

LANCASHIRE LOCAL HISTORY FEDERATION

NEWSLETTER NO. 1

June 2012

EDITORIAL

So here we are, presenting the first issue of a new venture, and hoping that **YOU**, the members who made it clear at the recent AGM that you wanted a newsletter again, **will make the effort to supply** information, bits of news, photos, snippets, and even perhaps short notes.

When I was invited to become the editor of a new LLHF newsletter, I enthusiastically and promptly agreed. I have been an editor and writer all my adult life, and many of you might well be familiar with publications I've produced; however, a newsletter of such an organisation as the **LLHF** must receive regular submissions from **the members** if it is to be viable. I cannot go on providing most of the material for the contents of a newsletter such as this. **Those contents should record** events and activities from members in all parts of Lancashire. Only then will it reflect local history activity in all its variety and richness, as well as amply demonstrating the effectiveness of a long-established and well-known Federation, one which reached a critical point in its history a year ago through much-reduced support.

Now we have the chance to get the show back on the road. I hope all of you will do all you can to allow the new newsletter to flourish. You can contact me **via email:**

m.edwards309@btinternet.com

or via telephone:

0161 256 6585.

We have already lost a splendid journal thanks to lack of submissions. Let us **not** allow this new newsletter to go along the same path.

I look forward to hearing from you.

**DEADLINE:
SEPTEMBER 15TH**

Margaret Edwards

=====

FEDERATION MATTERS

URGENT URGENT URGENT URGENT URGENT

As was explained at the recent AGM, we are re-compiling our membership list **AND NEED CONTACT DETAILS FOR INSTITUTIONS AND INDIVIDUALS.**

EVEN IF YOU RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER, AND EVEN IF YOU HAVE BEEN A MEMBER FOR SOME TIME OF THE LANCASHIRE LOCAL HISTORY FEDERATION, PLEASE SEND YOUR ADDRESS TO THE SECRETARY, JOHN WILSON, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE:-

Address: 25, Trinity Court, Cleminson Street, SALFORD. M3 6DX
email: secretary@lancashirehistory.org

=====

Community Heritage in Lancashire Ideas for development

Our Publicity Officer, Bob Dobson, represented *LLHF* at a meeting held at the LRO in Preston on May 8th, 2012. This had been called by Ms Julie Creer, the Senior Community Heritage Manager for Lancashire (and also an *ex-officio* member of *LLHF*). Two representatives of the Chorley Heritage Centre Group were also present.

The meeting afforded Julie Creer the chance to discuss and disseminate her planned projects for building up community heritage activities within the county. An exchange of opinions was at the heart of the meeting. Bob sent in this report.

=====

Julie has a team of six area managers covering the county. They work in fields previously covered separately by libraries, museums and archives seeking to engage the community in work and events which touch on each of these three areas. Under the new rationalising arrangement, heritage matters are handled by Julie's team, giving the staff of libraries, museums and archives more time for the main areas of their work.

Proposals which Julie would like to take forward include:

- * creating a list of organisations working in local studies; information gained from this will be available for sharing;
- * starting a 'Heritage Partnership Forum' of groups such as ours within the county; this would probably meet 3 or 4 times a year in libraries or museums at different places; regular meetings being a key feature;
- * taking opportunities to set up groups of volunteers focused on particular heritage sites/buildings (societies probably named 'Friends of such and such');
- * establishing a twice-yearly event to showcase the work being done to develop heritage in the county;
- * having a week-long exhibition on a theme.

[**NOTE:** the themes for 2013 have already been decided upon:- ***Railways***; and ***Suffragettes***.]

All aspects/strands of heritage will be covered when events built on these themes are held.

The meeting was extremely useful; and Bob pledged the help of *LLHF* as matters progress.

=====

FEDERATION MATTERS

Dates for your diaries

20th October 2012: a Federation joint day school with the Institute of Local and Family History at the University of Central Lancashire (UCLAN) on 'Alcohol and Temperance'.

