



# LANCASHIRE LOCAL HISTORY FEDERATION

## NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NO. 17 NOVEMBER 2016

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LLHF NEWSLETTER EDITOR: MRS. M. EDWARDS

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**\*DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: FEBRUARY 2nd, 2017**

**\*PLEASE NOTE ALL DEADLINES FOR 2017:**

**FEBRUARY 2nd; MAY 15th; AUGUST 15th; NOVEMBER 15th**

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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

This may be the first time you have read a copy of the Federation Newsletter – if so, welcome! You will see that it is full of useful information which our Editor, Margaret Edwards, diligently collects and presents. We hope that you will be able to attend some of the activities outlined in these pages. In doing so, you will be supporting local societies and may well be able to make links which are useful to you in your own research or as a member of a group.

If you are not already a member of the Federation, I would like to point out some of the benefits.

As an individual you will receive your own edition of the quarterly Newsletter by email; have early notification of a varied programme of themed day schools; be able to exchange information with like-minded people and groups, or ask for assistance with research questions; and can submit short articles about your own research. In addition, society members can host an 'At Home' day (with the assistance of the Federation Committee), which gives the opportunity to introduce people to the history of your area; list your society on the website, and advertise your events in the Newsletter; and receive a list of speakers suitable for society talks. Our Membership Secretary (details above) can give you more details.

Best wishes,  
Marianne.

# FEDERATION STUDY DAY

## *TOIL & STRIFE: working conditions in the North West*

**Saturday 18 February 2016 at the Preston Masonic Hall**

The event is to be held in the Preston Masonic Hall, which has proved a popular venue in the past. The theme for this 2017 annual study day will be the working conditions of the labouring classes in C19 and early C20.

Dr Michael Winstanley will start the day with a talk on **'Child labour in Lancashire in C19'**. Michael is a retired senior lecturer in history at Lancaster University with a wide research interest in regional history, including such topics as retailing, Victorian society, Lord Burghley's map of Lancashire, and Edwin Butterworth, the researcher behind Baines's History of Lancashire. Michael has published extensively and in particular was responsible for editing *Working children in nineteenth-century Lancashire* (1995) and a chapter in *The Lancashire cotton industry*, edited by Mary Rose (1996), entitled *The factory workforce*. The next speaker will be **Dr Elizabeth Roberts**, her topic being **working mothers in Preston**. Elizabeth was a Research Fellow of the Centre for North West Regional Studies (now the Regional Heritage Centre) at Lancaster University, and subsequently Director of the Centre until her retirement. Her groundbreaking research in the 1970s and '80s, using oral history to capture the history of working class communities in Preston, Lancaster and Barrow-in-Furness, now forms an important collection at Lancashire Archives. Elizabeth's major work, *A woman's place: an oral history of working-class women 1890-1940*, was published in 1984. Keeping on the theme of women's work, our first afternoon speaker will be **Alan Davies**, who will focus on **the pitbrow women of the Wigan coalfield**. Alan has extensive knowledge of the mining industry, having worked at five collieries and most recently managed Hilltop Colliery in Bacup, Lancashire's last coal mine. He was Curator of the Lancashire Mining Museum in Salford until its closure in 2000 and subsequently worked in various archives, including Wigan Record Office. He has published many works on mining history including *The pitbrow women of the Wigan coalfield* (2006). The final speaker of the day will be **Dr Stephen Counce**, who will talk about **the farm workers of the North West before 1914**. Stephen is a recently retired Senior Lecturer in history at the University of Central Lancashire, with research interests that include agriculture, textiles and mining and the development of a separate northern identity. However, Stephen began his career in museums, having worked at Beamish Museum and Kirklees Museum in Huddersfield. He has published papers on the hiring fairs of northern England (2012) and C20 farm servants (1991).

With such excellent speakers lined up, this is sure to be an interesting day so book early to avoid disappointment. For further details see the booking form on the following page.

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### ***FRIENDS OF LANCASHIRE ARCHIVES***

On 17th October 2016, the Friends of Lancashire Archives hosted a Reception, held at Lancashire Archives and sponsored by the Peel Group, current owners of the Hulton Estate, to celebrate saving the Hulton Archives for the county and country. The LLHF, which had donated £1,000 to the appeal made to save the collection, was represented by its Chairman, Marianne Howell.

The Hulton family, seated in the Bolton area from C12 to C20, was awarded a Baronetage in 1902. The fourth Baronet was Sir Geoffrey Alan Hulton, whose death in 1993 brought the Hulton line to an end. Since 1943 the (then) Lancashire Record Office had been the custodian of the Hulton archives, to the benefit of the documents, now curated and available to researchers. However, in 2014, the collection, put up for sale by a family member not a direct descendant, was in danger of being lost to the nation. Its scope is wide-ranging, including, for instance, the only known surviving document relating to the Augustinian Priory at Cartmel - see LLHF NL 9, p5; a major collection of medieval deeds; the extensive C17 correspondence of William Jessop, Clerk to the Council of State and to the House of Commons during the Restoration; correspondence with George Stephenson; and information on the Bolton and Leigh Railway. It also sheds much light on Lancashire's claim to be the birthplace of the Industrial Revolution. In 2014 FLA organised a campaign to raise the £95,000 needed to keep this important archive here in Lancashire, and the target was reached within six months. In fact it was oversubscribed, and the extra money has been used to employ an archivist to examine and re-catalogue the collection to modern standards.

The Reception was expertly chaired by Dr. Alan Crosby, Chairman of FLA. The opening speaker was The Rt. Hon. The Lord Shuttleworth, President of FLA. The Guest of Honour was the Rt. Hon. The Lord Fellowes of West Stafford, Julian Alexander Kitchener-Fellowes, a direct descendant of the Hultons. His great grandmother, Maria Isabella Hulton, married Professor John Wrightson, the founder of Downton Agricultural College near Salisbury, Wiltshire. (Lord Fellowes, widely known as Julian Fellowes, playwright, created his TV series 'Downton Abbey' inspired by his connection to the Hulton family.) He now voiced concern over the potential loss to the public of the Hulton family archive and archives like it. Such losses, realised, would cause serious damage to the cultural heritage of the nation.

Other speakers included the Leader of LCC, County Councillor Jennifer Mein, and Dr. Robert Poole. Morris Garratt



# **CBA NW: INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY DAY CONFERENCE**

## **held in conjunction with South Trafford Archaeology Group**

**30-9-2016; Altrincham Town Hall: CONFERENCE WITH AN UNUSUAL FOCUS**

*SPEAKING UP FOR THE PAST*, chaired by Dr. Mike Nevell, presented a huge amount of useful and interesting information on the aims, powers, workings and achievements of organisations striving to achieve (and succeeding) the betterment of the many facets of heritage.

Gary Hart, of the Outreach Service of the Houses of Parliament, opened the programme, emphasising that 'Parliament' and 'Government' are separate, and revealed avenues (several hardly heard of) beyond contacting the MP by which help might be gained from Parliament in struggles to save local heritage. (Note that writing, rather than emailing, often gains more attention.)

