



LANCASHIRE LOCAL HISTORY FEDERATION

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NO. 16 AUGUST 2016

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***DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: NOVEMBER 15th, 2016**

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The Editor cordially invites you to submit your Society information, and your own news, notes, reports and articles.

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View from the Chair

I am very pleased to be able to contribute to the Newsletter for the first time as Chair of the Committee. It is a daunting prospect for me, partly because I am not a native Lancastrian. But I am well aware of the vast store of knowledge about the history and culture of the county held in the lives and experiences of its people and organisations. This is well represented in the small but highly effective group of people who form the committee.

In times of great pressure on budgets, local authorities have no alternative but to concentrate the greater part of their resources on essential services such as maintaining infrastructure and providing services to the most vulnerable members of the community. In these circumstances the contribution of the Federation, local history groups and interested individuals to the heritage of the county and its communities becomes even more relevant and important. We know that people's lives are enriched by knowing more about the history of their families and localities.

We hope that groups and individuals who are members of the Federation, and all who read our informative Newsletter, will be encouraged by seeing the great range of activities shown here. Please contact the Editor if you wish to promote or report your local activities. And if you or your group haven't yet joined, our Membership Secretary would be delighted to hear from you!

Marianne Howell

Saint Helens Historical Society organised an excellent programme for the Federation at St. Helens, a meeting held at Pilkington's glass museum. The day began with an archive film of John Harris and Theo Barker, two noted Lancashire historians of the recent past who wrote a highly acclaimed history of Saint Helens. These two experts discussed many aspects of the industrial history of the town and it was very interesting to hear them talking together.

This was followed with a talk by Geoff Simms on *Coal and Saint Helens*, which gave an overview of the town's industrial past, and then a talk by Peter Keen on the rise, fall and rise of the Sankey canal, which canal has the best claim (sticking my neck out here, but I support this view!) to be the first canal of Britain's industrial era. Both talks were illustrated with very good slides.

Following a buffet lunch and an opportunity to search the bookstalls, members could choose between a half-mile towpath guided tour and a visit to the Friends' Meeting House, or a guided tour of the World of Glass exhibition at the museum.

Altogether another very enjoyable and successful meeting – congratulations (again) to the Saint Helens Society.

Diana Winterbotham

NEWS FROM The Friends of Lancashire Archives: our VISIT TO PARROX HALL, advertised in LLHF last issue (15) of Newsletter, was immediately well-supported and is now oversubscribed.

LOCAL HERITAGE SOCIETY FREE PROMOTIONAL OFFER

*Are you a local Heritage Society with a rich history?

*Do you provide local educational talks or tours for your members, visitors or local communities?

*Is your local knowledge sitting in your head or on your website or in other archives, and would you like it all to be accessible while people are actually walking past places of interest in a more immersive and accessible way?

*Would you like to share this knowledge at any time with visitors who can then easily guide themselves around your local area at their own convenience using a smartphone?

*Would you like to have control and update your content without the excessive cost of complicated web or app development or the need to have any programming knowledge?

*Would you like to do all this free of charge?

Geotourist takes your images and audio commentary and uses GPS on smartphones to guide people around your towns and cities, learning the histories as told by you.

Using our simple website, you can record your own audio directly to the website and upload your own photos and tag these to the map.

Immediately these points of interest come to life in the real world with your audio and images using the **Geotourist** app! Even better, the **Geotourist** app on iTunes and Google Play for Android phones is free to download. This means that you can extend how far your local/specialist knowledge can reach.

For a limited time, **Geotourist** is offering UK based local heritage societies free access to their simple but powerful platform to get your voice on the map! Join others like [Neil Oliver and The Open University](#), [Historic England](#), Tourism Boards, Heritage Societies and various councils both in the UK and around the world and find out why they love this new unique educational audio mapping platform! One portal to promote destination tourism and preserve local knowledge, turning the world into a museum and using **Geotourist** as the GPS audio guide.

If interested, please register at geotourist.com

MAKE THE WORLD SMALLER



VICTORIAN SOCIETY - MANCHESTER GROUP

TUESDAY 4 OCTOBER 2016

An illustrated talk
God's Architect: Pugin and the Building of Romantic Britain
With Rosemary Hill
Cost: £8 No need to book
7pm for 7.15pm
Friends' Meeting House

TUESDAY 25 OCTOBER 2016

Annual Manchester Waterhouse Lecture
Edgar Wood's Manchester: Northern Arts and Crafts Powerhouse
With Nick Baker
Cost: £8 No need to book
7pm for 7.15pm
Friends' Meeting House

WEDNESDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2016

An illustrated talk
Thomas Whitlam Atkinson (1799-1861): A Forgotten Victorian Architect and Artist
With John Massey Stewart
Cost: £8 No need to book
7pm for 7.15pm
Friends' Meeting House

TUESDAY 6 DECEMBER 2016

An illustrated talk
English Victorian ecclesiastical wall painting: who wanted it, who painted it and why it matters
With Elizabeth Woolley
Cost: £8 No need to book
7pm for 7.15pm
Friends' Meeting House

SATURDAY 28 JANUARY 2017

Annual General Meeting followed by an illustrated talk
Victorian Women Travellers
With John Theakstone

Cost of Talk: £5, including tea and biscuits No need to book
1.45pm to 4.30pm Elizabeth Gaskell's House
84, Plymouth Grove, Manchester. M13 9LW

MOURHOLME LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

AUTUMN/WINTER 2016 PROGRAMME

All talks are held at Yealand Village Hall at 7.30pm

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| September 28th | 'Recent Archaeological Discoveries on the new M6 Link Road' - Jeremy Bradley |
| October 26th | 'Pride of Preston: The Dick, Kerr Ladies 1917-65' - Gail Newsham |
| November 23rd | 'Enclosures and Commons' - Dr Mike Winstanley |
| December 20th | 'Flush and Forget in Silverdale' - Geoff Wood |

MANCHESTER HISTORIES FESTIVAL



You never know who's taking your photograph these days, do you? Held in the splendid setting of Manchester's Victorian Town Hall, the main event (the local societies' stalls) attracted a huge number of members and visitors and the lectures in nearby rooms were popular, too. The Lancashire & Cheshire Antiquarian Society had a stall manned by Morris Garratt, former LCAS President, and Diana Winterbotham, a Vice President. Margaret Edwards, a member of the LCAS Council, did a morning stint on the stall - and look what happened! (Diana was the photographer.) M.E.