3rd November 2012: the Federation 'At Home' event with the Fylde History Network and the Lancashire Place-Name Survey at St Annes United Reformed Church Hall. Speakers include Dr Alan Crosby, Peter Shakeshaft, Dr Sarah Rose and Dr Mike Winstanley.

Details and booking forms for both days will be sent nearer the time.

IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT YOU SHOULD LET THE *LLHF* SECRETARY, JOHN WILSON, HAVE YOUR ADDRESS. SEE PAGE 1.

=====

10 April 2012 – OFFICIAL FUNDING BULLETIN Heritage Lottery Fund Supports Local Heritage with New Grants

The Heritage Lottery Fund has launched a new £1 million grants programme called 'All Our Stories' to support local projects across the UK that want to explore their local heritage.

A wide range of voluntary and community sector organisations (including charities, community groups, and heritage organisations) throughout the UK can apply for grants of between £3,000 and £10,000. **Funding will support activities which encourage exploring and learning about local heritage.** Groups should be willing to share what they have learnt with their community by doing things like holding a community event, performance, exhibition or producing a leaflet or designing a smart phone app or website, etcetera.

Activities that will be supported are:

- Visits to places like historic buildings, landscapes, parks, burial grounds, museums, archaeological sites or industrial heritage sites like railways.
- Using collections like archives, libraries and museums, including collections held by people in the community.
- Talking to people who know about heritage or holding workshops, talks and sessions exploring people's memories.
- Recording things like people's memories or local wildlife; scanning old photographs and documents; archaeological digs or surveying historic buildings.

Groups will be able to work with researchers from 21 universities and other educational organisations across the UK who will be available to support projects from the beginning of the application process as well as the research itself. 'All Our Stories' has been developed in support of the BBC's 'The Great British Story - A People's History', which is a new series to be broadcast on BBC Two. 'All Our Stories' will also feature in five BBC Learning events at flagship heritage locations, which will be run in tandem with the TV series, to get people involved with their local heritage.

Heritage Lottery Foundation Chief Executive, Carole Souter, said:

"All Our Stories presents a fantastic opportunity for everyone to get involved with their heritage, from discovering the history of their town or street to learning about community traditions and customs. Our straightforward application process will enable organisations across the UK to get the financial and practical support they need to deliver worthwhile and exciting projects. We are looking forward to seeing what people will uncover about their past and what they learn about who they are and where they've come from."

The deadline for applications is 31 July 2012 with a notification of decisions in October 2012. Visit the Heritage Lottery Fund website for further information and to register for the online application process.

=====

CONGRATULATIONS TO BRINDLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY!

Its TENTH ANNIVERSARY GALA DINNER will be held on FRIDAY, JUNE 15TH, 2012, at The Pines Hotel, Clayton Green. Special Guest Speaker will be DR BILL SHANNON from the LANCASHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY. (See website)

His name lives on.....

*A Yorkshireman called **Sam Wells** died in Morecambe in 1918, in his 64th year.

*Why should this information have featured in *Current Archaeology* for May 2012? Regrettably, the reason is linked with something less than worthy.

In 1890, Sam visited Orkney; and during his visit to a Neolithic chambered tomb near Stromness, he carved into its wall:

Sam W. Wells, Keighley, ENGLAND 1890

Ms Antonia Thomas, preparing a PhD thesis on inscriptions and rock art at Orkney's Neolithic sites, from the information left by Sam was able to trace him and she presented his identity in her short *Current Archaeology* feature: Sam Watson Wells, who owned Jonas Wells Ltd, a brass, steel and iron foundry in Keighley. The following information, however, has been compiled as a result of my informally searching in Keighley local history websites, and thorough research in Census Returns carried out by my sister, Mrs. Anne Mayes, and me.