Andrew Davison, Principal Inspector of Ancient Monuments at Historic England North West, outlined how the Heritage at Risk survey has proved to be a most useful tool in protecting sites; for instance, the Lion Salt Works in Cheshire had come to be better protected after appearing in the 'At Risk' List; and a special measure of success can be appreciated when we consider how the threatened Whitefield large industrial housing site in Nelson was able to be removed from the List as the result of a lot of vision, imagination and co-operation prompted by the List's impact. That impact had been enormous in 1998, when the List was first drawn up; 431 sites were in the North West, i.e. 8% of the total. 'Making the most of your Heritage Assets' had been an influential publication since it appeared in 2013; and Andrew announced that a new edition of it is in preparation.

Two organisations closely involved in emphasising 'local' heritage are the Heritage Lottery Fund and Museum Development North West. There can be no doubt that the first of these has broadened the nature of what we call 'heritage' and has heightened public awareness of the importance of 'local heritage for local populations' as a whole, the involvement of children in projects being almost a trade mark of the HLF ethos. Such a project was centred on Ightenhill Manor House, whose site is known though nothing visible remains of it; HLF awarded £29,300 in 2014 for non-invasive archaeological work and research, a project which involved local school children and the community. [The Pendle Heritage website currently shows a photograph of an information board placed near the Manor's site, one result of the project. M.E.] The work of MDNW is less widely known and concentrates on supporting museums by focusing on approaches and business methods, and on promotion making more effective use of the collections held by clients; and the audience clearly showed a lot of interest in the innovative successful ventures described. (Rebecca Mason is HLF Development Officer North West; Lynsey Jones is Museum Development Officer South for Museum Development North West.)

Ian Miller's excellent and enthusiastic presentation provided a lot of photographs of archaeology carried out at major north west industrial sites, using them to demonstrate how development-funded archaeology had come into existence and the important scope of what had been achieved as a result. Images of sites excavated and photographed at different times and stages hammered home how the archaeological record had swelled. A huge amount of knowledge had been gleaned of Salford's and Manchester's archaeology arising from a system of placing legal obligations on developers. It all made a great impact on the audience. Norman Redhead followed up with a lucid outline giving details of the different stages by which our Planning process has developed, making sense for us of initials and numbers which are often heard being referred to, but whose precise demands and significance have not always been understood outside the heritage/planning professions. Rob Lennox of CBA followed up, speaking on local plans, and emphasising their importance for the future of industrial archaeology. Shane Kelleher of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust talked on supporting industrial heritage groups, and Andrea Grimshaw introduced a new slant to proceedings with a talk on using social media.

All of these contributions to the day were a tonic, a powerful antidote to the sense of gloom generated by programmes of cuts and anger sparked by wonderings if those in authority really care for our heritage and archaeology. And one huge irony could not be ignored: as this splendid conference was due to close, Lancashire County Council was formally closing five museums.

Margaret Edwards

## A FOLLOW-UP TO CUTS AND REDUNDANCIES

**Peter Iles** was formerly Specialist Adviser (Archaeology) in the LCC Environment Directorate. After his post and team were closed down by LCC, Peter set up a private commercial archaeology consultancy to provide planning advice to the Lancashire local authorities. His details are as follows:

Peter Iles

Lancashire Archaeological Advisory Service, 1 Carr House Lane, Lancaster LA1 1SW

email: [lancashire.archaeology@gmail.com](mailto:lancashire.archaeology@gmail.com)

mobile: 07847 200073

### PLEASE NOTE:

1. The HER (Historic Environment Records) can be contacted  
by post via the old LCC address and  
by email [archaeology@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:archaeology@lancashire.gov.uk)  
There is no longer a telephone number.

### 2. LANCASHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL BULLETIN

I donated to Peter and his team our complete set of **LAB**, for which he has made a **computer-searchable index**. If you are interested in this, do contact him.

Margaret Edwards

## MOURHOLME LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

### 2016/17 PROGRAMME

The talks are held at Yealand Village Hall at 7.30pm

- |                               |                                     |                       |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| November 23 <sup>rd</sup>     | : Enclosures and Commons            | by Dr Mike Winstanley |
| December 20 <sup>th</sup>     | : Flush and Forget in Silverdale    | by Geoff Wood         |
| January 25 <sup>th</sup> 2017 | : Religious Reformation in the N.W. | by James Maudsley     |
| February 22 <sup>nd</sup>     | : Civil Wars in Lancashire          | by David Casserly     |

## BOLTON ARCHAEOLOGY AND EGYPTOLOGY SOCIETY

### PROGRAMME 2016 - 2017

Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Wonderful Things – Egyptian Jewellery Old and New ...and the Christmas Party!	Dr Joyce Tyldesley
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> January	Magdalenian Bone Carvings – history and conservation	Pierrette Squires
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> February	Memphis and Sakkara in the Ramesside Period	Dr Stephen Snape
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> March	Romans in the North West	Dr Mike Nevell
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> April	TBC	TBC
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> May	TBC	TBC
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> June	Roman Frontiers in Egypt	Dr Birgitta Hoffmann

## ST HELENS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

- |                               |   |              |
|-------------------------------|---|--------------|
| Monday, November 21st         | From Blackbrook to Treacle Row              | Alan Crosby  |
| Monday, December 12th<br>2017 | Pre-Christmas Gathering (6.30 for 7.00p.m.) |              |
| Monday, January 16th          | The Loss of the 'Tayleur'                   | Gill Hoffs   |
| Monday, February 20th         | Shirt Tales                                 | Alex Service |

## LANCASTER UNIVERSITY REGIONAL HERITAGE CENTRE

1. *Architecture, beauty and place* - a Study Day in honour of Matthew Hyde  
Saturday 26 November 2016 Management School Lecture Theatre 3 Fee £25  
Details of Programme, directions, parking, refreshment obtainable  
at 01524 593770 or from the website <http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/rhc/>
2. *Voices from the Past: diaries, autobiographies and local history in North West England*  
Saturday 21 January 2017 Management School Lecture Theatre 3 Fee £25  
Details of arrangements as above (see 1). Other information obtainable from 01524 593770 or the website.

**NEWS FROM KEVIN ILLINGWORTH - continued from last issue**  
**Local History and Vernacular Architecture walks in North Lancashire**  
**Part 2 - the Duddon Valley and Part 3 - Stalmine and Staynall**

**PART 2: CUMBRIA VERNACULAR BUILDINGS GROUP EVENT**  
**IN LANCASHIRE-NORTH-OF-THE-SANDS**

In July, nineteen members visited the Duddon Valley, north of Broughton-in-Furness, which is the nearest town. The entire length of the River Duddon forms the historic boundary between the traditional counties of Lancashire and Cumberland. Some members went up on the fells to see the low-walled scant remains of longhouses, while others visited several buildings in the valley as far north as Seathwaite (in the Duddon Valley, not in Borrowdale).

Around 10 farmhouses, cottages, and industrial sites were seen by the 'valley' group. Building materials here are slatestone and limestone, the houses usually rendered and whitewashed. We had access into Dunnerdale Hall Farm and barns (photo 1), near **Seathwaite**. The Listing description dates the house to 'probably mid/late C18'. Externally the house has been sympathetically renovated with lime plaster. A gabled slate canopy is over the doorway. Byres with haylofts and external steps were added to each end in C19. The left-hand byre has quoinstones over 6 feet long. Inside, the house seems earlier than the suggested date, with a bressumer, or firebeam, 18 feet long. This would support a smoke-hood, or hooded chimney. Our thanks go to the owner Dianne Leetham.