THE GREAT BRITISH MILL RACE: How you can help us document the mills of the UK Focus on North West Mills

The Great British Mill Race is part of the Heritage Lottery Fund supported 'From Quern to Computer' project. More information can be found here: www.gbmillrace.org & <https://millsarchive.org/>

The Mills Archive is running a competition called the Great British Mill Race – which I hope your members might be interested in. We are inviting the general public to join the Great British Mill Race by uploading photographs and comments to a web form hosted on our website (visit www.gbmillrace.org), relating to mills they have seen or visited all over the UK. *Help us save a record of our milling heritage before it is lost forever.*

The purpose of this activity is to help us update our [mills database](#) – e.g. with current pictures of mills, histories of mills, clarification whether the mill still exists or is open to the public.

The competition runs until spring 2017. Prizes will be awarded for the best entries which will also be shared via the Mills Archive social media channels using #gbmillrace.

Over the summer we are focusing on different regions of the UK in turn. Currently we are appealing for information about North West mills:

<https://millsarchive.org/news/entry/167815/the-great-british-mill-race-focus-on-north-west-mills#.VzsC6rgrKUK>

Please encourage your members to visit www.gbmillrace.org and take part by sending in mill pictures and information.

We're using #gbmillrace to talk about the GBMR on social media.

From: Claire Wooldridge of The Mills Archive Trust

Your Mill Needs You!
Join The Great British Mill Race

Starts 14th May 2016 at 9AM

We need your help to create a record of your mill, before it's too late.

More and more wind and water mills are lost every year.

The Mills Archive host the biggest database of British Mills in the world.

Keeping our records updated is a huge task, that's why we need you.

Interested? Get in touch and become a **Great British Mill Racer**:

- 1 Log on at www.gbmillrace.org
- 2 Find and visit your local mill
- 3 Snap away, send us your best pictures and updated information
- 4 Follow [#gbmillrace](#) for updates, prizes and more

Mills Archive

heritage lottery fund
LOTTERY FUNDED

The Mills Archive Trust, Watlington House, 44 Watlington Street, Reading, RG1 4RJ, UK. Registered Charity 1155628.

Introductory Guide
to the Records of the
Palatinate of Lancaster



Mike Derbyshire

*Introductory Guide to the Records of the
Palatinate of Lancaster*

ISBN 978-0-9931689-2-5, 81 pages, £14
incl p&p.

This guide introduces the vast quantity of documents produced by the Palatinate of Lancaster. These records were previously kept in Lancaster Castle, but are now held at the National Archives at Kew in West London. The records relate to the period during which Lancashire had its own courts of law, independent of the national system of courts, starting in the middle of the fourteenth century and continuing well into the twentieth century.

Copies can be obtained by writing to the author at Rowton Brook Farm, Quernmore, Lancaster LA2 9EQ. Cheques should be made payable to M E Derbyshire.

LANCASHIRE ARCHIVES: NEW OPENING HOURS

PLEASE NOTE: from Monday 4 July 2016 Lancashire Archives will be **open** as follows:

Monday	CLOSED
Tuesday	9.30-5.00 (open until 7.00pm on the second Tuesday of each month)
Wednesday	9.30-5.00
Thursday	9.30-5.00
Friday	9.30-5.00
Saturday	10.00-4.00 on the second Saturday of each month only

Did you know... the founder of the *Eagle* comic originated from Preston? I myself wouldn't have known except for receiving the always-interesting **Newsletter** of the **Lancashire Archives**.

The June 2016 issue included a fascinating account of how research centring on an entry in a baptism register brought this to light. Rev'd John Marcus Harston Morris, who lived from 1915 to 1989 and was Vicar of St. James's Church, Birkdale, Southport, founded the comic, which was published from 1950 to 1969. M.E.

(If you would be interested to receive each issue, you could easily arrange for it to be sent to you as a pdf.)

ST HELENS HISTORICAL SOCIETY PROGRAMME AUTUMN 2016

Monday, September 19th	Lost Treasures of the North West Stage III	Mark Olly
Monday, October 17th	The IRA in Liverpool and Manchester 1919-1921	David Shaw
Monday, November 21st	From Blackbrook to Treacle Row	Alan Crosby
Monday, December 12th	Pre-Christmas Gathering (6.30 for 7pm)	

ARE YOU KEEN ON VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE?

In spite of 2016 having a 'patchy' summer, Kevin Illingworth has been out and about: (i) Stephen Park Farm, Stocks Reservoir area; (ii) the Duddon Valley; and (iii) Staynall, in the Fylde. As he puts it: 'three very different areas of 'Lancashire' - at different periods of its existence!'. The first is reported in this issue - see p.18; the other two reports will appear in Issue 17.



Photo: Alice Lock

The Council of the Society met on 15 June 2016 at Salford Diocesan Archives, St. Augustine's, Manchester. Before the formal business commenced, Mrs. Margaret Edwards made a presentation to Mr. Morris Garratt on behalf of the Council to mark its appreciation of his untiring work as former President. His recently appointed successor, Dr. Michael Powell, was unfortunately unable to be present.

The LCAS has been undergoing a number of changes, including the preparation of a new website. Members will recall that there was a crisis in the Society's publishing programme a few years ago. In the last three years, however, a pattern of yearly publication has been established under the editorship of Dr. Steve Collins; but it was decided to continue to use the familiar sequence of dating and numbering volumes. Hence during June 2016 members have received the third annual edition of the Transactions of recent times (the third annual volume bound in the new format with laminated card cover). It is, however, named Volume 109, 2013, following the annual sequence, and containing the Society's reports for 2013, though **the articles were all freshly minted in 2016**. It is a bumper edition of 264 pages and offers thirteen papers, some illustrated, and reviews as well as Society business. **This volume is available to non-members at £21, including p&p (see order form on LCAS website)**. The main Contents list follows. M.E.