The **1861** Census Returns indicate that Jonas Wells, who set up the iron, brass and steel foundry/firm, which survived until its closure in 1982, was born in Manchester and settled in Keighley. His age is given as 34, that of his wife Betty as 37. Betty was a Keighley woman and she and Jonas lived at 8, Greengate, Keighley. Jonas stated in the Returns that he was an Iron and Brass Founder Employer, employing 11 men and boys. The foundry is referred to in other records as the Greengate Works.

Those same Returns record that living with them was their son, Sam Watson Wells, who was aged 6. Sam's baptism certificate is dated April 29th, 1856. However, a note in the margin shows that he had been born on October 31st, 1854. No other offspring were recorded; but in the **1871** Census Returns, Jonas (now 49) and Betty (47) [*sic*], who were living at 130 Greengate, in addition to Sam (now 17) had living with them Mrs Mary Elizabeth Feather, named as their daughter and aged 26, and Madaline [*sic*] B. Feather, their granddaughter, aged 5. The circumstances of the family firm seem to have been somewhat different in 1871, for Jonas records himself as a brass founder employing one man and one boy. Sam is described as a brass moulder.

On June 24th, 1873, Sam Watson Wells (18) of Greengate, Keighley, married Annie Elizabeth Lund (23), of Hope Place, Keighley. Her father, Thomas Lund, was a local tailor and draper.

Eight years later, in the **1881** Returns, he is described, at the age of 26, as a Brassfounder employing one man and two boys. He and 'Ann' are living at 3, Beck Street and have two sons: Richard O. (another source reveals the 'O' stood for Ormerod), born 1875 and now aged 7 and at school, and Thomas Lund, born 1877 and now aged 4.

When the **1891** Census Returns were compiled, the family address was 294, Skipton Road, Keighley and Sam was aged 36 and Ann 40. Sam was a founder of both brass and iron (as his father had been thirty years earlier), Richard was 17 and an apprentice to a brass and iron founder, and Thomas was 14. There were two further sons now: Joshua (born in 1883 and now aged 8 and at school) and Jonas (born in 1887 and now aged 4). There is no mention of the birth of any more children in the Returns for 1901 and 1911.

It was in the year before this Census that Sam had been able to afford a visit to Orkney. Perhaps he regarded that as a real achievement, hence his graffiti record.

By **1901** Sam and Ann were recorded in the Returns as living at 216, Skipton Road, and Sam was a Brass, Iron and Steel Founder Employer; there is no mention of how many people were in his employment. Richard, Thomas and Joshua are all recorded as workers; Jonas is aged 14 and no further information about him is given.

The next ten years had made quite a difference to the firm of Jonas Wells Ltd.. We learn from the **1911** Returns that Sam is now 56, Ann 61. There is no mention of Richard, but another source explains that he had died in 1908 at the age of 34. Thomas, now aged 34, is still single and part of the family home, as is Jonas, aged 24. Thomas is a Brass Foundry Manager, and Jonas, also single, is a Malleable Iron and Steel foundry manager. Part of the Return related to marriage and the births of children. Sam and Ann recorded that they had completed 37 full years of marriage; six children had been born to them alive; but only three were still living.

A website post records that Sam spent 'a considerable time in his latter years' at Morecambe, a period when he suffered from ill health; and a post on the Keighley & District Local History Society Forum tells us that in due course 'Sam moved to Park Villa in Balmoral Road, Morecambe'. He died there and was buried in Utley Cemetery on 19th October, 1918. That was just 12 days before his 64th birthday, on the 31st, according to the marginal note on his Baptismal Certificate.

It is not often that those who leave graffiti on monuments can be identified. In the case of Yorkshireman Sam W. Wells, however, we have such a person, one with Lancashire connections.