Photo 1



Photo 2

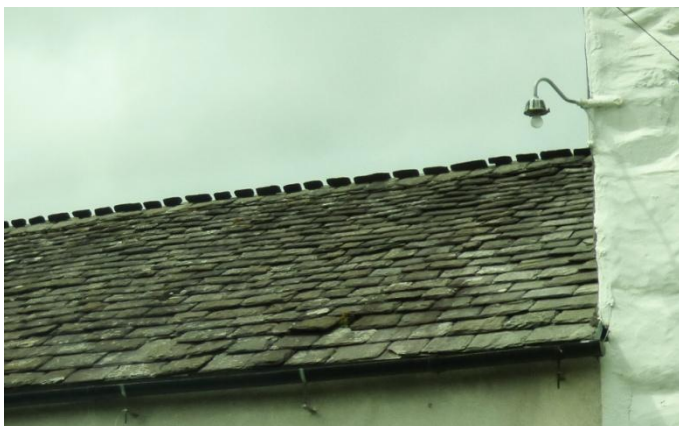


Photo 3

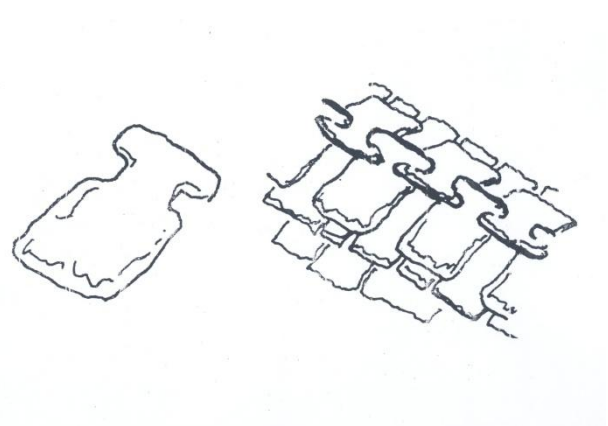


Photo 4

continued...

Lunch was taken at the Blacksmiths Arms, **Broughton Mills**, dated WE 1748 under the gabled slate canopy, but said to be older. It has an entry in Camra's National Inventory of pub interiors of outstanding historic interest. Within walking distance of the pub is the 3-storey Lumholme Farmhouse, barns and outbuildings (photos 2,3, 4) which are Listed as being late C17 and later. External viewing only for this one, though the interior is said to have interesting features. Some windows are much altered, especially those on the 1st floor. The barn to the left has a ridge of 'wrestler' slates whose tops are slotted so that adjacent slates hug each other, as human wrestlers do. Formerly widespread, only around a dozen of these ridges survive in the central Lake District, but they can be found in northern areas of Durham, Northumberland, south-west Wales and Yorkshire, areas where stone suitable for carving an inverted 'V' shape for ridges was hard to come by. Photo 4 presents a sketch taken from R. W. Brunskill *Traditional Buildings of Cumbria* Cassell 2002 p 166. Many of our readers will remember Ron as a good friend of LLHF.

### **PART 3: STALMINE AND STAYNALL, FYLDE**

Every year in May and June local historian James Houghton of Pilling organises 5 or 6 local history walks. These take place on Tuesday afternoons and last about 2 hours, occasionally 4 hours. In recent years the group has been as far north as Beetham, easterly to Tatham and Slaidburn, and south to Tockholes (near Darwen), Brindle and Penwortham. In 2016 we have been to Lancaster, Halton, Longridge, Goosnargh (including Scotch Green Farmhouse), Woodplumpton, Stalmine and Staynall, in that order.

**[If you are keen on vernacular architecture, phone Kevin Illingworth - 01422 844941 - and he will arrange for you to receive information about the walks. Editor]**

The village of **Stalmine** on the A588 is nearly 6 miles north of Poulton-le-Fylde, and until June this year I had done little more than drive through it. There are only 4 listed buildings in the parish; of these, only two are traditional farmhouses. Despite this, our group found enough houses and farm buildings of some interest to keep us going for 2 and a half hours; and only part of the parish was explored. In the centre of the village, the rendered façade of the unlisted Seven Stars pub reveals little of its age until a steeper roof pitch is seen at the rear, and some cobble walls. More of these walls are to be seen next to the nearby St. James's Church. Next we noted the unlisted 'The Larches' on Smithy Lane, dated TEP 1773. The owners of the house had stripped off the render, revealing the warm colour of the local bricks sitting on a high plinth of cobblestones. The available building materials here, as in most of the Fylde, are clay, timber and cobbles. If the Borough of Wyre had a 'Local List', this house would deserve to be on it.

Not far away is Grade 2 Listed Town End Farm, dated EWA 1684, built of white-painted bricks (see photos 1,2,3). When listed in 1984 it had a thatched roof covered with corrugated asbestos. Most window openings would seem to have been enlarged. At the far left is some unexplained corbelled brickwork. A closer look at this would have been useful, but the owners were not at home.



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3

continued...

Next we went to the small quiet hamlet of **Staynall** near the River Wyre, which seemed remote and sleepy despite being only a few miles from the built-up areas of Thornton and Cleveleys on the other side of the wide river. Cobblestone Barn is a converted barn built almost entirely of cobbles, with some stone for quoins (see photo 4). A sympathetic conversion; the wider left-hand part is likely to have been the shippon and hayloft.



Photo 4



Photo 5



Photo 6

The Grade 2 listed Danson's Farmhouse (photos 5, 6), appearing to be unoccupied, has walls of cobble as high as the 1st floor window sills, later raised with brick. This house has a linear 3-room lobby-entry plan. (The datestone inscribed 'TBA 1709' over the doorway could not be seen because of the porch and creeper.) It is said to have interesting interior features, such as a spice cupboard door dated 'TBA 1710' and firehood beam (smokehood). Hill Top Barn is another barn conversion but the material here is brick. A blocked 3-light window with brick mullions must have been intended to light a domestic area of the barn (see photo 7).

A further visit to look at other cottages in and around Staynall would certainly pay dividends.



Photo 7

## LANCASHIRE ARCHIVES

The LA Newsletter of September 2016 reported that Lancashire Archives had been awarded the 2016 cataloguing grant (£3,000) presented by the Business Archives Council. The grant is to be used for cataloguing the archive of Abbott and Company of Lancaster, the firm which gained a national and international reputation for the stained glass windows which it produced from the last decade of C19. The archive is made up of watercolour designs, cutlines, day books, financial records (cash books, day books and ledgers) and business correspondence. [Of the seven studios which produced stained glass in Lancaster in the period between c.1890 and c.1935, Abbott's survived the longest, outlasting its better-known rival Shrigley & Hunt - closed 1982 - by just over 20 years. However, like Shrigley & Hunt, the firm worked on a much reduced scale in its last years. Its Lancaster premises were sold in 1996, after which it worked out of Fleetwood, owned by COSALT, of Grimsby. The Fleetwood studio closed in 2007. M.E.]

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**GARSTANG HISTORICAL SOCIETY** meets at the Garstang URC Church on the .....



.....second Wednesday of the month

from September until April, starting at 7.30pm.

PLEASE NOTE: Because of the increase in membership of the society, and increase in the numbers of visitors to our meetings, we have now moved from the URC hall into the actual church (next door), where there is a bigger seating capacity, to keep in line with legal/health and safety rules.