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LANCASHIRE & CHESHIRE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

Following a stock-taking, LCAS is holding a **SUMMER SALE** of off-prints from its Transactions. The following is a selected list of titles. Prices, incl. p&p: £3.00 for any two offprints, £5.00 for any three. Order form on LCAS website. A FULL list of available off-prints is also available on the website. Please use the standard form and note "Special Offer" if ordering more than one offprint. **OFFER ENDS 30 SEPTEMBER.**

Caruana, Viv	<i>Manchester Airport from provincial aerodrome to international gateway, 1934 - 1980</i>
Davies, J	<i>A polished discoidal flint knife from Slatepit Moor, Lancashire: A communication</i>
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Ford, C S	<i>The Reverend Theophilus Caleb: Race, politics and religion in a south east Lancashire village 1926 - 1932</i>
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Hallam, John	<i>The Pendleton legend, Craggs Farm footprints and Apronfull Hill</i>
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Jolly, Sandra	<i>Ethos and regime in juvenile reformatories in Lancashire, circa 1854 - 1900</i>
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Snape, Michael	<i>'The Surey Imposter': Demonic possession and religious conflict in seventeenth century Lancashire</i>
Taylor, Clare	<i>Wythenshawe Hall and the Tatton family</i>
Taylor, R	<i>Coastal salt industry of Amounderness</i>
Tomlinson, V I	<i>Letters of a Lancashire Luddite transported to Australia, 1812 - 1816</i>
Walton, John K	<i>The world's first working class seaside resort? Blackpool revisited, 1840 - 1974</i>
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LANCASTER UNIVERSITY REGIONAL HERITAGE CENTRE: STUDY DAYS AND EVENTS

Our next full day event is the **150th Anniversary Conference of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society**, to be held at the Rheged Centre near Penrith on **Saturday 10 September**. This prestigious event features a range of eminent speakers and includes a conference lunch. A subsidised enrolment fee is offered to Friends and Patrons of the Regional Heritage Centre as well as members of CWAAS.

Full details are available, and you can book online, by visiting our website.

www.lancaster.ac.uk/rhc/

BRAMALL HALL, STOCKPORT

Stockport has a chequered administrative past: 1889 saw it created as a county borough; by 1913 it had expanded, absorbing Reddish, then the four Heaton, from Lancashire; in the 1974 revision of local government boundaries the present Stockport Borough was formed from the county borough along with some urban districts of Cheshire, including one, Marple, which back in 1936 had already absorbed territory from Derbyshire. Today, Stockport Borough is part of Greater Manchester.

Stockport has a rich and varied architectural heritage, Bramhall Hall being the 'star' significant building. In his 'Cheshire' volume of *The Buildings of England* (Penguin 1971 112) Pevsner, writing in his often unequivocal way, claimed: 'BRAMALL HALL is one of the four best timber-framed mansions of England. The others are Little Moreton and, in Lancashire, Speke Hall and Rufford Old Hall.'. So then, in a loose way, Bramall Hall, in, and administered by, Stockport Borough, could be said to have links with Lancashire; and it is certainly on Lancashire's doorstep.

The very heartening news is that a hugely expensive restoration programme has just been completed and the Hall is once more open to the public. Readers of this Newsletter might well be keen to visit it, either as individuals or as visitors on a society's excursion.

We are very privileged to have the following first-hand report from Mrs. Eileen Garratt, the Treasurer of the Friends of Bramall Hall (which contributed substantially towards the cost of the Hall's restoration), who has been at the centre of the 'creation' of a new room, one of two new rooms, carrying out research on the relevant periods of the Hall's history and helping with selection of decoration and furnishings. I was delighted when Eileen agreed to write for us about her experience as part of the Bramall Hall restoration team. Editor.

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Photo M. E.

Bramall Hall, 'a jewel in the crown of Stockport's heritage', has just completed a two-million pound programme of restoration and improvement, £1.6m of which was contributed by the Heritage Lottery Fund. The Hall, which is mainly timber-framed, has expanded from a fairly small building at the end of the fourteenth century to the much larger building we see today. Over the centuries many changes have taken place, both by adding and taking away various features.

The Manor of Bramhall before the Norman Conquest is attributed to two Saxon freemen, Brun and Hacun; they were followed by the de Mascys, then several generations of the de Bromales until, around 1370, the daughter of Geoffrey de Bromale, Alice, married John de Davenport. So began 500 years of the Davenports being lords of the manor, until 1877, when they sold the Hall and some 1900 acres to the Freeholders Company of Manchester. During their years of ownership the Hall was mainly uninhabited, the firm concentrating on selling plots of land for Bramhall housing. In 1882, Thomas Henry Nevill, a wealthy calico printer, bought the Hall and the remaining grounds of some 60 or so acres as a gift for his son Charles Henry and his wife Mary Jane, daughter of a Rochdale mill owner. They had no children, so on Charles's death in 1916 the sole beneficiary was his nephew and adopted son Thomas Nevill Carleton Stiff, who had earlier changed his surname to Nevill in anticipation of his inheritance. continued.....

Thomas sold the property in 1925 to John Henry Davies, a wealthy Manchester businessman (and the President of Manchester United Football Club!), who died only three years later. His widow, Amy, remained in residence until 1936, when she sold the Hall and 62 acres of land to Hazel Grove and Bramhall U.D.C.. Following local government reorganisation in 1974 the Hall is now owned by Stockport M.B.C..

The Hall closed at the end of September 2014 after a free-entry open day which attracted over 2,500 visitors, many of whom were eager to learn about the plans for the future. After closure Stockport's curatorial staff moved in to prepare for the contractors: furniture and other items were moved to safety and protective shrouding covered all light fittings, metalwork, etcetera.