Margaret Edwards

ONE FOR THE BOOK SHELF

COUNTRY HOUSES OF LANCASHIRE AND THEIR BUILDERS

by the late **John Champness**. There are over 150 illustrations - photographs, Victorian prints and also plans. The publisher, Centre for North West Regional Studies of Lancaster University, tells us in the publicity that John gives details of the evolution of house lay-out, of the attitudes and aspirations of the houses' owners, and of methods of building and financing the houses. **PRICE: £15.95**

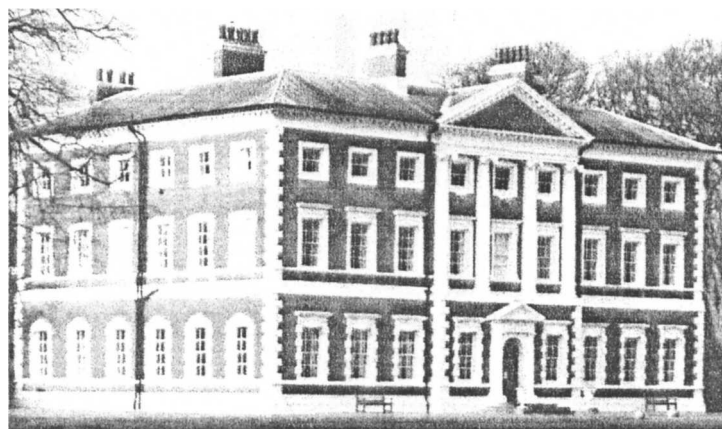
For further details contact Christine Wilkinson:

by post: CNWRS, Fylde College, Lancaster University, LA1 4YF

by telephone: 01542 593770

by email: christine.wilkinson@lancaster.ac.uk

Further information at: <http://www.lancs.ac.uk/users/cnwrs>



Part of the cover of John's book.

Documentary Delving

When *Current Archaeology* arrives each month, I like to turn to the back page to read the regular feature called **ODD SOCS**, obviously a pun on everybody's laundry nightmare. Every feature takes the reader into a society whose members follow what might be called 'a minority interest'. When I turned to the back page of this month's issue (June 2012, but issued in May - the usual pattern of things), I was surprised to find myself connecting with two familiar smiling faces: **LLHF members**, Dilys Fyrn and Audrey Coney had been photographed at Brough Castle, in Cumbria. **And this month's highlighted Society?**

The Ranulph Higden Society.

Ranulph Higden lived through the first half of C14 and made a huge impact as the author of a major work (title *Polychronicon*) presenting a history of Britain. He was a Chester Benedictine monk and **his great work was based not on travel but on research into documents**. That is thought to have been the genesis of a developing interest in the history of our country.

The members of this society named after him appreciate the enormous importance of documents as a crucial source of studies in history and view archives as real treasure houses. But they also value other sources of historical knowledge, such as seals and stained glass and archaeology, and this can be readily gathered from **their wide-ranging lecture and excursion programmes**. These supplement a keen interest in reading and understanding documents. Transcribing and translating documents written in Anglo-Norman or Latin is a special interest of a Society group which meets every month. People who need documents to support their research through this group can encourage and help each other.

If you feel an interest in the activities of the Society, talk to Dilys or Audrey (and Diana Winterbotham is another member of both **LLHF** and the Ranulph Higden Society who could be approached); or look at the Society's website:
www.ranulphigden.org.uk/index.html

Here is an extract from that website.

The Ranulph Higden Society transcribes and translates medieval Latin documents associated with Lancashire, Cheshire, Staffordshire and Derbyshire.

Some people for their own purposes need to read and understand medieval records written in Latin or Anglo-Norman but do not have the benefit of the kind of support normally provided by postgraduate courses in universities. The Society was formed to provide a means by which they might receive continuing instruction in various relevant fields and encourage and support one another.

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

=====

Bury Local History Society

Unlike many societies, BLHS does not take a break in the summer months. Here is what has been arranged.

- JUNE 7TH:** *A visit to Ainsworth Unitarian Church*
Visit starts 2.00pm at Ainsworth.
- JULY 5TH:** *From Cartmel to Fleetwood*
Second part of a photographic journey with Margaret Curry
- AUGUST 2ND:** *The Diary of Henry Hargreaves (1760)*
Presented by Kathy Fishwick
- SEPTEMBER 6TH:** ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

PROJECT IN HAND

BURY PLACE NAMES

This is being done in association with Bury Archives using C18+ maps. The database is now available to search on the Society's website. Navigate to the Place Name Survey page and follow instructions given there.