For more info. contact Vice Chairman Anthony Coppin on 01995 605824; or see the society's website

[www.garstanghistoricalsociety.org.uk](http://www.garstanghistoricalsociety.org.uk)

### PROGRAMME 2016 - 2017

- September 14: The Battle of Quebec (1759) and how it changed North American history  
*Lt Col John Downham*
- October 12: Who do you think you are? Tips and tales on researching family history.  
*Mr Andrew Walmsley, genealogy tutor*
- November 9: Rural hiring fairs in Lancashire, 1890 - 1939.  
*Dr Stephen Caunce*
- November 23: **Special Meeting:**  
*Mr David Ratledge* will update us on his research on Roman Roads in Lancashire.  
(As this is an extra meeting there will be a charge of £1 for all attending.)
- December 14: Policing and espionage in Northern Rhodesia circa 1957 - 1964.  
*Mr Nevil Joseph*
- January 11: The White Star Line (the Olympic, the Titanic and the Britannic).  
*Mr Tony McGuire*
- February 8: Fish and Ships: Fleetwood's deep sea fishing industry.  
*Mr Dick Gillingham and Mr David Pearce.*

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**CONGRATULATIONS** to *Garstang Historical Society!* I don't often hear from a Society which is changing its meeting place because **NUMBERS** of members and visitors have **GROWN** so much!

All good wishes from LLHF. Margaret Edwards. Editor.

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**WHAT A BUZZ!** My roving reporter tells me that the **FYLDE HISTORY NETWORK ANNUAL CONFERENCE**, held in association with LLHF, was a huge success. We are greatly indebted to our speakers, who provided excellent talks for our audience; this was made up of 113 subscribers, 85 of whom ordered lunch. This year for the first time **Bennett's of Ansdell** were the caterers and the spread provided was greatly appreciated and praised; and invaluable domestic help was provided by members of the day's venue, the **St. Anne's URC Church**. Our deep thanks to both for their contribution to our day's pleasurable infrastructure.

There was plenty of interest available in the hall, too, stalls having been set up by Peter Bamford, Bob Dobson and John Wilson; stalls and/or displays and banners also told of the activities of the Victorian Society, St. Anne's Civic Society, Friends of Lancashire Archives, Lancashire Place Name Survey, Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society, and LLHF.

YES, LOCAL HISTORY IN THE FYLDE AND LANCASHIRE IS ALIVE AND WELL! M.E.

# LANCASHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

## On September 24th LAS visited Hurstwood and the Weavers' Triangle at Burnley - a trip of contrasts.

In the morning we had a guided walk of the C16 hamlet of Hurstwood and its surrounding landscape, where we saw the remains of extensive quarrying and evidence of the building of two reservoirs set in the atmospheric uplands. (We were told by our knowledgeable guide, Mr. Ramon Collinge, that many birdwatchers visit to see twites, a relatively rare upland bird.) The stone quarried in the hills was used to create the hamlet's buildings. Hurstwood Hall was built by Bernard Townley, a scion of the Townley family of Townley Hall and an architect who is credited with links to Sir Christopher Wren, though the link is not certain. Perhaps the most famous house in the settlement is Spenser's House, where the poet Edmund Spenser is reputed, on somewhat flimsy evidence, to have resided for two years (photo 1). It is a very beautiful house, roofed with the locally quarried heavy millstone grit. Other houses of historic interest include Tattersall's Tenement; its sometime owner was a Jacobite who, after the failure of the '45 rebellion, moved to the south, became a leading bloodstock entrepreneur in Suffolk and was the originator of the Tattersall check shirt. Hurstwood was set on the packhorse route served by 'lime galls' Galloway ponies. Their loads were mainly lime, extensively traded for use on the fields and to produce mortar. Our guide showed the route they followed and pointed out the lime hushings and a restored lime kiln (there was a string of 12 packhorses here) then up by the reservoirs we learned about the navigators' camps as we enjoyed wonderful views.

In the afternoon our trip took us to the Weavers' Triangle, which moved our focus to C19 archaeology and architecture. As we walked along the towpath we were shown interesting relics of a not-so-distant history, such as the ramps to help horses which inadvertently fell into the canal - on at least one occasion when the horse fell asleep! We saw warehouses along the way and the bridges which connected the sides of the canal. There is a wonderful example of workers' cottages built in the 1850s over warehouses which have been restored but are now being used for offices (photo 2). The milestone markers on the towpath are now being repaired and restored. After our walk down the towpath we visited an engine house which architecturally looks like a Victorian chapel. A wonderful building in its own right. The engine, which works well, has been converted to electricity and we were treated to a demonstration. Even at half speed the power is awesome.

The last part of the visit brought us to a recreated Victorian house. Here we saw displays on the vernacular history of Burnley residents of C19 and enjoyed refreshments in the parlour. Our day excursion had been a great success.

Jeanette Dobson.



Photo 1

Chris Birkett



Photo 2

Chris Birkett



### Surprise, Surprise!

On September 15th, 2016, Vindolanda Trust posted this news item on its Facebook page: We have found plenty of Roman shoes, pottery and dogs in our Severan ditch this year but this is the very first cat to make an appearance. The first substantial remains of a Roman cat to be found at Vindolanda from any period in over 40 years of excavation.

***ALBION UNITED REFORMED CHURCH Listed Grade II\*  
ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE***



**Albion United Reformed Church, Stamford Street East, Ashton-under-Lyne, is this year celebrating 200 years of worship. (LLHF sends Congratulations, Albion! Editor.)**

The first chapel was made up of two cottages in the year 1816, and by 1827 it had been extended. Due to its large congregation another building was erected alongside in 1835. The present Church was completed in 1895. Albion cherished its young children and provided Sunday schools at Charlestown in 1866, serving the overcrowded houses in the meaner part of Ashton; a Sunday school at Hurst Nook serving the farming community; and a large Sunday school which became a Sunday school/ Day school alongside its mother church. Another Sunday school was erected at Hazelhurst in 1913, to serve a new council estate, but it closed in 1996 and the Albion Sunday/Day school closed in the 1960s. However, Albion and the Charlestown and Hurst Nook Sunday schools still flourish today, so we can be proud of 200 years of service to the community of Ashton-under-Lyne.

During those early years Albion's membership increased dramatically, drawing in people from the surrounding towns who did not have Independent worship, and from the period 1830 to 1890 Chapels were commenced in Stalybridge, Audenshaw, Denton, Dukinfield and Mossley, drawn from the membership of Albion.

So far our Celebrations have included choir concerts, organ recitals, and a flower festival. We were, of course, open for Heritage Day and will continue with celebrations culminating in our Christmas Tree Festival in December.

The Albion Church, completed in 1895, is well worth a visit. The stained glass windows are designed by Burne-Jones and there is a Lewis Grade II\* organ; it also has a hammerbeam roof with angelic supports. Information about the church can be found on the Historic England website.

For those people wanting to search their ancestors who lived in Ashton and the above surrounding towns we have records showing the first members of Albion; baptism and marriage records; minute books showing names of those leaving to begin worship in the surrounding towns; and various other sources, including marriage registers up to the present day.