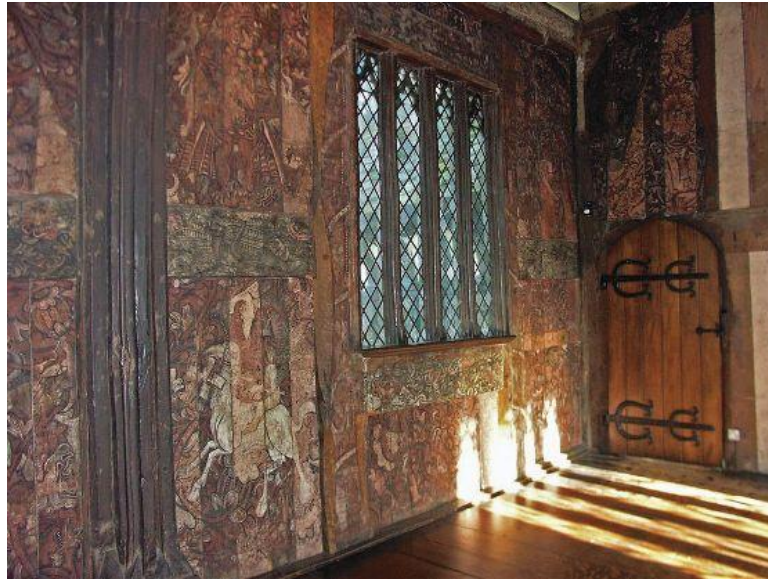
Photos: Manchester Evening News via Stockport Express Flickr; see Gallery on Facebook page of Friends of Bramall Hall



The Lottery grant has enabled a programme of archaeological research to be carried out, in addition to expert advice on and evaluation of the wall-paintings – and even a survey of the resident bats! The main contractor has been William Anelay Ltd., of York, a firm founded in 1747 and a major player in the restoration business; Pendle Glass Ltd., of Padiham near Burnley, have restored and conserved all of the historic glass; and Hirst Conservation, of Sleaford, Lincolnshire, have been responsible for the painstaking work to restore the magnificent ceiling and overmantel above the fireplace in the Withdrawing Room.

Internally, the Hall features work of several periods - Medieval, Tudor, Georgian and Victorian – whereas externally it looks as left by Charles Nevill after his extensive repairs and alterations. The grounds are very much as landscaped by him, and there is a large stable block. continued.....

Some rooms have not required much attention so it has mainly been a case of re-interpretation, such as the large room known for many years as the Ballroom. This has now been re-named the Solar, a much more appropriate description as this room has a fine open timber roof with some elaborate carving. Two of the walls are covered by paintings of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. These have been analysed by Dr. David Bostwick, an authority on wall paintings: amazingly, many of the stories that have been told for years as the explanation for various scenes have now been found to have a much more symbolic and mythological significance. A new innovation is that students from the Royal Northern College of Music have recorded appropriate music which will be activated as visitors enter the room.



Photo

Two new rooms have been created: a Butler's Pantry and a small Dining Room. The Butler's Pantry is in a former staff area; the existing fixed cupboards and drawers are definitely Georgian, as is a huge safe, all suggestive of its original use as a general servants' area. The small Dining Room has been used for many years as the shop. However, a photograph exists showing the room set for a small dinner party in the time of the Nevills. Further, an article in *The Cabinet Maker and Art Furnisher* (1st December 1884) about the work throughout the Hall, which had been commissioned by Nevill from the designer George Faulkner Armitage, shows an illustration of the Dining Room as designed by Armitage.

The Friends of Bramall Hall and Park raised in excess of £20,000 to decorate and furnish this room as it would have been around 1890.

Also on the ground floor a platform lift has been installed to enable wheelchair visitors to have easier access, and to overcome the problems of the different floor levels in the Hall. Unfortunately there was no opportunity to install a lift to the upper floor.

In the Stable Block, all the twentieth century additions have been removed and it now provides a much-needed Visitor Centre, Shop, Education Room and a new Café, which overlooks the Walled Garden. It had originally been hoped to plant the garden historically, but this proved to be impractical as Stockport M.B.C. does not now have a Parks Department (an economy measure!), so the whole area has been turfed to provide a space for events and outdoor seating for the Café.

Since December 2015 there has been a series of hard-hat and sneaky-peeky tours on which participants have been able to see some of the work in progress and to appreciate what had been achieved so far.

There is no charge to enter the Visitor Centre with its Interpretation Room; normal admission charges to the Hall are: adults £4.75, concessions £3.50, children free. Please see the website for up-to-date information: www.stockport.gov.uk/bramallhall

Eileen Garratt



Three members of the TAMESIDE LOCAL HISTORY FORUM taking their turn to man the Forum's stall at the very successful 2016 Histories Fair held in the Manchester Town Hall: 1. to r. Sheila Blanchard, Alice Lock and Heather Brown. Behind them we see part of the Forum's wide-ranging exhibition relating to its local activities and involvement.

PENDLE FOREST HISTORY GROUP

Venue - Barley Village Hall, Barley, Nr. Burnley, BB12 9JU

Lecture Programme – Autumn/ Winter 2016

21st September 'James Dixon the Orphans' Friend' by Dave Pilkington

19th October 'Mills and Engines in East Lancashire' by Anthony Pilling

16th November 'Kilns of all Kinds' by David Johnson

Lectures start at 7.30 p.m. If you wish to attend please forward your contact details prior to the evening as occasionally we have to make changes to the programme at short notice. This can be done through the Pendle Forest History Group website where you will find an email link under the 'Contact' option.

THE LANCASHIRE PLACE NAME SURVEY: www.lpns.org.uk

Lecture for 2016: 25th October 2016 at Lancashire Archives

The Annual Lecture is held after our Annual General Meeting. The 2016 Lecture will be given by Dr. Jayne Carroll of Nottingham University. Dr. Carroll is also a Researcher for the Institute for Name-Studies (based at Nottingham University) and in charge of the English Place-Name Society volumes for Shropshire. Jayne's talk will focus upon her work on the Shropshire volumes.

The Lecture is open to all with an interest in place names. Tickets cost £5 each.