=====

Update on Lancashire Archives

The record office building opened again in October but it was a couple of months before the contractors left the site, and we were still experiencing heating problems until the second week in January. Things are settling down now.

We've had lots of positive feedback from users about the re-organised searchroom, and **the user group** meeting in December made helpful suggestions about further improvements.

We have not had as many visitors as we would like, although the people who have used the service have ordered a lot more documents per visit. **Our access team is having a campaign this year on the theme 'there's nothing like the real thing' – to tempt and inspire return visits and new customers.**

Lots of events and small exhibitions of interest to local historians are planned for 2012 to celebrate various anniversaries – Lancashire witches, Dickens, the Queen's Jubilee, and the Preston Guild.

On the collections front: we have received a lot of accessions since we re-opened and we're looking at more effective ways of letting people know what's arrived as well as what's just been catalogued. One new collection which we bought from EBay is on display in the cabinet this month – a collection of love letters from Bacup [DP 527].

Volunteering projects are going well and our new volunteer support officer supervises the main groups on Monday and Wednesday and carries out the related admin work. Last year 87 people gave their services and the Archives Service is very grateful to every one of them. **The Guild volunteers** have almost finished the transcribing and editing work on the Guild rolls and there will be a launch event when the database goes online at the end of July. Other volunteers and people on work experience placements are repackaging and listing glass slides and doing other small cataloguing projects. **The Lancashire manorial documents register project**, funded by The National Archive and run by Dr Angus Winchester of Lancaster University, is also progressing well. **A day school in conjunction with the Centre for North West Regional Studies will celebrate the completion of this – probably in Spring 2013.**

Following the upheavals of last year the new staff structure is working well: the searchroom is now fully staffed with enthusiastic and friendly, but as yet inexperienced, new archive assistants; a new archive conservator will start work in June.

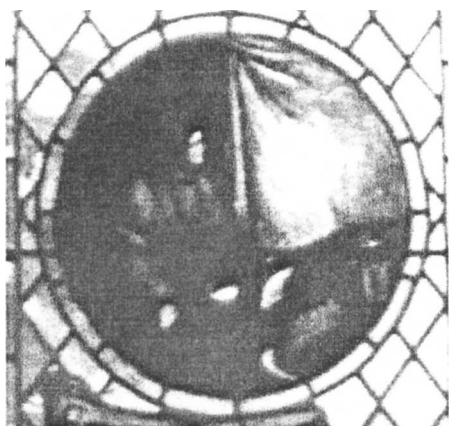
The North West Sound Archive has just published a new information leaflet and is launching a website this week. Its catalogue is already available on LANCAT - the Lancashire online catalogue – but will also have a link through the new site www.nwsoundarchive.co.uk

News from the Archives, the newsletter of Lancashire Archives, gives monthly news and updates on what is happening at Lancashire Archives and is available at the Record Office or on our web site at www.archives.lancashire.gov.uk

Jacquie Crosby
Archives Service Manager

Astronomical Red-letter day (and it has a local link!)

June 5th and 6th 2012



The important event is the **Transit of Venus**, in which a small black spot, the shadow of the planet Venus, takes some 6 hours to cross the sun. It is visible because Venus and the Earth are exactly in line at that time.

This recurring event was known about in the time of Copernicus; but what was highly significant in the seventeenth century was the outstanding work of **Jeremiah Horrocks, the Curate of Much Hoole in Lancashire**. He worked out the interval between Transits, and predicted exactly when in 1639 (November 24th) a Transit would occur. He was proved to be correct, and he and his friend and correspondent in Manchester, William Crabtree, were the first to observe and record a Transit. Attention has been drawn to this year's event in the Science Daily website (May 1st, 2012), which is how I come to know the dates.