Should you wish to make enquiries about a visit please contact Mary Whitehead – e-mail [alanjandmary@gmail.com](mailto:alanjandmary@gmail.com) and for more information visit our website: [albionurc.org.uk/](http://albionurc.org.uk/)

# PROTECTION FOR A FONDLY REMEMBERED VENUE

## ALSTON HALL, LISTED GRADE II



Photo: Historic England

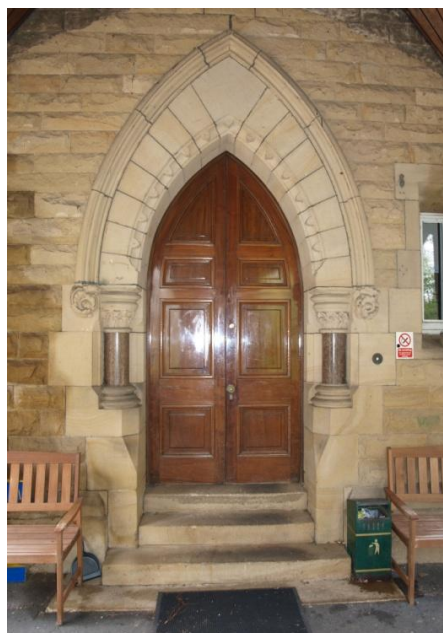


Photo: Historic England

Here we see a fine porte-cochère, familiar to many of our readers, and a noble doorway which gave access to many hours of interest and enjoyment but here shows the sad evidence of a well-used building abruptly shut down! However, in September 2016 Historic England effected the Listing noted above, so protection is in place. The LISTING NOTICE makes fascinating reading and is accessible via the Historic England website using the Hall's post code (PR3 3BP) then the map which appears. The Hall was built 1874-76, the architect being Alfred Darbyshire, who was born in 1839 in Salford. He became well known and was Vice President of the IBA from 1902 - 1905. He is sometimes referred to as a theatrical architect (he designed theatres in Manchester and Rawtenstall, for instance, and re-builds of theatres in London and Exeter) and he collaborated with Henry Irving, producing the 'Irving-Darbyshire safety plan', which provided two fireproof escape routes from the house of a theatre. However, he also designed churches and buildings for other sites, including Lyme Park. His design for Alston Hall exhibits the Tudor Gothic style of architecture.

### ENRICHING THE LIST

In June 2016 Historic England initiated a project entitled 'Enriching the List'. This invites the public to submit short notes giving important information relating to a Listed building in their locality, information not referred to in the Listing notice. Similarly, old photographs or photographs taken after the Listing of a building are welcomed for consideration. Selected material is added to the Listing on the HE website, where the contributor is duly acknowledged.

Margaret Edwards

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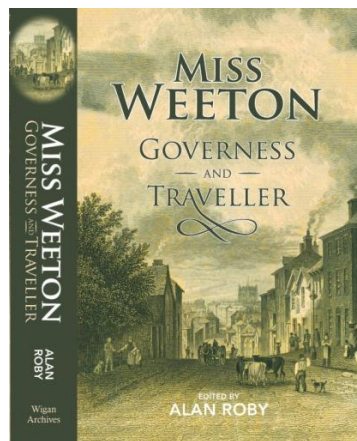
### Manchester Region History Review Volume 2, Summer 2016

The latest Manchester Region History Review came out in the summer and featured articles, research, news, events and reviews about the history and heritage of the region.

It can be read online or downloaded at:

[https://issuu.com/mcphh/docs/manchester\\_region\\_history\\_review\\_v2](https://issuu.com/mcphh/docs/manchester_region_history_review_v2)

TALES OF  
A C18 DIARIST  
BROUGHT  
TO LIFE  
THROUGH  
NEW BOOK



*Miss Weeton, Governess & Traveller* Alan Roby ed. Wigan Archives and Local Studies Service. 2016. Price: £ 20.00 (plus £2.80 postage)

This new book, centred on the fascinating life of a famous Lancashire diarist from the C18, is based on journal entries and other writings by Ellen 'Nelly' Weeton, a governess who grew up in Wigan Borough and had to overcome many challenges, including domestic abuse. Her writings have been edited by local historian Alan Roby and the resulting book is published by Wigan Archives and Local Studies service.

Ellen was born in 1777 in Lancaster but grew up in Upholland and Wigan. She took over the running of her mother's school at a young age and declined a marriage proposal to support the family. When she was persuaded into marriage she suffered serious domestic abuse at the hands of her husband but resisted and secured a deed of separation at the price of losing access to her daughter.

Alan first discovered the writings of Ellen Weeton in the 1970s. He said,

“When I first discovered Miss Weeton's writings some 40 years ago, it never occurred to me that I would be the person responsible for bringing up-to-date knowledge of her fascinating life to the public. The past 200 years have seen an unbelievable change in attitudes towards women, both throughout society and through the courts. Miss Weeton's life fully reflected the harsh society in which she lived.”

The Wigan Archives service holds original manuscripts from Ellen Weeton as part of the internationally important Edward Hall Diary Collection.

The book is available to buy from the Museum of Wigan Life or Wigan Archives.

**Contact:**

Museum of Wigan Life, Library Street, Wigan, WN1 1NU, 01942 828128

<https://www.wigan.gov.uk/Resident/Museums-archives/Museum-of-Wigan-Life/index.aspx>,

or

Wigan Archives, Second Floor, Leigh Town Hall, Civic Square, Leigh, WN7 1DY, 01942 404430,

<https://www.wigan.gov.uk/Resident/Museums-archives/Wigan-Archives/index.aspx>

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**WARRINGTON LITERARY AND PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY 2016-17**

Monday December 5 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.]

Monday February 6 2017

*The Face of Jesus* - Bill Cooke

[Dr Bill Cooke teaches philosophy and religious studies at Priestley College and is author of six books on aspects of intellectual history, and International Director of the Center for Inquiry's Transnational Program.

Using images of art from the last two thousand years, Bill Cooke will show how our understanding of Jesus has never stood still. What was seen as an unchangeable and fundamental truth one century was a heresy or irrelevance in the next. So where does that leave Jesus now? How does he look in 2016? Who was he? ]

# REPORT OF A SPLENDID RANULF HIGDEN SOCIETY MEETING



*Grave of Ranulf Higden, Chester Cathedral.*

*Photo: Chester Tourist via internet*

The Ranulf Higden Society met on October 15th at the John Rylands Library in Manchester to hear a talk about Ranulf Higden, the Chester monk who wrote the “Polychronicon”. The speaker was Dr. James Freeman of Cambridge University Library.

The “Polychronicon” was a history of the known world, especially Britain, and was written in C14. It was very popular, and many manuscript copies were produced, of which John Rylands library holds three, which the audience were able to see. Dr. Freeman explained in detail how the work had been produced.

There were three 'rescensions', or editions; a shorter version and two expanded ones. Of especial interest was the way in which the books (books in this case, not rolls) were indexed. We could see from the excellent illustrations the way in which the alphabetical list of words had been related to the manuscript text, leading to the page and paragraph required. We were also shown how some scribes making copies did this slavishly; as these were manuscripts, not printed books, the length of a page varied with the script and style of each scribe, so the relation between the page numbers and the index had to be constantly corrected, and some scribes failed to do this. We could see where in some cases the wrong numbers had been scratched out afterwards, and replaced by the amended ones.

As a former librarian, I was amazed at the modernity of the index – a salutary reminder that although we have more technology, we have no more competence than our predecessors!

