLHF/LCAS Study Day at Haigh Hall, that Cheshire had its own version of the Magna Carta, issued slightly later than the more famous one. However, I myself did not and was intrigued to learn in the opening session that Magna Carta itself had been a failure in the short term and that King John had successfully asked the Pope to annul it only one month after it had been drawn up (facts not in my school history course!).

It seems to have been at this point that Ranulph, Earl of Chester, took matters into his own hands and produced the Cheshire document. Parts of its text are close to that of Magna Carta, suggesting to our speaker that the Runnymede document gave Ranulph inspiration. However, 'Flexibility for Cheshire!' appears to have been his watchword, as it was shown that in Cheshire the paths of justice led to the Earl's Court or the Barons' Court and, with regard to taxes and justice, the Earl stood in place of the King. One notable clause laid down that Cheshire men did not owe military service directly to the King, but to the Earl. Cheshire, then, was 'autonomous under the Earl', as our speaker put it.

When Ranulph's line died out (in 1237) the Crown took over the Earldom. The title has for some centuries now been held by our monarch's heirs apparent holding the title Prince of Wales (with which it is normally linked). That is the case today.

The other presentations of the day built up a picture of criminality of differing degrees of seriousness in C14 and the first half of C15, well demonstrating the very real need for a rigorous and strong system of laws and penalties, especially in the aftermath of the Black Death. Gang attacks were common, some relatively small-scale (one aggrieved bully and a few cronies versus one or two men) but others much more serious (reminding me of what I know about activities in my native Border county of Northumberland, where the perpetrators were labelled as 'reivers') and very often part of organised crime. For instance, Sir Robert de Nevill hosted for about half a year a gang of some 'thirty armed men and wrongdoers' at Hornby castle and led them out 'many times to different places in Lancashire'. He and Sir Thomas de Dacre became bitter enemies in due course, locked in a sequence of 'tit-for-tat' atrocities. In such a context of escalating violence no-one in the whole of society could feel safe. The Abbot of Furness and his servants were ambushed (August 1350) at the Lune Bridge at Lancaster by Sir Thomas de Latham the younger and his 'armed force', who had lain in wait for them. Status in the Church counted for nothing.

And what of the 'ordinary people'? Many who got the chance to exploit the labour statute took advantage to do so - the benefit of 'keeping to the straight and narrow' must often have seemed out of sight - and broke the terms of their agreements, usually to gain better wages (the day rate was 3d. a day plus food) but sometimes to go to a more congenial place or employer. John le Dey was servant to Sir Thomas de Latham; strangely enough, one year he received from Sir Thomas 11s 0d. for the period between May 3rd and Christmas - which was 'against the form of the statute'. Thomas Cobbe of West Derby must have thought he was 'in clover'; he took 3d. a day plus food for his work.....from several employers! However, the law caught up with him. I mean to say, we can't have that sort of thing, can we?

In a morning session we had heard about some very unpleasant and shocking events which sprang from quarrels between the upwardly mobile Parker family of Chorley and their older-established gentry neighbours in C15; but they almost paled into insignificance once we had heard about deeds of the preceding century. The presentation made to us by members of the Ranulph Higden Society brought it home to us that the information we had learnt during the day often comes only as a result of the work and achievements of such societies in transcribing, translating and interpreting documents which we ourselves could not benefit from otherwise.


It was a special pleasure to hear the announcement that two members of RHS had just fairly recently discovered in the course of their researches a hitherto unknown and very important medieval document. We in the audience had been indeed fortunate to derive so much from their work and that of all our speakers.

Margaret Edwards (Images courtesy of Boyd Harris)

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THE MAGNA CARTA OF CHESHIRE

Graeme J. White
With a Translation of the Charter by Jonathan Pepler



Cheshire is unique in being granted a separate charter in response to the demands of its leading landholders, at about the same time as King John was issuing Magna Carta for England as a whole. This 100-page book, published by Cheshire Local History Association to mark the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta, provides a full English translation of the Cheshire charter, with a commentary on the meaning of the clauses and discussion of the historical context.

ISBN 978-1-905702-78-7

Copies (£6.00 plus £2.80 P+P, UK only) are obtainable from Magna Carta of Cheshire, Cheshire Archives & Local Studies, Duke Street, CHESTER, CH1 1RL. Telephone for enquiries: 01244-972559. Cheques payable to Cheshire Local History Association.

**FOR THE DIARY [LANCASHIRE FAMILY HISTORY & HERALDRY SOCIETY](#)
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1ST, 2015. [STUDY DAY AT HELMSLEY HOUSE MASONIC HALL,](#)
[THE CRESCENT, SALFORD. M5 4PE](#) [PROGRAMME ON WEBSITE.](#)**

75 YEARS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE

LLHF OFFERS CONGRATULATIONS, L.A.!

I invited Jacquie Crosby, *Lancashire Archives Services Manager*, to send us a report of the hugely successful celebratory weekend, April 25th and 26th, 2015. Editor

500 people joined in celebrating the 75th anniversary of Lancashire Archives during an open weekend at the end of April. Saturday had a 1940s theme. Tours of the strongrooms, led by archive assistant, David Blake, posing as an ARP warden, were announced by an air raid siren, while visitors and staff in uniform and period costume recalled a bygone age. There were vintage stalls, homemade cakes, displays and exhibitions of archives as well as a programme of talks throughout the day.

On Sunday the vintage stalls gave way to bookstalls, and stalls for family history societies and other organisations concerned with genealogy from the County Palatine and beyond; archivists from Barrow and Kendal joined in. The conservation workshop was open and people brought in documents and photographs for identification and conservation advice.

In opening the festivities the archives manager, Jacquie Crosby, paid tribute to her predecessors together with the archivists, archive conservators, archive assistants, admin. staff, not forgetting the archaeologist, who have all played a part in making the service what it is today.

The record office was established through the vision of Reginald Sharpe France (county archivist from 1940-1976) and the local branch of the Historical Association with the enduring support of Lancashire County Council. Keith Bishop (1976-79) fostered the pursuit of family history while Ken Hall (1979-1993) obtained additional resources for the service – doubling the storage accommodation, increasing staffing levels and buying the first computer, as well as putting the service on the national and international map. Bruce Jackson (1993-2011) maintained this position and laid the foundations for **Lancashire to become one of the first accredited archive services in 2014.**

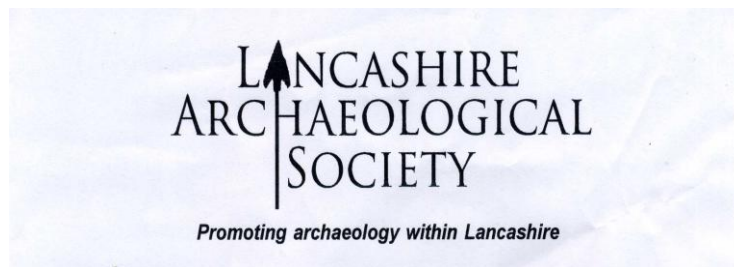
Lancashire Archives is compiling an electronic mailing list to keep in touch with people interested in archives and history. If you missed the weekend, but would like to receive the monthly *News from the Archives* and information about future events (your email address will not be passed to any other organisation or used for any other purpose) please send an email and ask for your name to be added to the list. Record.office@lancashire.gov.uk

Jacquie Crosby
Archives Service Manager
Lancashire Archives
Lancashire County Council

Telephone: 01772 533028 Website: www.lancashire.gov.uk



Record Office transformation!