The Transits occur in pairs, an interval of eight years occurring between the two of a pair. The last Transit of Venus took place in 2004, so the Transit of 2012 will complete a pair. The intervals between pairs, however, are very much longer - between 105.5 and 121.5 years. The next Transit will not occur until 2117; so this year's Transit is very special indeed for those living now.

Jeremiah Horrocks used rudimentary equipment to observe the Transit he had predicted, and this is clear in the portrayal of the event in the stained glass of the east window in Much Hoole parish church. This illustration shows the simple graduated paper disc and telescope which allowed him to observe the Transit. (There is an older window at the church which shows and honours Horrocks, but it is now an interior window as a result of building work at the church, so it is not normally seen, needing light to shine through it to be appreciated.) **The Much Hoole church is well worth a visit and parties can be catered for.**

Horrocks was born in 1618 and educated at Cambridge, after which he took up the curacy of Much Hoole church. He died in 1640, at the young age of 22. Preston Observatory on the north west corner of Moor Park is named after him.

Margaret Edwards

=====

LITTLEBOROUGH HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY LTD, whose archives in both areas of interest are enviable, is approaching a key stage of its restoration of the Littleborough station building, a 2-year project serving the community by creating the **Littleborough History Centre**. The work must be 'largely complete' by **November 20th, 2012**. A report of good progress from **Bernard Pratt, the project manager**, appeared in the newsletter of the **Greater Manchester Archaeology Federation (Volume 1 Issue 8)** which appeared (much delayed) in **March 2012**. The team is to be congratulated on producing another splendid 22pp newsletter, especially in the context of the well-known recent turmoil in Manchester's handling of archaeology matters. The Editor reported that the Centre for Applied Archaeology, Salford University, had agreed to take on the newsletter. There will be only one more issue of the 'present' newsletter; it is described as 'an indulgence' on the team's part, and will outline the work and achievements of the now-disbanded GMAU in its 32-year existence. M.E. [See article later in this issue.]

The recent Federation day school was based on themes linked to the work of George Henry Tupling, one of the first modern historians of Lancashire, who died fifty years ago. Anne Astling, his great-niece, writes about his life.

George Henry Tupling, Local Historian, (1883-1962)

George Henry Tupling was born in Hull in 1883 and died at a Stockport hospital in 1962, having lived most of his life in Lancashire. He was my grandfather's older brother, so I have known something about him since my childhood. On our bookshelves at home was his book "The Economic History of Rossendale" - not a title that particularly encouraged me to pick it up and read it, I must confess. However, my father took great pride in telling me that the author was a relative of ours.

My grandfather never told me very much about his siblings, or the rest of his family come to that, and how I now wish he had! (Or that I had asked more). George was 8 years older than my grandfather, so their relationship would have been distanced by those years, and having another brother only a year or so younger than himself would have provided him with a playmate.

George was very clever though, and whilst grandad was still a youngster at school, his brother was made a monitor, assisting the teacher in class - and then probably went on to be a certificated teacher. When their father died at an early age, George would have been about 18 years old, and grandad 10. Big brother became the "man of the family" at least until his mother re-married. The story is that one of their mother's relatives, aware of his academic promise, helped pay for George to advance his education.

So it was that George gained a first degree, and in seeking subsequent employment ended up as history master at Haslingden Grammar School. He was to remain at that school for the remainder of his working life, despite his ambition for higher things. For several years he pursued further higher education study, adding more external degrees to his initial one, in the hope this would facilitate promotion.

He was primarily an academic by nature, and had wide ranging interests in economics, medieval history and theology. Through private study he improved his knowledge of French, German and Latin, and taught himself the skills of palaeography in order to decipher the manuscripts to which he gained access, and copied.

It was not until he met George Unwin, Professor of Economic History at Manchester University, at the end of the First World War that he found his direction, bringing together his interests through researching the history of his locality. He had a number of pamphlets and articles published, and for his PhD he wrote and published "The Economic History of Rossendale".