Diana Winterbotham

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## LANCASTER - 'BEYOND THE CASTLE':

**lecture presented to Lancashire Archaeological Society, October 21st, 2016**

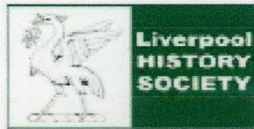
Jason Wood, Heritage Consultant to 'Beyond the Castle', an archaeological investigation of areas (including Vicarage Fields West and Quay Meadow East) which lie beyond Lancaster Castle, spoke to LAS about this community-focused project, begun about three years ago, which has been funded by Lancashire CC, Lancaster CC and HLF.

The area to be examined had been, 'archaeologically speaking', somewhat neglected. Documentary research was duly carried out. A drone survey was then commissioned to provide multiple plots of the site; these were then synthesised to make maps of features, which indicated possible medieval re-use of the Roman fort site as well as ridge and furrow. The site had always been church land or council-owned land since the end of the Roman period and thus had not been built on. Magnetometry surveying was utilised and showed more ridge and furrow but also, in Quay Meadow, ditches and walls. A survey using resistivity revealed more features - walls and possible robber trenches.

Two forts have long been known at Lancaster; however, this investigation appears to reveal the traces of a later fort, one bigger than the previous two and probably of C4 date, of a similar type to that of the known forts at Cardiff and Holyhead, i.e. a shore fort. In Quay Meadow traces of a Roman aisled building were found; conjecture has proposed this as a warehouse building associated with the fort. It is 10m wide and probably had two storeys. A Roman road, but one lacking drainage ditches, was also found; perhaps it led from the fort to the river. This year, a base course of a wall of massive construction was discovered; it supports the theory that this is a Roman fort site. Also found was a probable road, with drain underneath it, within the line of the wall. Just two days before the end of the proposed digging period a stone-constructed well was found; it is believed to be Roman but showed evidence of a Victorian re-cut.

Roman coins of most periods have been found, some of them from C4. Digging has continued and a metal detector survey is ongoing. Lancaster CC is to fund the dig in future. One of our members, Mr. Chris Birkett, took part in the dig as a volunteer and he showed us his photographs of the coins which had been found.

Jeanette Dobson



**The Liverpool History Society now offer a range of Cultural Walking Tours for private groups around the UNESCO World Heritage City of Liverpool.**

Guided Walks are a great way for friends and colleagues to visit cultural sites, discover the fascinating history of notable landmarks and hear about colourful characters that influenced society.

**The LHS Tours are suitable for groups such as:**

- Local and Visiting Groups
- Special Interest Groups
- Societies and Organisations
- Workplace Social Outings
- Team Building Events
- Student Field Trips
- Groups of friends with a shared passion/interest

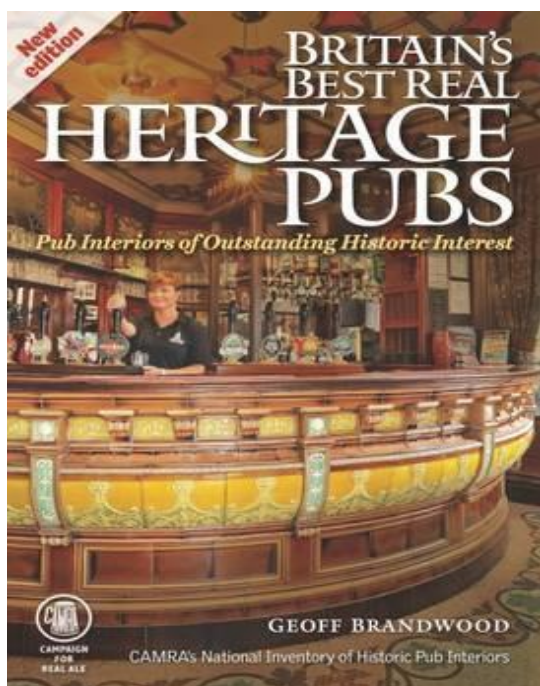
**Additional information**

Tours are only available to private groups with a minimum group size of 6  
All tours are delivered by qualified and experienced LHS Guides  
Tours can be arranged at times to suit

**Enquiries & Bookings**

To make a booking or obtain further information please contact the email address below:

[groupstours@liverpoolhistorysociety.org.uk](mailto:groupstours@liverpoolhistorysociety.org.uk)



***Britain's Best Real Heritage Pubs : Pub Interiors of Outstanding Historic Interest***

by Geoff Brandwood. CAMRA BOOKS  
Second, comprehensively revised, edition. November 2016. Paperback format, 320pp., over 500 colour illustr..  
Price: £9.98.

Presents 'updated information and a new set of evocative illustrations' relating to 'pubs that are unaltered in 70 years or have features of truly national importance'. There is 'a bonus listing of 70 pubs that, while not quite meeting CAMRA's national criteria, will still thrill visitors with their historic ambience'. The first edition was published in 2013. The new book was launched on 7th September 2016 at the 'Black Bull' in Friar Street, Preston, whose interior features on the book's cover, highlighting its fine curved ceramic bar.

# GREATER MANCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGY DAY 2016

SATURDAY 26TH NOVEMBER Peel Hall, The Crescent, University of Salford

FEE: £10.00

9.30am Registration, coffee.

9.55am Welcome: Dr Mike Nevell, Head of Centre for Applied Archaeology, University of Salford  
Introduction: Norman Redhead, Director, Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service,  
University of Salford

## FURTHER INFORMATION FROM:

Penny Dargan-Makin telephone - 0161 295 0145 email: p.r.d.dargan-makin@salford.ac.uk

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## 130 YEARS AGO: ON 9 AUGUST 1886, AT 08.00hrs., THE FIRST WOMAN TO BE EXECUTED AT STRANGWAYS GAOL WAS HANGED.

130 years ago triple murderer Mary Ann Britland, née Hague, of Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancashire, was executed.

Mary Ann Hague was born in Bolton, and she was baptised on 5 September 1847 at St John's Church, Lees, near Oldham. The 1861 Census shows Mary Ann Hague, aged 14, working as a cotton speed tenter and living with her family at Angel Street, Lees, then part of Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancashire. On 24 January 1866, 150 years ago, Mary Ann Hague, aged 19, married Thomas Britland, age 25, in Ashton-under-Lyne. Thomas and Mary Ann had two daughters, Elizabeth Hannah born in 1866, and Susannah in 1868.

The 1871 Census shows the Britland family living at Park Bridge near Ashton-under-Lyne. Thomas, 30 years old, was a manservant (domestic), and Mary Ann, 22 years old, was a cotton reeler. By 1881 the Britland family were living at 133 Turner Lane in Ashton. Thomas, 40 years old, was a farm servant, and Mary Ann, aged 34, was a cotton reeler; so was their eldest daughter Elizabeth, 14 years old. The youngest daughter, Susannah, 12 years old, was a scholar. Sometime later the Britland family moved to 92 Turner Lane in Ashton.

In 1883, Mary Ann Britland set her sights on Thomas Dixon, and started having an affair with him. On 9 March 1886 Mary Ann purchased 'Harrison's Vermin Killer' from Mr J C Hurst's chemist's shop. Mary Ann was required to sign the poison register, because the compound contained strychnine and arsenic. Later the same day, daughter Elizabeth Hannah, 19 years old, died, and her death was attributed to natural causes. Elizabeth's mother, Mary Ann Britland, claimed £10 on Elizabeth's life insurance policy. (Later it was thought that Mary Ann suspected that Elizabeth knew what she herself had in mind.)