Reports of 3 Lectures

On Friday, the 19th of February, Dr. Hannah O'Regan of the University of Nottingham came to talk to us on the topic of the human usage of caves in the Morecambe Bay area. She is a specialist in this field with a particular expertise in bones. First of all she **defined the various types of caves:** (1) rock shelters - a scoop out of the rock; (2) true caves - those with a large enclosure; (3) shafts and potholes. Then she described **their uses by humans:** for shelter and ritual purposes but also for industry, burial and rubbish disposal. She also thought that people in the past probably explored them for fun, as we do today.

The first cave she showed us is called **Dog Hole** and is situated between Grange-over-Sands and Arnside, as are all the caves that she told us about. This cave has been excavated a number of times since mid-C19. Human remains from at least 23 individuals were found here in the 1950s along with dog, pig, cattle and sheep remains. Previous to this horse, red deer and roe deer remains had been found. The horse, dogs and humans were mostly complete but the rest of the faunal remains were only fragmentary. Sieving of the mud was done and many beads were found - the largest assemblage of beads in the north of England; however, as Dr. O'Regan pointed out, such minute sieving has not usually been done. The range of dates for the site varied: 50-220 A.D. for a dog mandible and 1200 A.D. for another dog. One interesting fact was the age of the pig remains, which were all younger than 16 months. The cave was also full of large stones which appeared to show its use as an underground clearance cairn! There was also a burnt layer consisting mainly of lime and birch. Why lime, which gives off a pungent smell when burnt and is not a good fuel? It is a very strange place and there are a lot more questions than answers concerning it. Are Iron Age traditions continuing in Cumbria? And indeed what is the Iron Age tradition there?

Next Dr. O'Regan showed us slides of **Lindal Low** rock shelter - a small cliffside scoop with terrace in front where Upper Paleolithic flints have been found. Lindal High was excavated but no records of the excavation are extant. Then we moved on to **Kirkhead**, which was excavated in the 1860s and 1960s. Upper Paleolithic flints were found here and also red deer bone. These remains dated to A.D.560-665.

The last cave that we looked at was at **Kent's Bank**; it has two chambers and was excavated in the 1990s. The faunal remains were of horse, bear, lynx, elk, cattle and dolphins. Were these prey remains? Wolves appeared to have gnawed some of the bones. Human remains were early Mesolithic and are contemporary with those found in southern British cave burials.

The L.A.S. March talk was delivered by Andrew Lowe, former Buildings Conservation Officer for The Lake District National Park. His subject was Vernacular building in the Park and he asked us to be house detectives. He opened his lecture by showing us a beautiful view of a lake and mountains with buildings in the foreground and contended that an observer usually comments on the geographical features without mentioning the buildings; but he wanted to unfold the history of the vernacular buildings and their organic growth from their surroundings, and to show how the functionality of the buildings and their origin in the local geology create a beauty that enhances the landscape.

The earliest buildings still standing date from the end of C15 and early C16; but this can be misleading because the frugal habits of the builders would always lead to reuse and recycling; so a house or barn would be continually altered and updated. Indeed, in Ambleside many of the houses are built of stone robbed from Galava Roman fort nearby. Andy explained how the remoteness and relative poverty of the area determined the construction and materials used. In the earlier periods there was much more wood available, particularly oak, and the buildings were constructed of crucks sawn or split from tall oak trees. These have stood the test of time. Bone pegs were used to fasten the wood together; often these would be square pegs, placed in round holes because these fit better when wood is being used. The constructing of these roofs would often be done communally and a feast would be laid on, which is the origin of the expression 'raising the roof'. contd...

Cruck roofs were built with steep pitches to hold the bracken thatch that was ubiquitous locally; however, the pitches were made less steep to hold slates, when the farmers could afford them. The success of sheep farming enabled 'the great rebuilding', which occurred in the Lake District mid-C17 to 1720 approximately, a century or so later than in the south of the country. When the inhabitants were feeling more affluent, and wanted to demonstrate their conspicuous success, chimneys would become a status feature. In the Lake District they took the form of tall cylindrical towers, almost like miniature cooling towers. These were scaled-down copies of chimneys on high status buildings in the area.

Andy later discussed and illustrated various features of buildings, such as windows (the material used for these was mainly wood until C17 and C18), and the construction techniques. He explained that the availability of glass determined the size of window panes and in the earliest periods the windows were unglazed but shuttered. Examples of these still remain. We were shown many fine and beautiful details on houses, including the architraving, porches and decorated datestones which are characteristic and pleasing aspects of the wonderful vernacular architecture which is an integral part of the Lake District National Park's unique identity.

On Friday, 17th April, Dr. John Zant came to talk to us about the Roman settlement at Maryport in West Cumbria. Digging has taken place at the fort since the late C16, and the finds have formed the backbone of the collection at the Senhouse Museum in Maryport. There has also been sporadic digging in the last 150 years, but little or no excavation of the extra mural settlement. The fort formed part of the Cumbrian coastal defence system - essentially a continuation of Hadrian's Wall, punctuated with forts, milecastles and watchtowers while lacking an actual 'wall'. There is tantalising evidence of a pre-Hadrianic timber fort at the site, evidence of which may now unfortunately be under a playground. The stone fort is thought to have housed about 500 men, probably a mixed force of cavalry and infantry. The settlement, which was north of the fort, would appear from geophysical results to have housed a similar number of people.

The recent investigation was set up by the Hadrian's Wall Trust as a community archaeology dig directed by Oxford Archaeology North. Its aim was to find out about the ordinary life of the settlement. The results of two excavation seasons are now being evaluated and are expected to yield substantial information about the site. However, Dr. Zant pointed out that only a tiny section of the settlement has been dug so there is still huge potential for furthering our knowledge of this site.

The dig produced very little prehistoric material - a few Mesolithic worked flints and a Neolithic Langdale axe. Traces of a roundhouse were found; but without associated dating material it could date from the Neolithic to Post-Roman periods. The first major discovery was the Roman road, which came from the north-east corner of the fort and was fronted by houses on both sides.

What was the date of the settlement? Could it be associated with the possible timber fort? One of the houses was investigated in an attempt to provide the answers and a total of 700+ sherds of Samian ware were found; however, only 10 of these could possibly have pre-dated the Hadrianic fort.

An early C3 strip building was investigated but its function remains unknown. It was three rooms deep and on stone footings; however, there were no foundations. Stone slates gave evidence of its roof. In the corner of one of the rooms on an exterior wall a square stone platform was set in the right location to suggest a possible stair to a second storey. This building, on the evidence of the pottery finds, seems to have been abandoned before the end of C3. Earlier in the settlement's history, pottery seems to have been locally made but towards the end of the period it appears to have been centrally supplied.