However, his final "magnum opus" was a massive bibliography of published material on the history of Lancashire. It was almost completed when he died, after 10 years of collation and preparation, and was finally published posthumously in 1968. The majority of his research notes are held by the John Ryland's Library of Manchester University, and his publications are available in several Lancashire libraries. It should be mentioned that Chetham's Library has its own much smaller collection of George Henry's material, some of which was deposited there by a member of staff of Manchester University in 1987.

I have recently spent time at John Ryland's Library, listing the contents of the 32 boxes of George Henry's research notes and other material, which are currently not catalogued. This is a wonderful resource for both local and family historians

in Lancashire because the contents represent research undertaken between 1908 and 1962. George was able to access documentary evidence, some of which may now be unavailable.

Where he borrowed documents in private hands, he made notes or verbatim copies of the contents, sometimes transcribing them from the original Latin or Old French. He sought out information on various aspects of Lancashire history (and in some cases Cheshire history) from various libraries and archives, and copied sections out. He interviewed local people about their experiences of working life (particularly in the textiles industry), and he walked the countryside around Haslingden looking for old disused mills etc. He bought from secondhand bookshops and collected guide books and old maps of the period. He took photographs of local landmarks and indexed them. He visited churches and had sight of parish registers etc. which at that point had not been deposited with a County Record Office. **One particular “treasure” I found was a box full of original deeds relating to the Ormerod family of Gambleside (Box 29), probably invaluable to anyone researching that family.**

All of this material was indexed and filed systematically in his study, and although in the move to John Ryland’s the original filing system has been disturbed, virtually all the original folders are intact. The box lists should help to direct people to topics of interest to them, and it is hoped the collection will eventually be fully catalogued.

CHADDERTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A range of LOCAL HISTORY TOPICS can be offered to schools (Primary Infants to Lower Secondary). [NOTE: A LIST can be accessed on the CHS website **via the LLHF website**, by clicking on the MEMBER SOCIETIES tab. *Editor*]

The topics include:

The Story of Chadderton's Cotton Industry

Shopping in Chadderton in the late 19th/early 20th centuries

Domestic Changes since 1900 - washday, cooking, etcetera

Development of Transportation in Chadderton

The Second World War - with local aspects

Introductory work on Chadderton's Whitegate; Mills Hill; and Stock Brook

Foxdenton Hall and its Lords of the Manor

Visits to the Hall can be arranged.

Presentations may include an introductory illustrated talk (use of Powerpoint) and examination of appropriate artefacts. There are normally appropriate worksheets for children to complete and/or suggestions for follow-up work.

ECCLES AND DISTRICT HISTORY SOCIETY

Lectures: These begin after the summer recess **on September 12th**, when Glen Atkinson will talk on **What the papers said: local Victorian newspapers.**

Publications: In 2011, Eccles Parish Church published the following:

***Monumental, Memorial and Other Inscriptions
within the Parish Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Eccles
Transcribed and annotated by Evelyn Vigeon***

The book costs £8.50 (plus £1 for p&p) and is available from the church.

HORWICH HERITAGE No summer recess.

June 12th: AGM and Westhoughton Local History Society:

Bicentenary of the Burning of Westhoughton Mill by the Luddites.

FINGER ON THE PULSE? HERITAGE IN A MESS?

Norman Redhead, in *Current Archaeology* for June 2012 (published in May), presented a two-page article outlining the state of Local Government archaeology, whose specialists are important in the official planning process: giving expert opinion; maintaining databases and archives (underpinning scholarship and protecting sites); and identifying whether or not there is a need for investigation of any site about to be developed. However, approximately 25% of local government archaeologists have lost their jobs since 2008.

Local history is, of course, an area where archaeology and history meet; so what Norman was writing has implications for groups such as our *LLHF* and all concerned with the heritage.