On 28 April 1886, Mary Ann purchased two sachets of vermin powders from William Kilvington, a druggist, and within the week, on 3 May 1886, husband Thomas Britland, age 44 years, died. His death was attributed to epilepsy. Mary Ann claimed £10 on his life insurance policy.

Mary Dixon invited Mary Ann Britland to stay in the Dixon household, 128 Turner Lane, Ashton, and Mary Ann Britland spent two nights in the Dixon household. On 14 May 1886, Mary Dixon, aged 29 years, died. Thomas Dixon was paid a total of £29 17s 6d insurance, from two companies.

The doctor who attended Mary Dixon was suspicious, and reported his concerns about the three deaths to the police. A pathologist then found that Mary Dixon had been poisoned. The police arranged for the bodies of Mary Ann's late daughter and late husband to be exhumed. On 26 May 1886, at Ashton Police Court, Mary Ann Britland was charged with the murder of Mary Dixon, and Thomas Dixon was charged with having been an accessory to the fact. However, Thomas Dixon was later found to have played no part in the murder of his wife.

On 14 July 1886, Mary Ann Britland was committed for trial at the Manchester Assizes, and on 22 July 1886 her trial began. Thomas Dixon testified against her. The jury took just four hours to find Mary Ann Britland guilty, and, on 24 July 1886, 'The Manchester Courier and Lancashire General Advertiser' reported that Mary Ann Britland had been found guilty of the murder of three people, by poisoning with vermin killer. Aged 39 years, she was hanged at Strangeways Gaol at 8.00 am on 9 August 1886, just over 130 years ago, the first woman to be executed at Strangeways. She was buried within the grounds of Strangeways. A twist in the tale, however, is that a riot at Strangeways in 1990 damaged the prison, and much of it had to be rebuilt. During this time the prison cemetery was demolished, the remains of 60-100 executed prisoners were cremated then interred in a communal grave at Blackley Cemetery.

Rita Vaughan.

28 October 2016, Mossley.

**CULCHETH LOCAL HISTORY GROUP**  
**2016/2017 PROGRAMME**

December 8th	Stephen Halliwell	Moses Holden, Self Educated Genius
January 12th	Alan Davies	The Pretoria Pit Disaster
February 9th	David George	Weavers' Cottages
March 9th	Zoe Chaddock	Culcheth Workhouse & the Pauper Apprentices
April 13th	Lydia McCool	Lancashire Wildlife Trust: Chat Moss
May 11th	Alex Miller	WW1 Military Tribunals

**PLEASE NOTE NEW VENUE AND STARTING TIME**  
**MEET AT THE VILLAGE CENTRE, JACKSON AVENUE.**

Second Thursday of each month. Doors open 7.15pm for 7.30pm start.  
 Membership £10.00p.a. Visitors £2.00 per meeting  
 Inquiries: Zoë Chaddock (Chair) : 01925 752276

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**CONGRATULATIONS, LEYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY!**

<https://www.leylandhistoricalsociety.co.uk/home.html>

At the Community Archives & Heritage Group Conference the 'Best Website of the Year' Award was made to **Leyland Historical Society** - see website address above.

The Society highlighted material relating to the town's industrial workforce from early C20. Two items on the website particularly appealed to me: (i) there is information on each name that is recorded on the Leyland War memorial; (ii) a viewer can follow virtual walks around Leyland. The site holds a lot of interest for anyone visiting it. Margaret Edwards.

**2016 - 2017 Society Meetings:**

Monday 5th December	'Margaret Paston - A Mediaeval Life'	Lizzie Jones
Monday 9th January (2nd Monday)	'Recent Excavations'	Chris Wild
Monday 6th February	'An Evening with Edwin Waugh'	Sid Calderbank

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**The new Director of Lancaster University Regional Heritage Centre is Dr Fiona Edmonds,** who from 2006 to 2016 was Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in the Department of Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic, University of Cambridge. Fiona, born and brought up in Lancashire, will be a main organiser of the **RHC April 2017 Study Day. Topic: The Irish Sea nexus in the Early Medieval period.**

[The papers from an important conference (July 2011) on Jocelin of Furness were published and include one by Fiona Edmonds; in it she explored 'the abbey's far-flung international connections and Jocelin's role in the late twelfth-century multi-national industry of hagiography'. Four 'Lives of Saints' by Jocelin have survived, namely biographies of St. Patrick, St. Kentigern, St. Waltheof and St. Helena. M.E.]

## MIGHT YOUR SOCIETY BE INTERESTED IN JOINING IN WITH THIS PROJECT?

### North West Medieval Graffiti Project

In my report of the CBANW meeting held in Staining in May 2016, I wrote (see p15, LLHF NL Issue 15):

'*The Greater Manchester Graffiti Survey*' (Ellen McInnes and Carolanne King) centred on another puzzling topic. This research has already amassed 400+ examples of marks made on pre-1700 buildings but not part of their decorative scheme. Their range challenges easy classification (some are scrappy 'scratches', others well-formed 'compass-drawn flower' motifs, others burn marks) and their interpretation is far from straightforward. Those involved have concluded that many might be invoking 'protection' from antagonistic forces.'

The September 2016 edition of the Newsletter of the Bolton Archaeology & Egyptology Society includes a note on the BAES response to this project: Ian [Ian Trumble, BAES Chairman] took Carolanne King to both Smithills Hall and Hall i'th'Wood 'to look for marks there, of which there are lots! So there is plenty to get on with. The museums service is also happy for the project to take place.'. Ian also approached The Friends of Smithills Hall, who are keen to join the society in the project. Carolanne will provide training for the Society on what to do, 'after which we will be left to do the recording at our leisure. There is no time constraint, so we can do it as and when.'

If YOUR society wants to know more about this interesting survey, your Society Secretary can contact Carolanne King through BAES and arrange for her to give a talk: [chair@boltonaes](mailto:chair@boltonaes)

## NEWS FROM GARSTANG HISTORICAL SOCIETY : POPPY APPEAL BOOST FROM SALE OF BOOK



*L to R: Anthony Coppin (co-author/Vice Chairman, Garstang Historical Society), Peter Burrell (Chairman, GHS), Paul G. Smith (local historian and co-author), Dave Brewin (Poppy Appeal organiser), and Garstang Mayor, Coun. Alan Cornthwaite.*

*Photo: Christine Smith*



*Garstang Community Primary School children proudly display their books.*

Last year, local historian Paul G Smith and journalist Anthony Coppin published 'Garstang's Great War Heroes', a paperback about the life and times of men from Garstang, Bonds and Bowgreave who served in the global conflict, many of them giving their lives for their country.

The proceeds from the sale of the book over the past 12 months, along with a donation from Garstang Historical Society, have now been presented to Garstang's Poppy Appeal organiser, Dave Brewin. At a cheque presentation ceremony at Garstang Arts Centre Mr Smith handed over the cheque, for £1,400, to Mr Brewin. Also attending the presentation were Garstang town Mayor, Coun. Alan Cornthwaite, representing the town Council, which was one of the early financial sponsors of the 'Garstang's Great War Heroes' project, and Garstang Historical Society Chairman, Peter Burrell.

Copies of 'Garstang's Great War Heroes' continue to be available for sale (price £8) at: Market Place News, Garstang, Garstang Tourism office, Garstang Arts Centre, KwikKutz barbers.