The site finds included Roman armour, *lorica segmentata* and armguards; fragments of glass bangles (an example was on display, as well as a single example of chainmail); and melon beads, probably originally used for horse bridle decoration. A small portable altar and a carving of a probable local god were found; an incised stone also had possible religious significance.

Alongside this excavation another, by Newcastle University, was undertaken to investigate the locations of 17 altars found over many years. Surprisingly it was discovered that the altars had been used as packing for timber posts which could possibly have been part of a church in use at the end of the Roman period or even the post-Roman period.

This interesting and well delivered talk on a fascinating site was very well received. Recent excavations at Maryport clearly have great potential to increase our knowledge of such settlements and of Maryport itself.

Jeanette Dobson

See over for LAS Summer Information.....

SUMMER SEASON DATES FOR *LAS* DIARY

Sunday, June 7th: Dr. David Hunt, Curator of Leyland Museum, will take us on an **afternoon walk** entitled '**Death and Exile Braving: The Battle of Preston 1715**'.

Meet at 2pm outside the Minster, Church Street, Preston.

The walk will cover about 3 miles, through the town, and David will explain the battle on the ground over which it was fought.

Please let us know if you plan to come. There will be a charge of £3 a head.

Friday, July 17th: An evening walk around Chipping, lasting about two hours, organised and accompanied by the **Chipping Local History Society**.

Meet at 6.30 for 7pm at the Community Hall, where parking is available. Afterwards return to the Community Centre or the Sun Inn.

Please let us know if you plan to come. There will be a charge of £3 a head.

Saturday, September 5th, afternoon: plans are being made for an **accompanied walk around Westfield Memorial Village, Lancaster** - the estate which was built for First World War veterans. Details later.
Mavis and Bill Shannon 01772 709187



www.ancoatsdispensarytrust.co.uk

FROM Linda Carver, Community Co-ordinator, Ancoats Dispensary Trust:

On Sunday the 15th of February this year The Ancoats Dispensary Trust received the grand sum of £240 as a donation from Steve Roman. This was the result of Steve's fascinating guided walk following the '**Peace and Social Justice Trail**' through the streets of Manchester City centre.

In December of 2014, Steve had kindly offered to do the trail and donate whatever was raised on the day to the Trust. At a time when the Trust was trying to raise money for its crowdfunding campaign, this was very much appreciated. As things turned out, not only did the trail serve to remind us Mancunians of the many people we have to thank for the sacrifices they made in the cause of social justice, but it also gave us the opportunity to meet an American student who has now become a member of the Trust, as well as someone who was a nurse in the 1940s at Ancoats Hospital and remembers L.S. Lowry sketching quite happily in the Dispensary in preparation for his famous painting 'The OutPatients Hall'. Steve, as well as a commentary, also provided handouts for those who attended, and finding out from them about the peace campaigner Margaret Ashton was an added bonus. Many thanks, Steve. And, for anyone thinking of going on the Peace & Social Justice Trail: we can in full confidence assure you that you will be well rewarded.

STEVE ROMAN IS WILLING TO LEAD GROUPS. CONTACT: steve.roman@phonecoop.coop

Steve Roman kindly drew my attention to a report carried by the *Manchester Evening News* on March 27th, 2015. The report explained that The Ancoats Trust had found itself running out of time in which to raise £55,000 in order to release funding of £770,000 from the Lottery Heritage Fund. However, with only a few days to spare, it **received from an anonymous donor** the amount needed (£28,000), and the expected failure to reach its target was thus averted.

Margaret Edwards

BOLTON ARCHAEOLOGY AND EGYPTOLOGY SOCIETY

Tuesday 19th May

The Rediscovery of Smithills Hall

Stable Block

John Trippier

Tuesday 23rd June

The Reduced Ancient Egypt: 7000

Years of history in 60 Minutes!

Sarah Griffiths

In the packed March monthly **Newsletter**, the Editor announced the next Lecture: March 17th - **Anne Davies of Bolton Museum would speak on 'Anglo-Saxon and Viking Lancashire'**. He also announced **the new exhibition at the Manchester Museum: Making Monuments on Rapa Nui - The statues of Easter Island** (April 1st to September 6th; free entry).

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Joyce's War:

The Second World War Journal of a Queen Alexandra Nurse

by Joyce Ffoulkes Parry

Editor: Rhiannon Evans

Publisher: The History Press, 2015

The author, an Australian nurse, came to Britain in 1937, bent on tracing her roots in Wales and Liverpool. When war broke out in 1939, she enrolled in the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps¹ and saw service as Sister in hospital ships and in India and the Middle East. It was only after her death in 1992 that her journal came to light. It has been edited for publication by her daughter, Professor Rhiannon Evans, who was Pro Vice-Chancellor of Edge Hill University from 1994 to 2008.

The book was launched at Edge Hill University on March 25th, 2015, when Professor Evans gave a talk entitled *Joyce's War. From the Mersey to the Middle East: words and images 1939 – 44*. This was an illustrated talk which included the presentation of images by war artists, some by local artist Albert Richards.

¹When the Service was formed in 1902 it was named the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service (QAIMNS); it was on February 1st, 1949, that it was renamed the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps. Ed



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WARRINGTON LITERARY AND PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

A presentation by **Adrian Sumner** on *Landscape Art, a History* on February 2nd, 2015.

Landscape Art in the west was a poorer and later relation of Oriental art and traditions. The term 'landscape art' is itself a developed idea, originating from the Dutch word *landschap*. In the C17, the Dutch Golden Age, it referred to a picture, particularly one painted for the open market rather than one that had been commissioned. In England it was not until 1725 that the term was used in respect of pictures of the countryside.

Landscape art in C15-C18 was a strand within the paintings of the Renaissance and early Romantic periods. The first pure northern landscapes came with the Danube School, involving painters such as Albrecht and Altdorfer. The Renaissance interest in nature is seen in close-up works by Durer. Significant contributions were made subsequently by such artists as Pieter Breughel and Rubens in northern Europe and Titian, Canaletto and Salvator Rosa further south.

In C18 Romanticism, natural phenomena such as storms, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions inspired artists; it could be said that this was when painters first discovered mountains. In England, in the late C18 and C19, major contributions were made in the landscape works of artists such as Constable, Turner, and Cotman, while Blake and Palmer developed 'landscape of the imagination'. Ruskin claimed landscape painting to be the "chief artistic creation of the 19th century". Landscape art continues to develop and thrive, with new media being embraced. Some artists work in land moving, bringing to mind the fact that 2000 years ago people in South America were creating the Nazca line drawings in the dust.

David Barlow

'BLUE PLAQUE' : SIR RICHARD OWEN LINKS WITH LRGS COMMEMORATED



The Blue Plaque in place at LRGS



Dr. David Williams after unveiling the plaque.