HERE AND THERE

THE LANCASHIRE PLACE NAME SURVEY in its June 2016 Newsletter carried a most interesting note by Jennifer Holt about the history of Armetridding in Euxton. The family of that name ('William' is named in a 1375 document) still owned the farm and mill in 1830 and generations are recorded on 'a large gravestone in Leyland churchyard'. Two maps (the Euxton tithe map and the 1910 map) illustrate the note and pertinent observations are made on significant features relating to Euxton and Charnock Richard; references to useful documents and up-to-date information about C20 changes on the ground are supplied. www.lpns.org.uk

BOLTON ARCHAEOLOGY AND EGYPTOLOGY SOCIETY carried out excavations at Noon Hill in the 1950w/1960s and the finds were donated to Bolton Museum. The June 2016 Newsletter reported how a request made to the Society to exhibit some of the finds led to co-operation between Society and Museum, resulting in an attractive small summer display at Euxton Library (see photo). This created a lot of interest and presentations to school children and talks to adults have now been given at various venues. Plans were being made to mount the display at other libraries. Other news referred to: (i) a forthcoming lecture, on Rome's missing 9th Legion, the Legio IX Hispania, by Dr. Andrew Fear of the University of Manchester; (ii) plans for summer walks taking in archaeological sites on the moors around Bolton; (iii) a projected summer excursion; and (iv) the early steps taken for the Society to become involved in the Greater Manchester Medieval Graffiti Survey/Project led by Carolanne King, who, with the Society Chairman, visited Smithills Hall and Hall i'th'Wood and found substantial evidence; any interested members will receive training on how to help with identifying and recording evidence; The Friends of Smithills Hall are keen to join in; and the Museums Service is happy for the project to proceed.



Photo BAES

WIGAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY reported in its June 2016 Newsletter that its new Ground Penetrating Radar had been tested out on a known previously excavated area at Brimlow Farm where a Roman road had been uncovered. (Resistivity equipment had not been successful in locating that 2004 excavation site.) Good results from the GPR survey led to joint activity with the WYRE ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP; WAG was keen to explore a site (earlier revealed by David Ratledge using LIDAR) and the July Newsletter reported that a site at Bowgreave, Garstang, had been duly surveyed. Encouraging results of a 20m x 10m scan there led to plans for excavation in the near future. (Good weather ordered! Ed.)

Also reported were the Society's planned summer Excursion (to sites in Lancaster) and a lecture, arranged for July 6th, by professional archaeologist David Trippier from Bolton on research and survey work carried out at Smithill's Coaching House, Bolton.

WYRE ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP reported in Newsletter No. 5 (May/June 2016) that members had greatly enjoyed a lecture by Lynda Wright on the Poulton Roundhouses and their wider context. *An interesting report gave good publicity to the CBANW Conference held at Staining (see also our own LLHF N/L 15 Ed.). *A forthcoming visit to Ribchester arranged by the Roman Roads Research Association was promoted; it was to offer a tour of the Museum, the fort and the bathhouse, along with a chance to hear about recent excavations and to visit the possible site of the Roman bridge over the Ribble. All this was to cost only £4.

*Ever since the Spring, the Group programme of weekend excavation at Hollowforth Mill had proceeded. The earliest investigation revealed traces of a building of poor quality and a cornerstone set into a more substantial structure. This latter structure must, unfortunately, lie in the neighbouring garden. Early interpretation suggests that the building uncovered by the Group's work of last season was an ancillary building to a more substantial building - the mill perhaps?

*A few members used the opportunity of a very low tide to explore the coast north of Cleveleys/Rossall in search of evidence which might indicate a submerged village. Singleton Thorpe is said to have been wiped out by an exceptionally huge sea in C16. This recent tide revealed what appeared to be building blocks and a tantalising feature reminiscent of an A-frame. The mystery goes on.....

LANCASHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY has posted on its website a report with photographs of its 25 June 2016 visit, led by Dr. Alison Burns, to Formby, where excellent sightings of 'hundreds' of prehistoric footprints could be had. See: lancsarchaeologicalsociety.wordpress.com

***Note also LAS Day Trip to Hurstwood and the Weavers' Triangle: Saturday 24 September 2016.

WARRINGTON LITERARY AND PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY : 2016-17 Programme

Monday October 3rd 2016

Venom World

Kevin Arbuckle Liverpool University

[The speaker will illustrate the rich variety (what Darwin would call "forms most beautiful and most wonderful") of venomous and poisonous animals found in nature, the developmental arms race between predators and prey and the evolutionary principles which underlie these conflicts.]

Monday November 7th 2016

What a Poet Sees

Professor Michael Symmons Roberts Manchester Metropolitan University

Interviewed by the Reverend Canon Michael Burgess

[This distinguished prize-winning poet will discuss the art of poetry and his own writing, and will read from his work. After graduating in philosophy and theology and training as a journalist he has worked as a radio producer, a documentary film maker and as Head of Development for BBC Religion and Ethics. He left the BBC to teach at MMU, and to focus on writing, including lyrics and libretti for the composer James MacMillan. He could be seen as a modern John Donne, producing poems which are sharply observed and concise, but rich in metaphysical meaning.]

Monday December 5th 2016

Depicting the Dead

Professor Caroline Wilkinson Liverpool John Moores University

[Professor Wilkinson is Director of the School of Art & Design and an expert on face reconstruction from skulls (e.g. Richard III, J.S. Bach, Rameses II and Mary, Queen of Scots). She has a background in art and science and her research and creative work sit at the forefront of art-science fusion and include forensic art, human anatomy, medical art, face recognition, forensic science, anthropology, 3D visualization, digital art and craniofacial identification.]

BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR LOCAL HISTORY reported in its June 2016 Newsletter that it has contributed to an important project commissioned by Historic England; quoted text follows. M.E.

Assessing the Value of Community Generated Historic Environment Research

Dr Gillian Draper on behalf of BALH has contributed to a project commissioned by Historic England to assess how much historic environment research is generated by community volunteers and how this research fits into wider research and planning systems. You can download the executive summary and full report at <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/assessing-value-of-community-generated-historic-environment-research>

REPORT FROM THE LANCASHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

On 23 July 2016 members of the Lancashire Archaeological Society set off from Preston on a rail trip to Maryport, via the scenic Cumbrian coast line. Each of us was given a wonderful sheaf of notes, compiled by Dr. Bill Shannon, on historical and archaeological features to look out for *en route*. There would be splendid landscapes and seascapes, too.