A spokesman for Garstang Historical Society, whose treasurer Mrs Maureen Spiers has managed the finances of the book project, said sales of the books and the offer of free copies to pupils and students from Garstang, Bonds and Bowgreave, would continue until Autumn 2018 or until the supply of the print run of books runs out - whichever is the sooner. A.C.

## HERE AND THERE...

1. 'Some curious place names and fieldnames in Scarisbrick' is the title of an important note by Nigel Neil in the **Lancashire Place Name Survey** October Newsletter. A chance find while Nigel was researching a barn in West Lancashire was a place-name which is referred to in the Burscough Priory Cartulary but which has not until now been located. Nigel writes:

'A place called *Haukesheved* or 'Hawkshead' in Scarisbrick is referred to in two deeds (dated c. 1229-60) in the cartulary ..... of Burscough Priory ..... Latin transcripts and annotation – but not translations - have been published by the Chetham Society (Webb 1970, 55-6 and 71). Webb was unable to identify the location of Hawkshead, but the present writer's 2015 work now provides this information. The boundaries of the landholding were defined by the watercourses *Haukeshevedsiche* and *Muscarsiche* – Hawkshead Syke (i.e. brook) and Muscar Syke ..... Merscar House Farm, (*sic*) lies c. 500m to the North-North-East of West Bank Farm, just over the township boundary into Burscough, and Merscar Brook lies to the East of this, but the location of Hawkshead Brook is not known. A third document transcribed by Webb, a deed of 1303 (TNA DL 25/611), mentions another place, adjacent to Hawkshead, called Longshaw Head, which has also not been identified.'

### 2. **National Archaeological Identification Survey: Upland Pilot final project report**

Matt Oakey et al Research Report number: 10/2015

<http://research.historicengland.org.uk/Report.aspx?i=15321&ru=%2fResults.aspx%3fp%3d1%26n%3d10%26a%3d4630%26ns%3d1>

'The project covered an area of 174sq km. This was mostly within south Cumbria but small parts of the south of the project area were within north Lancashire. It comprised a landscape transect from Brigsteer in the north-west to Kirkby Lonsdale in the south-east but also included an area to the west of the M6 as far south as Carnforth. The project encompassed those parts of the Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) that were not surveyed as part of the North-West Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey (RCZAS)...

The project created 535 new monument records in the National Record of the Historic Environment (NRHE) and amended a further 136 – a substantial increase in archaeological knowledge of the area. Our understanding of the later prehistoric and Roman periods has been enhanced through the identification of seven new settlements and reassessment of previously identified sites. These include significant monument types such as three probable Bronze Age ring cairns. Mapping of the Lune Valley, in particular, has enhanced previous work to provide a picture of settlement and land division. Features from the medieval and post medieval periods were previously under-represented in the archaeological record and the project has gone some way to addressing this.....

This report provides a summary of the nature and distribution of archaeological remains seen on air photographs and lidar, some of which were subsequently investigated by other techniques.'

### 3. **A History of Lancashire in 70 Objects** - an 18 month project funded by the HLF.

**PROJECT PARTNERS:** *Lancashire Heritage Learning*, *Museum Development North West* and *Lancashire Life* magazine (which will show the selected 70 objects between September and November, 2017, to mark its 70th birthday)

The project aims      \*to engage communities across the County Palatine with objects and stories held in their local museums, galleries and heritage venues.

                                 \*to invite visitors to those 3 kinds of venue to nominate one object displayed there as their choice contribution to the story of Lancashire.

Participating venues may choose to hold an event to promote the selection of an object.

A guide to participating venues will be published by *Lancashire Life* to promote visits to them.

Anyone wishing to be involved in **A History of Lancashire in 70 Objects** will need a flow chart showing how to take part, along with a submission form. Details may be obtained from:

[gill.brailey@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:gill.brailey@lancashire.gov.uk).

## SPOTLIGHT ON A LANCASHIRE LIGHTHOUSE



A major repair / restoration project is under way at Plover Scar lighthouse at the mouth of the Lune estuary. The lighthouse, close to the remains of Cockersand Abbey, was hit by a commercial vessel earlier this year, suffering substantial damage.

Work began in September, with contractors MPM North West Limited of Maryport, Cumbria, arranging the erection of scaffolding around the structure.

The tower crane will stay in place until the end of the works. It is being used to remove the stones, one by one, to the bottom of the damaged area prior to rebuilding.

Tension cables with ground anchors have been fixed to the crane and also to the scaffolding for the full circumference of the lighthouse.

Interestingly the crane which is being used for the works is the same crane

that spent eight years up Blackpool Tower in the recent past for renovations at the tower (following which it was fully refurbished ready for the Plover Scar work).

Early October saw the dismantling of the upper part of the lighthouse with the removal of the lantern (see photo). The lantern has been taken to MPM's workshop at Maryport for refurbishment.

A Lancaster Port Commission spokesperson said: "It took a lot of effort to remove, after all it has been in situ for 169 years, but with the perseverance and dogged determination of the contractors, eventually it was gliding through the air to the waiting trailer."

The port authority is aware of the public interest in the project but has urged people wishing to observe the work not to attempt to gain access to the small parking area close to the lighthouse by car. The route is a no through road, with no passing places, and no turning space at the end. The parking area overlooking the estuary and the lighthouse is now occupied by the contractor's site compound. The coastal footpath along the seawall banking remains open and can be accessed from Glasson or Cockersand.

A commission spokesman said: "We would ask any walkers to remain on the footpath, and for the sake of their safety and to minimise disturbance to the birdlife keep away from the temporary access track and the lighthouse itself - this is after all a construction site."

Mariners, jet skiers and windsurfers have been advised that an exclusion zone has been put in place between the lighthouse and the eastern shore of the estuary.

\* A more detailed article, updating readers on the Plover Scar work, will appear in the February 2017 issue of this newsletter.

Report by Anthony Coppin (Vice Chair, Garstang Historical Society)

Photo courtesy Steve Pendrill - [stevependrillphotography.com](http://stevependrillphotography.com)

For more of Steve's photos of the lighthouse visit:

[www.stevependrillphotography.com/photographers-ramblings-plover-scar-lighthouse/](http://www.stevependrillphotography.com/photographers-ramblings-plover-scar-lighthouse/)

\* Editor's note: Not only is this interesting and important local history, it's the spot from where Ben and I (and the two sons as well) did a lot of our birdwatching! We many a time walked out to the lighthouse and clambered as high as we could get! On one wintry occasion we witnessed a very huge chunk of the end of Sunderland Point falling off and getting swept away by the waves!

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### PALS-RELATED MEMORABILIA FROM THE WW1 CENTENARY COMMEMORATIONS

Compiling the history of the East Lancashire Concert Band led to uncovering a link between the band and the Accrington Pals; hence the band has featured in many of the PALS commemoration events. This prompted me to start a collection of PALS-related memorabilia from the WW1 Centenary events, as a historical record and in a form which would be publicly available.

I would be interested to hear from anyone willing to \*contribute anything suitable to add to the collection, \*allow items to be digitised, or \* help if the project starts to build up. For example, it might be possible, with suitable funding, to make copies available to schools, colleges, libraries etcetera. I have compiled a list of items that I currently have; naturally so far they relate only to events that the band was involved with. If broadening this project interests you, I can be contacted through the East Lancs. Band <http://www.eastlancsconcertband.org> or through my email [nick.holme@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:nick.holme@yahoo.co.uk)

Nick Holme

Nov. 2016