A 'blue plaque' was unveiled at Lancaster Royal Grammar School on Thursday, February 26th, 2015, to honour the work of the anatomist and palaeontologist Sir Richard Owen, who was born on July 20th, 1804, in Lancaster and in due course attended LRGS. (It was only in 1851 that the school was granted the title, 'Royal'.) Sir Richard is noted for helping to establish the Natural History Museum and inventing the term 'dinosaur'. Dr David Williams, on the staff of the Natural History Museum, has himself carried out notable research including important studies in biogeography, in particular the role that fossils play in shaping the evolutionary relationships in diatoms, an important group of algae. As Owen carried out pioneering research on fossils and was the first Director of the NHM, it was particularly fitting that Dr. Williams was the guest of honour who unveiled the plaque after addressing the assembled company. **I represented the LLHF in response to the kind invitation of The Biology Society via LRGS.**

The plaque was installed as part of '*Biology: Changing the World*', a project of The Biology Society, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council. Its aim is to celebrate important, but not necessarily widely known, figures in the history of biological study and to encourage young people to become the biologists of the future. **More information can be found on the BCW website at <http://biologyheritage.societyofbiology.org/bcw>**

Richard Owen (1754-1809), who was a West Indian merchant of Lancaster, had six children by his wife Catherine, nee Perrin, who was descended from Huguenots. When Catherine was widowed in 1809, their son Richard was only five years old. He was destined to become a distinguished scientist and public figure.

In his address, Dr. Williams took as his opening point some highly uncomplimentary remarks made about Owen's character on Wikipedia and other websites, remarks which might seem strange in view of the honour being paid to him through the placing of the 'blue plaque' at the centre of the day's event. However, he outlined Owen's achievements in such a way as to leave us in no doubt that they were indeed outstanding. There was also much evidence that Owen was widely held in high regard in society, regard which was shared by the Queen, Parliamentarians and society in general. The general impression gained was that Owen was an ambitious man, driven by his determination to make the most of his abilities and to make a name for himself. It was in his later life that much esteem and popularity fell away as that self-focus obsessed him and brought out less admirable qualities when he felt his reputation was being threatened, especially as he had to see other scientists (Charles Darwin in particular) making advances of note. Sir Richard Owen died on December 18th in 1892.

After the plaque had been unveiled refreshments were served and there was ample opportunity to enjoy viewing the exhibitions mounted in the Library, including an excellent display of first year pupils' art inspired by fossils.

There are several websites which offer information on Sir Richard Owen and his work. It all makes fascinating reading. Margaret Edwards



i. Part of the exhibition in the LRGs Library



ii. On left, first after the space: 'Sir Richard Owen, K.C.B., F.R.S.'



iii. The Headmaster of LRGs, Dr. Christopher Pyle



iv. Part of the art exhibition on the theme of *Fossils*



v. Job done! A notable former pupil suitably honoured.

42nd Annual Archaeology Forum, 7 March, 2015

This year's Archaeology Forum was held for the first time under the aegis of Lancaster University's Regional Heritage Centre.

Chaired as ever by Professor David Shotter, it presented the wide range of topics we have come to expect, covering both Lancashire and Cumbria, and stretching from the Mesolithic to the First World War.

The first speaker, **Jason Wood**, got the conference off to a controversial start with his discussion of the results of topographical and geophysical surveys of **the area between Lancaster Castle and St George's Quay**, suggesting that certain earthworks and anomalies might be the remains of the Roman Shore Fort, on a different alignment from the Wery Wall, the visible masonry remains which have long been assumed to be C4 Roman work. At this stage there are more questions than answers, but it is hoped a community archaeology project on the site will provide answers – by the old-fashioned method of digging! Jason went on to describe the *Beyond the Castle* project, and how it was engaging the citizens of Lancaster, and encouraging tourism into the city.

Jeremy Bradley of Oxford Archaeology North gave a fascinating account of initial results of OAN work along **the line of the new M6 link road to Morecambe**, focusing on two very different sites. First we looked at evidence of prehistoric activity in the Skerton area which related to the crucial period when the Late Mesolithic was merging into the Early Neolithic, seen in the context of a number of similar sites along the Lune valley. Less than half a kilometre away, the Beaumont Grange area was revealed as the centre of major industrial-type activity in the medieval period, previously unknown, but clearly related to the grange which belonged to Furness Abbey, and perhaps strategically located near the over-sands route that linked Furness with other Cistercian abbeys. Exactly what activities were going on at the site was not yet clear, but they appear to have included processing grain, burning lime and something that required various water management features.

An old friend of the Forum, **Andrew Birley**, returned to give us one of his **periodic updates on Vindolanda**, which goes on and on surprising us. It now appears that there were at least nine Roman forts and settlements on the site, with new commanding officers apparently constantly ordering new builds. We saw the latest, as yet untranscribed and untranslated, writing tablets, and Andrew offered prizes for anyone who could read the Latin cursive script on the screen (your correspondent was pleased to have spotted the letter 'A' twice, but that was all!).

New to the Forum, **Louise Martin**, Community Archaeology Officer with the Morecambe Bay Partnership, told us of the Heritage Lottery Funded **Headlands to Headspace project**, and the plans to tackle a number of archaeology and heritage projects all round the Bay from Walney Island to Cockerham Sands. In particular we looked at the enigmatic industrial site at Jenny Brown's Point, and the extensive First World War remains on Walney, and Louise outlined how volunteers were being trained to research, explore and record these and other sites around the Bay, as well as making oral history recordings of fishermen and others whose unique memories will add to future understanding of the past.

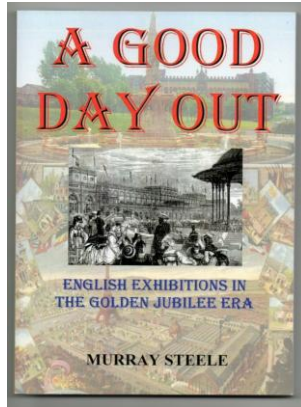
Carl Savage outlined his detailed research into **the medieval coinage of Cumbria**, using evidence from hoards and stray finds to show that, despite the remoteness of the region, and its troubled history while passing back and forth between overlordship of Scotland and England, and always subject to border raids and incursions, the distribution of coin loss is remarkably similar to that of the more settled rest of England.

Our final speaker was **Caron Newman**, who had been **reconstructing the landscape of Cumbria** from historic maps. Initially her research had been based on the late C18 county maps and early Ordnance Survey maps, expanding upon the work of the Historic Landscape Characterisation project. More recently, she had turned her attention to a range of earlier maps, notably the early C17 estate maps of the Barony of Gilsland, and an earlier set of dispute maps from the Duchy of Lancaster archive, featuring Sadgill. Caron showed how these and similar maps could be used to help reconstruct, for example, the extent of late medieval woodland, settlement and field patterns.

(Editor: please see over for report of Centre's formal launch which followed.....)

After the Forum adjourned, many of the participants, and other invited guests, reassembled for the formal launch of the Regional Heritage Centre by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mark Smith, following a short presentation by Professor Angus Winchester, Centre Director.

After the reception, attendees proceeded to a dinner, which was followed by an entertaining and light-hearted talk by Lindsay Allason-Jones, OBE, entitled 'Eagles and Egos', on the trials and tribulations of being a historical consultant to film makers. The focus of Lindsay's talk was her work with 'The Eagle' (2011), a Hollywood blockbuster inspired by Rosemary Sutcliffe's children's book, *The Eagle of the Ninth* (1954). The lecture was followed by a buffet dinner, attended by forty supporters and representatives of external bodies.
Bill Shannon



Victorian England celebrated its industrial and artistic progress in a series of large exhibitions, starting with the famous Crystal Palace Exhibition of 1851, opened by Queen Victoria, and ending in four major shows staged in Northern locations during the Golden Jubilee year of 1887.