Local Government Authorities have to make choices when faced with having to make cuts. Choices of some interest include Merseyside's decision to close the archaeology advisory service which maintained the Historic Environment Record.

Universities have also seen archaeology as a 'soft target' regarding cuts. The Greater Manchester Archaeological Unit, as it existed post-1994, when the original GMAU founded 32 years ago was split in two (University of Manchester Archaeological Unit and the unit retaining the GMAU name) 'focused on providing an archaeological advisory service to the ten Greater Manchester planning authorities'. It 'maintained and developed the HER' and promoted all aspects of archaeology, including 'research... publication... education and community engagement'. Manchester University closed the GMAU in March 2012, in spite of its success in 'facilitating the Greater Manchester Archaeology Federation of 17 local archaeology groups' and greatly developing community archaeology (including the Mellor Heritage Project, and the 'Royton Lives Through the Ages' project which won a national award).

THE GOOD NEWS IS that the ten Greater Manchester planning authorities have committed themselves to re-establishing an archaeology planning service - though with only 60% of the former budget.

AND SALFORD UNIVERSITY HAS GONE AGAINST THE TREND: this new service will at first be operated from the thriving Salford University archaeology centre.

Two key points stood out after reading Norman's article:

(i) across the country worrying discrepancies exist; Norman claims that the North and the Midlands have been especially hard hit regarding cuts in the handling of the heritage, and fears that 'Whether your local heritage is properly managed and protected is becoming a postcode lottery.'

(ii) the government's approach is not consistent; the 'massive reduction in *English Heritage's* budget' has received wide publicity. Yet there has been a 'national policy change that has, through Planning Policy Statement No. 5 and now the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), given archaeology 'its highest-ever level of recognition and protection in the planning system'. [However, cuts at local level might have already jeopardised the ability of local government authorities to implement such change well.]

Norman pulls no punches. In his closing paragraph he declares that 'The government must practise what it preaches and ensure that local authorities have the proper services and skills in place to meet their planning obligations'.

Earlier in his paper he had already told us a cautionary tale.

A few years ago Northamptonshire abolished its county archaeology service. A service (but a *reduced* service!) was re-established, 'but not before a number of archaeological sites were destroyed or damaged without appropriate protection or recording'.

The writing is on the wall!

=====

ROUND THE SOCIETIES (VIA THEIR WEBSITES AND OUR OWN)

LEYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Monday 11th June (2nd Monday) "Ealing Times" by Dr CP Lee

Monday 2nd July "War and Popular Culture" by Peter Watson

BURNLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

September 13th The Battle of Brunnanbourg by Matthew Wall

CHORLEY HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

12th June Preston Guild - a history of England's greatest carnival
by Dr Alan Crosby

7th July Society coach trip to Wainhouse Tower, Halifax,
and Undercliffe Cemetery, Bradford.

NO MEETING IN JULY

14th Aug. Lord Leverhulme by Sylvia O'Malley

11th Sept. **Annual General Meeting (Members' reports, review of year's activities: visits, outings, projects.)**

CHADDERTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

7th June: Visit to the Titanic Museum, Colne

5th July: Ramble: The Edgar Wood Trail, Middleton

2nd August: Visit to Fairfield Moravian Settlement, Droylsden

6th September: Visit to Rossendale Museum

CHIPPING HISTORICAL SOCIETY

We hold informal sessions at St Mary's Community Hall in Chipping **on the first Sunday of the months of February, April, June, August and October from 2 - 4.30pm** when our archive is available for private study. It can also be made available at other times by prior appointment.

The archive has census records, graveyard records, old documents, miscellaneous records, and photographs of the local area and its people.

This is an excellent opportunity for visitors and members to share information about local and family history in a friendly and welcoming environment.

POULTON-LE-FYLDE HISTORICAL AND CIVIC SOCIETY

After the summer recess, lectures recommence with:

14th September: The History of St. John's Church, Poulton-le-Fylde
by Christine Storey

=====