We had superb views over the estuaries as we crossed Morecambe Bay on two iron viaducts built in 1856/7 and now encased in concrete. We noted beautiful intricate ironwork at the Paley and Austin stations through which we passed; the crossing points for the historic Over-Sands routes and the locations of services associated with them; and disused haematite mines in the Furness area. We glimpsed the ruins of Furness Abbey and had a distant view of Piel Castle, on Piel Island.

After leaving Barrow the railway hugged the coast, opening up majestic vistas of the fells and sea. We passed slate quarries as we travelled towards the former iron working town of Millom. Soon we reached Ravenglass, which has Roman remains probably associated with the defensive system which Maryport Roman fort was also a part of. Some archaeologists believe that the Cumbrian line of Roman defences were a continuation of the Hadrian's Wall defensive system. Further north we passed through a scatter of tiny seaside settlements clinging to the coast and clearly popular holiday destinations, to judge by the number of caravan and camping sites. The Sellafield nuclear site was the next main landmark. Then came Whitehaven. By this time we were having slightly hazy views of the Isle of Man, but soon there were wonderful vistas of Dumfries and Galloway. In ages when the Irish Sea and Solway Firth formed the main highway, this area, seemingly remote today, was a strategically important hub.

At about noon, over three hours after setting off, we arrived in Maryport, a slightly old fashioned but lively town, carefully laid out on a grid system introduced in 1749 through the Senhouse family, the local lords of the manor. An uphill walk through streets with impressive and charming Georgian architecture brought us to the Senhouse Museum, our main goal. It was a member of the Senhouse family who, in the 1580s, started its collection, now the oldest Roman collection in the country and housed in the museum appropriately named after him.

As we approached the museum, housed in an interesting former Victorian artillery battery set high on the sea brows, and the site of the Roman fort immediately next to it, we were rewarded with wonderful and extensive views over the Solway Firth to Scotland and also out towards the Irish Sea. It was easy to appreciate the strategic significance of the site.

The Senhouse collection consists primarily of Roman altars found buried in the remains of the Roman fort of Allauna. We were astonished by the wonderful state of preservation of the altars. Some of the inscriptions were so clear and crisp that they could almost have been 'chiselled yesterday', as we say. There are many theories as to why these altars were all buried in the same location; it has been postulated that a new altar was dedicated every year, the previous one being ritually buried; but during the recent excavations it was found that altars had been used as packing material for postholes for a late Roman or early post-Roman building with an apsidal end. Was this the site of an early church? Were these altar stones deliberately slighted?

In the museum grounds a viewing tower looks over the grass-covered remains of the Roman fort, its classical outline plain to see. Our guided tour of the fort pointed out the main gateway, which opened directly on to the coast; a few stones above ground formed part of the northern gateway of the fort. We also looked over the site of the vicus, the subject of a lecture on a past LAS programme. In due course, we returned to Preston by the coastal route; unforeseen problems led to a change of train at Whitehaven; but this happily provided a chance to visit the harbour and parts of the town. An unexpected bonus. We reached Preston at 8.40 p.m., twelve hours after our departure, having enjoyed a wonderful and thought-provoking trip.

Jeanette Dobson (Para. 3: 'the railway hugged the coast'. You can see what Jeanette means! My photos taken in 2009. M.E.)



Above 1. at Nethertown; r., from same location, looking north towards St. Bees Head; line runs round cliff, above houses, and into next bay.

The FYLDE HISTORY NETWORK



**CONFERENCE to be held at United Reformed Church Hall,
St. George's Road, St Anne's on the Sea, FY8 2AE
Saturday 5th November 2016.**

Please note: Hall opens at 9.30am for a 9.55am start

TUDOR LANCASHIRE – DISPUTES and DEBATES

Dr. Alan Crosby:

Tudor Lancashire: an overview of its society, landscape and economy

Dr. Alan Crosby:

Out with the old, in with the new ... or perhaps not?

Faith and belief in Tudor Lancashire

Dr. William Shannon:

Staining Carr, the Abbot of Whalley and the Pilgrimage of Grace

Dr. Michael Winstanley:

*Was Shakespeare in Lancashire? The strange case of
John Cottom of St Michael's on Wyre, Stratford schoolmaster*

FYLDE HISTORY NETWORK CONFERENCE SATURDAY NOVEMBER 5th 2016 BOOKING FORM

Please return to Mrs C Storey 77 Arundel Drive Poulton-le-Fylde FY6 7TE. Cheques should be made payable to the Fylde History Network.

I wish to book place(s) for the **CONFERENCE and LUNCH** (£21)

I wish to bookplace(s) for the **CONFERENCE ONLY** (£12)

I enclose a cheque for £.....

Name _____

Email (please PRINT)_____

(For economy & convenience email will be used whenever possible)

Address _____

_____ Postcode _____

Tel _____

***(ON THE REVERSE PLEASE ADD ANY DIETARY REQUIREMENTS
AND THE NAMES OF ANY OTHER GUESTS INCLUDED IN YOUR BOOKING)***

NEWS FROM LANCASHIRE ARCHIVES

The reduction from 42.5 to 30 hours each week reflects a significant reduction to the archive service budget and the loss of several staff. These stem from the county council's need to make significant financial savings, both to offset the Government's cuts to its funding and to account for cost pressures brought about by high demand for services. Besides, the fall in archive visits from 12887 in 2005 to 5504 in 2015 means that we have to do things differently. The phrase 'use it or lose it' starts to become real.