This book traces the evolution of these massive enterprises throughout a period of rapid social change, when cheap public transport and shorter hours at work created a popular desire for entertainment, rather than instruction, when working people visited exhibitions.

Using contemporary newspapers and available records, this illustrated booklet outlines the progress of these shows, with descriptions of their organisation and what they had on offer to visitors. It will appeal to those interested in English society during the Victorian times, and in the staging of major public events in the mid and later years of Queen Victoria's reign. ISBN 978-1-26-21050-2 Amazon: £6.99 (also available on Kindle)

MANCENT: Manchester Continuing Education Network - A Day School:

The Rise of Museums in the North-West

Saturday, 30 May, 2015. 11 am - 4 pm

Led by Anthony Burton, retired museum curator.

At Cross Street Chapel, Cross Street, Manchester, M2 1NL

Day course fee: £30 (concessions £25)

For information and booking contact the Leader:

phone: 0161 258 9077 mobile: 07847 144 901 email: anthonyburton@mail.com

See website: <http://www.mancent.org.uk/Museum%20Summer%202015.html>

Outline: *Was there a 'Victorian museum movement'?

*How private enterprise promoted museums.

*Contribution of the public sector and the social role of museums.

*Art, science, history: what was to be seen in the museums?

*Museum architecture: how the museums presented themselves on the street.

Another Piece of the Jigsaw

It is always satisfying when a research 'jigsaw' receives another 'piece' and this note records such an episode. Margaret Edwards

The Friends of Lancashire Archives advertised (Issue 6, LLHF *NEWSLETTER*, p.8) a supper and lecture to be held on March 14th, 2014. The lecture, 'Mr Langshaw's Square Piano', was given by Madeline Goold, the sculptress.

The lecture was excellent. It traced Ms Goold's exploration of four topics:

(i) the identity of the original owner of her *Broadwood* square piano, an instrument in a somewhat derelict condition when she acquired it at auction in the Midlands; (ii) the history of that owner's family; (iii) the square piano in the historical context of keyboard instruments and *Broadwood's* development of it; and (iv) the social impact of the square piano as a new invention, interpreted, and supported by evidence, by Ms. Goold as a major social revolution. Madeline Goold's book* on the four topics listed above was available at the FLA event. **Mr. Langshaw's Square Piano* by Madeline Goold. Corvo Books Ltd, London 2008. ISBN 9780954325596 (0954325591)

The original owner of this square piano was Mr. John (Jack) Langshaw, the Organist of Lancaster Parish Church, who, like his father named John, followed his father in gaining that position and also maintained his father's private connection as an agent for *Broadwood*. He purchased Ms. Goold's piano on July 27th, 1807.

***Thanks to a note by Dr. Tim Austin, a retired physicist who lives in Cumbria, the Langshaw family history can be augmented. His note is in the current issue of the NEWSLETTER of The Gaskell Society (Spring 2015 - Number 59, pp 17, 18).**

In her Langshaw Pedigree, Madeline Goold (who had full access to Tim Austin's family papers) had included the children of Jack Langshaw and his wife Sarah, née Grundy. The eighth child was named James Pearson Langshaw (known as 'Pearson'), who became a noted Lancaster surgeon and was also an organist. He married Emily Sharpe, the sister of Edmund Sharpe, the architect who established the famous practice known at one stage as Sharpe, Paley and Austin. The first child of Pearson and Emily Langshaw was a daughter, named Fanny, who lived from 1844-1915. Fanny married Hubert Austin, a well known partner in her uncle's practice, and it is from this line that Tim Austin is descended.

Tim Austin records that Emily Langshaw, née Sharpe, was from childhood a close friend of Elizabeth Gaskell; Emily and Pearson Langshaw were friends of Elizabeth and William Gaskell, and the children of both couples were also friends.

When the Gaskells decided to purchase a *Broadwood* piano, a Boudoir Grand, they approached Pearson Langshaw; *Broadwood's* were connected with Pearson's grandfather and father, that connection being described by Tim Austin as 'Broadwood's first dedicated piano business conducted through an individual organist musician outside London (*country friend*)', and its first surviving record being dated '4 October 1784'. Pearson Langshaw placed the Gaskell order on '3 January 1853'. As Tim Austin explains, Elizabeth Gaskell had told her eldest daughter, in a letter of November 22nd, 1852, that 'your Uncle Langshaw is to have the trade reduction of price'.

I had asked Madeline Goold after her lecture for the exact Lancaster address of the Mr. Langshaw who had originally purchased her square piano; I was told that it was 1, High Street. My note on p.6 of Issue 7 of the LLHF *NEWSLETTER* explained an interesting link, in that that property was later the home of the poet Laurence Binyon. 'High Street' (no number is given) is the address visible in the photograph furnished by Tim Austin of the *Broadwood* 'Account record' relating to the Gaskells' piano. The account is in the name of 'Mr J P Langshaw', the customer is named as 'Revd W Gaskell'. Pearson Langshaw was clearly living in or near his family's home. Tim Austin records that the Langshaw and Gaskell families 'met up from time to time at Manchester, Lancaster and Silverdale.'

VISITORS PLEASE NOTE:

Gaskell House, 84, Plymouth Grove, Manchester M13 9LW, former home of Rev'd William and Mrs Gaskell, is Listed Grade II*. The house is run by volunteers and is open from 11am to 4.30pm (last entry 4pm) on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays. Telephone: 0161 273 2215
Admission: £4.95; Concessions for Students and Senior Citizens: £3.95.



Photo via Wikipedia

Foxdenton Hall and Park

Foxdenton Hall was named, as a Hall which has closed, on p.22 of our Issue No.10, in a feature entitled, 'HISTORIC HALLS NEED FRIENDS, DON'T THEY? DISCUSS!'. My inbox has, since publication of that issue, received two very welcome notes from **Heather Luft**, explaining that Foxdenton Hall was closed in spite of having 'Friends': **the group named 'Friends of Foxdenton Hall and Park' has been in existence for the last fourteen years**, a period in which it has experienced great difficulties.

It has kept functioning even in the face of losing use of the Hall 'about three years ago'; it has apparently made approaches to Oldham Council with offers of funds raised over the years through its successful events; but no headway has been made. At one stage it was 'reduced to confining our events to the park'; Heather writes, **'We are still here and still holding events in the park!'**

That is good news indeed. And there's more: Heather has more recently informed me that a plan to create a structure to preserve the Hall as a community asset, a plan discussed in the past without its coming to fruition, is now being mentioned again, though 'No detail of it is in the public domain' ; but 'there will be a public consultation in the near future to discuss the plans and seek public support'. Margaret Edwards

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From the Area Chairman, Heritage Trust for the North West, Higherford Mill, Gisburn Road, Barrowford, Nelson, Lancashire, BB9 6JH. Telephone 01282 877686 Fax 01282 877681

Tour of Listed Buildings at Risk on the Fylde Provisional Programme Friday 3 July 2015

9.00	Coach to collect delegates coming by train from Liverpool, Manchester, Cumbria at Store Street, under Piccadilly Station, Manchester, M1 2WD.
9.30	Arrive Long Street Methodist Church, Long Street, Middleton, M24 5UE (Grade II* at Risk) . Delegates coming by car can park on site.
10.15	Coach departs for Bank Hall.
11.15	Arrive Bank Hall, Bretherton, (Grade II* at Risk) .
12.00	Depart Bank Hall for Lytham Hall.
12.40	Arrive Lytham Hall (Grade I at Risk) . Buffet Lunch.
14.30	Depart for Blackpool.
15.00	Arrive Winter Gardens, Blackpool .
16.00	<u>Depart Blackpool for return journey.</u>
17.00	Arrive Long Street Methodist Church (Tea and Biscuits) for some delegates to collect cars.
18.00	Coach departs Long Street Methodist Church to return delegates to Manchester
	Piccadilly for trains

✂-----
To: Heritage Trust for the North West, Higherford Mill, Gisburn Road, Barrowford, Nelson, Lancashire, BB9 6JH

TOUR OF BUILDINGS AT RISK – FRIDAY 3 JULY 2015

Please reserve _____ seats at £25 per person includes coach fare and light lunch. I enclose a cheque for £_____ made payable to Heritage Trust for the North West

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel No: _____

Email Address: _____

Manchester Central Library and Archives+

After my U3A History Group was given an excellent guided tour of the Race Relations Resource Centre, Dr. Jackie Ould and her staff kindly compiled this article and supplied the images at my invitation. Editor.

First opened in 1934, **Central Library** is at the heart of the **City of Manchester's library and information service** and is (excepting only Birmingham) the largest public lending library in the country. The purpose-built, neoclassical Grade II Listed building was re-opened in March 2014 following a multi-million pound refurbishment which, while retaining the distinctive character of the building, has better fitted it for the digital age. Entrance to the Pantheon-inspired library is via the impressive Shakespeare Hall, with its high ceiling decorated with locally important heraldic emblems and a central stained glass window depicting Shakespeare and scenes from selected plays. **The City Library**, giving access to the large collection of materials available for lending, now occupies a purpose-built area on the Lower Ground level, which connects Central Library with the Town Hall Extension next door. The magnificent domed Great Hall on the first floor of Central Library has been retained and is as popular as ever – both as an inspiring place in which to read or study, and a focus for visitors keen to admire its architecture. The inscription around the dome is taken from Proverbs 4 and begins, “Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom, and with all thy getting get understanding.”

The most obvious change to the building has been the relocation of the main staircase and lifts (the latter made of glass) and the opening-out of the ground floor. This has allowed the creation of a new area dedicated to the collaborative project Archives+, which includes an exhibition space, combining traditional display cases with contemporary interactive digital displays.

Archives+

This brings together key archive and heritage partners who showcase their collections and provide services from a single, central point. **The Manchester and Lancashire Family History, Manchester Libraries' own Archives service and the Greater Manchester County Records Office are all partners well-known to local and family historians.** Further partners are **The Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Race Relations Resource Centre**, a unique library and archive specialising in race, ethnicity and migration. Its archives contain much information about local communities, including oral histories and photographs. **The North West Film Archive** is one of the largest public film collections, holding more than 38,000 items, ranging from the 1890s to the present day, from across the North West region.

Further information and opening hours available from:

Manchester Central Library: <http://www.manchester.gov.uk/centrallibrary>

Archives+: <http://www.archivesplus.org/>



Courtesy of Pedric (Flickr by licence)



Courtesy of Sergiovelayosf (Flickr by licence)



Courtesy of Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Race Relations Resource Centre

BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR LOCAL HISTORY

The BALH Newsletter for March 2015 carries a most interesting and informative article entitled, '**A Short History of the Status of Footpaths in Closed Churchyards**'. It is an outline history of **how churches came to allow their churchyard footpaths to be used as public paths and of legislation put in place to define the legality of such use.** It will be of interest in particular to anyone linked with, or responsible for, a church whose churchyard has running through it a path used by the public, whether or not that church is closed. The author is Ian R. Thornton, LLB, and the article draws on material used in preparing for a LLM (Canon Law) degree. Margaret Edwards

THIS AND THAT....THIS AND THAT....THIS AND THAT....THIS AND THAT....

*Morris Garratt, President of **The Lancashire & Cheshire Antiquarian Society**, has announced that the Society's *Transactions* Volume 108 is now being distributed.. The volume is larger than Volume 107 and offers some 220+ pages. Congratulations are due to the Editor and his team in overcoming a number of set-backs and obstacles and Morris recorded his thanks to members for their patience.

*Bob Dobson sends the following news: [Bob is owner of Landy Publishing: telephone: 01253 886103
email : landypublishing@yahoo.co.uk]

(i) he has updated his list, **A CATALOGUE OF LANCASHIRE BOOKS** (on April 25th, 2015); it is searchable by using clearly named buttons on the website; Bob operates a search service for Lancashire and Cheshire books; he takes books to gatherings of local/family historians and is willing to set up a bookstall at events related to local and family history.

(ii) David Ratledge has told him that he has updated and re-located the '**Roman Roads in Lancashire**' website, which now features new LIDAR imagery: www.romanroads.org/gazetteer/lancspages.html

(iii) he has been notified that **Chester University Press** is about to publish the following:

**War Torn: Manchester, its newspapers and the Luftwaffe's Blitz of 1940* by Guy Hodgson Price: £14.99
and

**Politics, Publishing and Personalities: Wrexham Newspapers 1848-1914* by Lisa Peters Price: £12.99

REMEMBER.....

if you have in mind the properties and collections owned by the nation, the name you now need to use is

ENGLISH HERITAGE; website: www.english-heritage.org.uk/ This is now run by a charitable trust.

If you have in mind the heritage body which is responsible for advising the government regarding matters such as listed buildings, the name you now need is

HISTORIC ENGLAND ; website: www.historicengland.org.uk

The split, into two parts, of the former *English Heritage* came into force on April 1st, 2015.

COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY Calderstones Park in Liverpool contains Calderstones Mansion House (C19) and (in store) the six prehistoric megaliths constituting a Scheduled Ancient Monument which stood on the site and prompted the name still in use today ('the Calder stones'). The **CBA NW Spring 2015 Newsletter** reported on an initiative which it is hoped will attract HLF funding through highlighting the rich heritage of Calderstones; hence a dig was planned for Spring 2015. Future plans include the re-location of 'the Calder stones'.

JUST FOR THE RECORD..... U3A is recognised nationally as a provider of study courses at various levels and also provides opportunities for a wide range of cultural and social activities. **Local History features prominently in many branch programmes. A new initiative** throughout the country is the formation of **area networks** to enable the setting up of shared ventures. **Greater Manchester Network has come into being.** At the time of writing (according to the recent edition of *Third Age Matters*, the magazine of the U3A) **10 branches are involved in it: Bolton, Bury, Davyhulme, Hale, Leigh, Littleborough, Oldham, Sale, Salford and South Manchester.** Plans for a GMN study day this coming autumn are well under way.