Mondays are being spent on essential behind the scenes tasks such as cleaning new accessions, stock-taking, cataloguing and digitisation. Following the user consultation, which identified a surprising amount of support for an evening opening, the archive service will continue open on one Tuesday evening each month. Saturday opening has also been retained so that there is an opportunity for people who work from Monday to Friday to use the service. **(Ed. - see p.5 of this Newsletter for regular opening times.)**



Coat of arms of the Hultons of Hulton Park

The catalogue of the Hulton of Hulton archive has now been completed and is available on LANCAT, Lancashire Archives online catalogue. [CalmView: Record](#)

The collection was purchased for Lancashire Archives in 2014 with the generous support of national and local donors - including the Lancashire Local History Federation. The archive contains thousands of pieces of Lancashire's history reflecting the Hulton family's influence as landowners, industrialists and politicians.

It includes: estate deeds, rentals and accounts; papers relating to the design of the Bolton to Leigh Railway; records of the Hulton collieries and much family correspondence and many photographs. It has been preserved for posterity and is now available for everyone to use and enjoy.

Heritage Open Days 8-11 September 2016 Many places of historic and heritage interest will be opened to the public on the second weekend in September. For more information see:

www.heritageopendays.org.uk

In Preston on Saturday 10 September **Lancashire Archives** will be open:

*for **research** 10.00-4.00 and *for special behind the scenes **tours** at 11.00, 12.00, 1.30 and 2.30.

There will also be **an exhibition** of some of the Archives' treasures from the last 900 years.

SEE PAGE 5 OF THIS ISSUE FOR REGULAR OPENING TIMES.

BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR LOCAL HISTORY in its June Newsletter outlined the progress of the 'Place in the Sun' Project:

(i) It is now based at London Metropolitan Archives and is devoted to indexing abstracts of life insurance policies issued by the Sun Fire Office and kept in registers; (ii) The indexes note proper names of people, places and businesses mentioned in the records, and any identified occupations, as well as vessels and named works of art and literature. In some cases pre-1800, registers can offer useful descriptions of industrial premises and building materials used. (iii) Pre-1793, policies refer to property country-wide, but 'coverage seems to be particularly strong in the industrial north west...' (iv) All Sun policy registers, 'whether indexed or not', can be consulted at LMA and the LMA catalogue: www.cityoflondon.gov.uk via the links indicated; and including the word 'insured' can lead to Sun policy material. (v) BALH observes that 'the taking out of a policy can be a particularly good proxy for dating a new or altered building' and a very interesting example is given: 'The remarkable thatching of Houghton Lodge, a large cottage orné on the River Test in Hampshire, was dated in this way.'



The Friends of Lancashire Archives was formed in 1986 when the late Ken Hall, County Archivist, recognised the need for an organisation which could help to promote the then Lancashire Record Office; support its work; and campaign on its behalf when there were challenges and threats (which in those days meant yet another round of local government reform, and of course now mean financial cuts). **'The Friends' are now marking their 30th anniversary**, and the need for the organisation is greater than ever, given the drastic cutbacks which the County Council has been forced to make.

Over the years we have bought or helped to purchase archive collections and individual documents (including a major contribution to the highly-successful appeal to raise £95,000 to buy the Hulton of Hulton Archive); provided a wide range of specialist equipment, signage and other practical help to the work of the Archives; sponsored many events and activities; and campaigned actively on behalf of the service.

The membership of the Friends includes an 'Associate Membership' category, for societies and organisations. We'd really welcome more society members, from anywhere in the County Palatine. At only £15 a year it's a real bargain. The benefits of membership include:

- * knowing you make a real contribution to safeguarding Lancashire's irreplaceable archival heritage
- * events held exclusively for Friends of Lancashire Archives
- * regular updates on the work of the archive service
- * the chance to become involved in volunteer projects and hands-on activities
- * a varied programme of talks and workshops with expert speakers and tutors
- * opportunities to see behind the scenes in the record office
- * visits to see other archives

An application form can be downloaded from the FLA website www.flarchives.co.uk

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ESTATE ACCOUNTS OF THE EARL OF LINCOLN

The Estate accounts of Henry de Lacy, Earl of Lincoln, for the financial year 1277 to 1278.
Ed. by Eric Foster, M. A. *Liverpool; Ranulf Higden Society, 2016.* ISBN 978-0-9570737-3-9. £16 (£13 to members of the Ranulf Higden Society) plus £2.60 postage and packing.

A transcription and translation of a document in the Foljambe collection (ref. DD/FJ/6/1/1/) held by Nottinghamshire Archives. It is a set of accounts for 1277-8 relating to a large part of the estates of Henry de Lacy (1249-1311), Earl of Lincoln, in Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, Middlesex, Lancashire, Cheshire and Cambridgeshire.

The accounts include a wide variety of details of income and expenditure, including the sale of cattle and other estate produce, the growing of crops, dairying (including accounts for vaccaries) and income from rents.

Other accounts in this series were transcribed - for 1294-6 and 1304-5 (Chetham Society, Old Series, vol. 112, 1884, edited by the Rev. P. A. Lyons) - but only the records for Lancashire and Cheshire manors were published. Even so, these returns have been an important source of information on the vaccaries of north west England.

To obtain a copy, please complete and send the form printed below to Diana Winterbotham, 9, Riverside Drive, Radcliffe, Manchester M26 1HU with your remittance.

PLEASE MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO THE RANULF HIGDEN SOCIETY.

Please supply copy/copies of the *Estate accounts of Henry de Lacy...1277 to 1278* .

I enclose a cheque for £.....in payment.

Name.....

Address.....

..... Tel.....

Email.....

VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE – NEWS AND EVENTS

Yorkshire and Cumbria both have thriving vernacular architecture groups, but Lancashire and Cheshire have not had such a group since 2001. The North East Cheshire Vernacular Architecture Group folded in 1998. It was due to be resurrected during 2001 as the North West Vernacular Architecture Group and was expected to be re-launched at a one-day conference in Dukinfield on 31st March, 2001. This conference was attended by 66 delegates, who were to receive a year's membership of the group. But nothing more happened.

Despite the lack of such a VA group, VA talks and visits take place in Lancashire every year, especially in the eastern and northern areas, including Furness. Some good news is that Middleton Archaeological Society has joined The Vernacular Architecture Group, which now has over 800 members, including around 26 from Lancashire and Cheshire.

In June and July this year there were several vernacular walks and events, lasting from 2 to 6 and a half hours, organised for, and by, several different groups.