TOUCHING ON IMMIGRATION TO ENGLAND

The year was 1440; England's population stood at approximately 2 million.

***HOW MANY OF THEM WERE IMMIGRANTS?** ANSWER: 14,500 APPROX..

That is about 1% of the people then living in England. A surprisingly large proportion.

***HOW DO WE KNOW ALL THIS?**

ANSWER: Through the researches of those working for a project on late medieval immigration led by York University, partnered by Sheffield University's Humanities Research Institute and the National Archives.

Names, locations, origins and occupations of foreign nationals living in England between 1330 and 1550 have been recorded and used to create a database which will allow searchers to build up immigration 'snapshots' in areas of interest to them. A map drawn up showing information relating to counties and their immigrants accompanied the article which is my source of information (and is of considerable interest) in the **May issue of *Current Archaeology*.**

See www.englishimmigrants.com

'CELEBRATING ARDWICK' EXHIBITION

ON WED., JUNE 24TH. 2.30 – 7.00pm

AT THE ST. THOMAS CENTRE, ARDWICK GREEN NORTH

Come and see what we've found! Some lovely stories of what it was like to live, work, and grow up in ARDWICK.

Just pop in! It would be nice to know if you're coming, but there's no need to book. Tales and scenes of...

Summer treats... *'Carlo, the ice-cream man, had a horse and cart. We used to take bread out for Bobby, his horse. My mum used to give us a glass jug for Carlo to fill up with ice cream.'* (Round and about)

A bit of history... *'It's still there isn't it, the boulder in the park? We were fascinated by it - we used to look at it in awe.'* (Ardwick Green)

A load of fun... *'It was like a proper show, with 'he's behind you!' All of us there with our toffees at Christmas.'* (Pantomime at the Hippodrome)

RESEARCH QUERY

A request for help with research, submitted by Brian Stone to the Lancashire & Cheshire Antiquarian Society, has been shared with us. Brian writes:

*I am trying to research the **Royal Lancashire Volunteer Regiment of Foot**, which was raised in about 1794/5 and disbanded after the Peace of Amiens in 1802. I believe it served in Ireland in 1798 and was commanded by Lord Grey de Wilton. I should say that the Lancashire Archives has the Muster Roll (a copy is being sent to me) but neither the Lancashire Infantry Museum nor the National Army Museum is able to give me any information about the Regiment. In particular I would like to have details of its uniform, the places where it served, and references to any local newspaper reports mentioning it. **Brian can be contacted at: brianstone2@hotmail.com***

NOTE TO MEMBERS If members have any research queries similar to the above, they are welcome to send details to me, as Newsletter Editor, and I will publicise them in the next available Issue.

LANCASTER & DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

Meets on First Wednesday of each month, 7.30pm
at BARTON ROAD COMMUNITY CENTRE, LANCASTER

SUBSCRIPTION: £10 per annum. The Group has Postal as well as Local members

GROUP WEBSITE: www.lfhg.org INQUIRIES: 01524 751504

The Group sends out monthly Newsletters and has a well-stocked library for use by members. (Microfiche readers can also be borrowed.)

It has published 49 booklets of **local churchyards' Monumental Inscriptions transcribed by members**, each booklet containing an Index of names. These can be borrowed by members and are also available for purchase at modest prices which include postage. A programme is in place for the recording of MIs in other churchyards.

Volunteers wishing to be involved in this activity are welcome and **should contact 01524 793549.**

There is an interesting and wide-ranging programme of monthly talks, 2015 into 2016, including

Wed. June 3 Detective work behind local & family history (by Chris Makepeace)

Wed. July 1 Guided Tour with Mr. J. Houghton of Thurnham Church & Thurnham Hall followed by refreshments.

Wed. 5 August Guided Tour of Westfield War Memorial Village.

LOOKING WELL AHEAD: DATES TO NOTE NOW

1. HISTORIC SOCIETY OF LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE

LECTURES TO BE HELD AT MUSEUM OF LIVERPOOL, at 2.30pm:

WED. JUNE 10TH: 'Warrington, Calabar, Livorno, Allerton Tower: the trans-national progress of a Liverpool slaving family'. Alex Robinson of Liverpool University.

WED. SEPTEMBER 16TH: 'Lost Castles and the Barons of Newton: Excavation and Documentary Evidence at Newton Hall, Newton-le-Willows'.

HSLC has announced its intention to mark the 180th anniversary (in 2017) of the implementation of the new Poor Law in most of the North West. It plans to hold a **conference on the theme of 'Poverty and Welfare in the North West, 1601-1939' IN 2016**, the papers to be published in 2017.

HSLC's new website can be visited at: <http://www.hslc.org.uk>

2. MANCHESTER CENTRE FOR REGIONAL HISTORY

A CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ON JUNE 26TH AND 27TH, 2015:

'TWIN CITIES PAST AND PRESENT'. This will focus on cities which co-exist on either side of political boundaries, as do Manchester and Salford, and will include examples from across the world.

See: www.hssr.mmu.ac.uk/mcrh

3. THE RECORD SOCIETY OF LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE

**THE LAUNCH OF THE SOCIETY'S 3-VOLUME EDITION OF
CROWN PLEAS OF THE LANCASHIRE EYRE, 1292**

will be held at 6.30pm on **JULY 31ST, 2015** at The Shire Hall, Lancaster Castle, LA1 1YS (Vol. 1 was published in December 2014 as Vol. 148, RSLC's Volume for that year. Vols. 2 and 3 are due to appear as RSLC's Volumes 149 and 150 in the summer of 2015.) Dr Colin Phillips, President of RSLC, will introduce as speakers Professor Paul Brand of The University of Oxford, Dr Alan Crosby and Dr Simon Harris, Chairman of The Ranulf Higden Society. Members of RSLC and RHS have translated and transcribed the Eyre, which was held in Lancaster Castle. **FOR COMPULSORY BOOKING OF PLACES (THESE ARE FREE, AND LIMITED) CONTACT:** margaretlynch@btinternet.com

4. THE ATKINSON MUSEUM IN SOUTHPORT: SEE

(a) 'The Goodison Collection' in its **new** permanent Ancient Egypt gallery; AND
(b) a brand new **special exhibition** on the 'Sacred Landscape of Ancient Egypt', organised by Dr Steven Snape, Reader in Egyptian Archaeology at the University of Liverpool. This exhibition opened on April 11th and **RUNS UNTIL AUGUST 30TH 2015. Entry to both is free.**

For more information please visit:

<http://www.theatkinson.co.uk/events/the-sacred-landscape-of-ancient-egypt/>

5. THE VICTORIAN SOCIETY'S PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION - AT BLACKBURN FROM 3 – 30 SEPTEMBER, 2015 - '*SAVING A CENTURY*' .

CURATED BY NOTED ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN GAVIN STAMP, THIS WILL BE ON SHOW **DAILY, FREE OF CHARGE**, AT BLACKBURN CENTRAL LIBRARY, TOWN HALL STREET, BLACKBURN, BB2 1AG . Sections will be devoted to topics such as *VICTORIAN BUILDINGS LOST BEFORE 1958, *THE EUSTON MURDER AND OTHER CASES, *RAILWAY BUILDINGS (That many pioneering and magnificent railway structures, such as **St Pancras Station**, survive today and are still in use is very much owing to the efforts of the Society.), *THE PURPLE OF COMMERCE (Photographs of some of the most significant Victorian commercial buildings to have come under threat in the last fifty years), and *COUNTRY HOUSES.

6. THE HISTORY TEAM OF VICTORIA BATHS, MANCHESTER

THIRD LOCAL HISTORY FAIR AT VICTORIA BATHS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6TH, 2015.

The theme will be **ORAL HISTORY**. Local History Groups are invited to hold stalls and Workshops will be held. **DETAILS LATER**. See website: <http://www.victoriabaths.org.uk/history/>

continued...

7. **Making Monuments on Rapa Nui : The Statues from Easter Island Exhibition at The Manchester Museum**

Opened April 1st, **RUNS UNTIL SEPTEMBER 6TH, 2015**. Investigates (i) how the world famous statues from Easter Island were made, quarried, transported; (ii) the role they played in the lives of the islanders; and (iii) what they mean. Included within the exhibition will be a statue from Easter Island which is currently in the collection of the British Museum. **The exhibition is free to enter.**

8. **COUNCIL FOR BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGY NORTH WEST THE INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY PANEL'S CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH, 2015, AT THE MECHANICS INSTITUTE, BURNLEY. THEME: 'CLOTH OF THE WORLD': THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE LANCASHIRE WEAVING MILL.**
A.M. Four talks. P.M. Tour of The Weavers' Triangle or Tour of Queen Street Mill (Make choice.)
Details: cbanw@britarch.ac.uk

9. **LANCASHIRE PLACE NAMES SURVEY TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27TH, 2015:** AGM at Lancashire Archives. There follows the **Annual Lecture**, presented by Dr Fiona Edmond of Cambridge University. The Lecture is open to all. There will be a modest charge. Subject: *Brittonic and Welsh influence in Lancashire: history and place-names*

10. **FYLDE HISTORY NETWORK : ANNUAL STUDY DAY ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH. VENUE: UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, ST ANNE'S TOPIC 'STRUGGLE FOR SURVIVAL' - POVERTY AND SOCIETY IN LANCASHIRE 1630-1900.**
Speakers: Dr Jonathan Healey (Kellogg College, Oxford University); Dr Mike Winstanley (retired senior lecturer Lancaster University); Dr Alan Crosby (Hon. Research Fellow Lancaster & Liverpool Universities).

BY THE WAY.....

LANCASHIRE ARCHIVES

In a recent Archives Newsletter, LA announced its decision to conserve the initial plans for the '**Haslingden Canal**', the waterway planned to extend from Bury Bridge to Accrington, flowing via Haslingden, and to join the Leeds & Liverpool Canal with the Manchester, Bolton & Bury Canal. The Haslingden Canal was passed by Act of Parliament in 1794 but was not constructed. The plans for it, now stored at Lancashire Archives, had become extremely fragile and tattered and were no longer considered robust enough to be produced often for viewing. ***2016 will bring the 200th anniversary of the completion of the Leeds & Liverpool Canal.** The highly complex conservation to modern standards of the extension plans, now completed, has been LA's way of marking this important anniversary. The plans are now reported to be 'available for all to enjoy'.

THE VICTORIAN SOCIETY IN MANCHESTER

*Marion Barter and Kerrie Melrose were the authors of an important article, printed in the Spring 2015 Newsletter of The Victorian Society in Manchester, about **Rochdale Town Hall (Listed Grade 1)**. The article presents a most interesting outline of the building's features, interior decoration, history and context.*

Since 2013 much of the building has been underused, apparently - the result of the building and taking over of a modern Council Office. It is, however, still open to the public and can be used for some functions. The building is regarded as one of the finest Victorian examples of the genre (1860s, the architect being W.H. Crossland); and both the exterior and interior exhibit outstanding examples of the work of noted artists and craftsmen. Restoration of the Town Hall and its site in order to make the fullest use of what it has to offer, and to derive the greatest possible community benefit from it, will clearly be a major undertaking. However, thorough professional advice has been taken from a range of consultants and a feasibility study has been drawn up. Application to HLF has been made for the funding of a major element of restoration and the result is keenly awaited. **Meanwhile, tours of the Town Hall are offered at 2.15pm on the last Friday of every month. A tour lasts about 2 hours.**

Booking a tour can be done by telephone on: 01706 924797.

VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE

REPORT :

'History on the Ground' walks in north Lancashire led by James Houghton of Pilling.

Visit No. 1, on APRIL 28TH was to houses in **Pilling**, including a guided tour of **Bell Farm** (c.1700) and **Scronkey Farm** and **thatched barn**. Traditional building materials here are mainly brick, often on a cobble plinth, thatch, and a small amount of stone.

Visit No 2, on MAY 5TH, was to ***Lancaster Castle**. This was not just a standard tour, it was the 1st public visit to 'A' Wing (the C18/C19 prison) and the C14 Well Tower. Both of these visits were extremely interesting and successful.

Kevin Illingworth (All photographs by Kevin Illingworth)

***More about this in Issue 12.**



Bell Farm, Pilling



Scronkey Farm, Pilling



Exterior, thatched barn, Scronkey Farm



Interior, thatched barn, Scronkey Farm

NEWS: Hough End Hall, Chorlton-cum-Hardy, south Manchester. (Listed Grade 2*) The Friends of Hough End Hall are hoping to buy this hall, which is the only substantial Elizabethan (c.1596) mansion in SE Lancashire, and an early example of use of brick in the county. To raise funds for their campaign, there will be *** an Exhibition and Film** by Andrew Simpson and Peter Topping at The Lloyds Hotel, No 617, Wilbraham Road, **from FRIDAY, MAY 15TH TO SUNDAY, MAY 24TH, 2015 inclusive.**

*** a Book Launch** at The Lloyds Hotel on **SATURDAY, MAY 16TH AT 7.30 PM**

*** a Walk and Talk** from Hough End Hall on **MAY 17TH AND 24TH MAY at 1.00pm (SUNDAYS)**

For further information see houghendhall.org

Extwistle Hall, Briercliffe-with-Extwistle, near Burnley (Listed Grade 2*) This mid-C16/C17 former gentry house, unoccupied and seriously 'at risk' for about 25 years, has now been put on the market. At first **Rightmove** was seeking offers in excess of £500,000, but now **Petty Chartered Surveyors** are seeking 'unconditional offers' (see www.pettycommercial.co.uk)

The Friends of The Historic Houses Association (Lancashire and Cheshire region) are visiting **Downham Hall** and **Dutton Hall** (c.1600) on **TUESDAY, JUNE 23RD, 2015**. These two houses are not normally open to the public. There are visible C16/C17 remains at Downham Hall. **To join these visits, one needs to be a member, or to be a guest of a member.** (see www.hha.org.uk)

Kevin Illingworth