Visit to Stephen Park Farmhouse and barns, Gisburn Forest, and Forest of Bowland – 16th July, 2016. 10.30am until 5.00pm. Fee: £2.50 (for Stephen Park)

This was organised by me for the Yorkshire Vernacular Buildings Study Group, and involved visiting three C17th farmhouses: Stephen Park, Higher Halsteads, and Higher Stony Bank. The event ended at the *Crow Trees Inn at Tosside, near Wigglesworth, for end-of-day drinks, detective work, and chat. The farmhouses are all located east of Slaidburn and Stocks Reservoir.

22 members and guests came from as far away as Co.Durham, York, Otley, Huddersfield and Chorley. (A LLHF member from Clitheroe read of the event in the May issue of the Lancashire Local History Federation Newsletter, so she came along as a new guest. Stephen Park, once a farm of 400 acres, but now owned by the Forestry Commission, was occupied by Knowsley Council for Voluntary Service (near Liverpool) as a leisure and training complex for young people and adults from 1997 until about 2012. Photographs of the farmhouse and porch doorhead of 1700 were in the May issue, LLHF Newsletter. The house was altered and extended between 1662 and 1700, so there are up to 8 decorated lintels, including two with long inscriptions. Three are dated 1662, 1672, and 1700. The large segmental arch fireplace in the left-hand room is 12 feet wide (at the opening). The upper storey of the porch is jettied out, ie. it oversails.



Illustration 1. Drawing by Diana Kaneps shows *one of the two internal doorheads at Stephen Park with inscriptions*. It means: *'There is no way for such a guest, Be pleased to stay for I protest'*. Translated: *'There is no thoroughfare and I object to your going on until you have partaken of our hospitality'*.

We had lunch in the re-opened café in the listed detached barn dated 1736, which has some interesting 'king-block' roof trusses, then made a brief stop at Stocks Reservoir Car Park, where some dated lintels rescued from the submerged village of Stocks-in-Bowland have been built into a dry-stone wall, next to the foundations of the demolished church.

Next on the itinerary was the remote Higher Halsteads, dated WG 1687, and its two barns. The 1200 acres owned by United Utilities have been farmed by the Wallbank family since 1927. The photograph shows the parlour wing with ornate lintel of gothic arches. Under the jetty is a string course consisting of gadroon decoration with 'Celtic' heads. The only other known decoration of this type is scattered around at Browsholme Hall, all re-used and re-set, in the grounds and on the gable end of South Lodge.



Illustration 2. Higher Halsteads lintel. *Note the small 'Celtic' head in the top left-hand corner and under the jetty.* Photo K.I.

Higher Stony Bank (c.1700), owned by the Slaidburn Estate, was next visited. Here was yet another jettied porch with a somewhat flamboyant doorhead, the decoration reading as two 'M's. All drip moulds have carved, decorated stops or terminals, some flower-like. The segmental arch fireplace here is 10 feet 3 ins. wide (at the opening). Pevsner describes the decoration of Halsteads and Higher Stony Bank as 'exotic'.



Illustration 3. Higher Stony Bank jettied porch. *Note monopitch roof and other decoration, including ogee-headed porch window.* Photo K.I.



***Crow Trees Inn, Tosside** Photo David B. Flynn 2012
(See * above in text and in following para.)

Finally we gathered at the *Crow Trees Inn at Tosside as mentioned above, for the social ending of our day. It has a dated lintel of 1678. Another secret lintel is dated 1697, but where is it? One 4-light mullioned window formerly had 5 lights, but which one? Where was the doorway originally? All 22 members were still there at 5pm. and this detective work kept them all happily busy, whether they were experienced members or new guests.

For forthcoming vernacular architecture events in Yorkshire and the North West visit the website www.yvbsg.org.uk of the Yorkshire Vernacular Buildings Study Group and click onto the latest newsletter. Kevin Illingworth.

[I invited Kevin to draw up a programme of VA events in the latter part of this year. Here is his list. Ed.]

* **'Lancashire and Yorkshire Farmhouses of the C16th to C18th: Porches'**
Tuesday, 20th September, 2016.

An illustrated talk by Kevin Illingworth to **Halifax Antiquarian Society** at 7.30pm at Calderdale Central Library, Northgate, Halifax.

* **'Traditional Buildings of the Fylde, Bowland, and Lune Valley areas'**
Friday, 14th October, 2016.

An illustrated talk by Kevin Illingworth to **Poulton-le-Fylde Historical and Civic Society** at 2pm. at Poulton-le-Fylde Methodist Church Hall, Queensway. Visitors £3

* **'Vernacular Buildings in and around South-East Lancashire'**
Thursday, 27th October, 2016.

An illustrated talk by Kevin Illingworth to **Middleton Archaeological Society** at 7.30pm. at The Olde Boar's Head, Long Street, Middleton, near Rochdale. Visitors £3. (The picturesque timber-framed inn dates to 1624 and 1654 - see photo by K.I..)



* **'Traditional Farmhouses and Buildings in and around the Lancashire and Yorkshire Pennines'**
Wednesday, 9th November, 2016.

An illustrated talk by Kevin Illingworth to **Hebden Bridge Local History Society** at 7.30pm. at Hebden Bridge Methodist Hall, Market Street. Visitors £3. Contact 01422 845982.

* **'Houses and Halls in the Colne Area'**
Wednesday, 16th November, 2016.

A talk by Jill Pengelly and Elaine Watson to the **Pendle and Burnley Family History and Heraldry Society** at 7.30pm. at Colne Library, Market Street.



KEVIN ILLINGWORTH HAS REPORTED.....The New Inn, the C17 pub at YEALAND CONYERS, near Carnforth, which closed in November 2014, and was then put up for sale by the owners, Robinsons of Stockport (brewers), has been saved for the people of the three Yealand villages. Although the local Community Benefit Society had raised £110,000 in pledges, it was not able to raise enough money before the deadline. Barry Robinson, owner of The Longlands Hotel, Tewitfield, has bought the pub, after a far-reaching campaign by locals to save it. (Photo via Wikipedia. Editor)