ISSUE TWO

A LANCASHIRE ARCHIVES & LOCAL HISTORY PUBLICATION **£3.00**

ARCHIVES

LANCASHIRE HISTORY MAGAZINE

'FIGHTING COMMUNAL UNCLEANLINESS'
Lancashire Public Health Pioneers

100 YEARS ON GUARD
Clitheroe Remembers

THE LEATHER HUNTERS
Football's Early Enthusiasts

HIDDEN TRAVELLERS
Preston's Stowaways

Lancashire County Council

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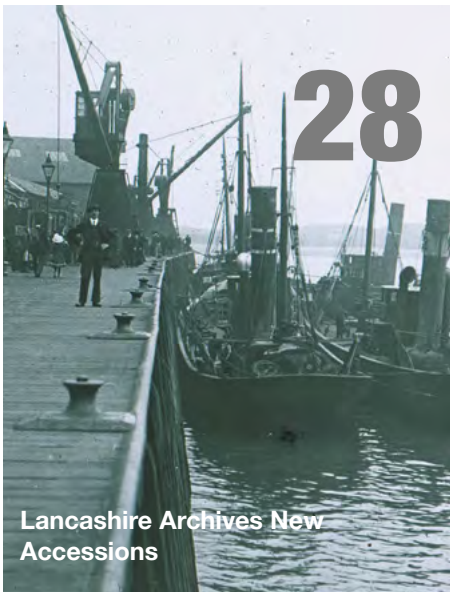


Welcome to our second edition

We were delighted to hear your feedback to our first edition. Archives is on sale throughout Lancashire and the amazing histories from around the county are reaching new readers.

This edition features everything from medieval priests to the 'Leather Hunters' of Lancashire's early football culture. Jane Hellebrand explores the Gawthorpe Textile collections, whilst Shirley Penman looks back to the unveiling of the Clitheroe Cenotaph. Emma Halliday examines the pioneers of public health policy in Lancashire and Dave Berry considers the role played by Preston shipbuilders in the American Civil War. Jenny Cree marks the arrival of the Windrush generation from the West Indies to Chorley, alongside Stephen Poleon's investigation into the little known stories of Dominican stowaways arriving aboard ship at Preston docks in the 1960s.

Our thanks are due to the researchers, volunteers, local and family historians and authors who contributed their stories and research to this edition.

We hope you enjoy reading the stories featured, that you might learn something new about Lancashire's history and that you too feel the urge to put pen to paper and share your local history stories with the people of Lancashire.

Archives Editorial Team, Lancashire Archives & Local History, June 2023

archives@lancashire.gov.uk

You can find out more about how to contribute to the next edition of Archives on page 59.

Editorial correction from Edition 1: The document reproduced, 'Examination of Henry Knowles concerning the voyage of Threlfall and Lunt on the Lyon of Lancaster' is dated 1689 not 1694 as printed.

Front page image: Marjorie Knowles, Cotton Queen, Burnley, 1932, Lancashire Red Rose Collection (EBU20220515)!

‘THE CRUSADE… AGAINST COMMUNAL UNCLEANLINESS’

DR EDWARD SERGEANT, LANCASHIRE’S FIRST MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, 1890-1917

By Emma Halliday

Since 2013, local authorities have been responsible for public health services and improving the health of the population. Yet in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries councils played a pivotal role in tackling unfit living and working conditions and curbing infectious disease. Using contemporary public health reports from Lancashire Archives, Emma Halliday from Lancaster University and Dr. Sakthi Karunanithi, Lancashire’s current Director of Public Health, explore the role of the county council’s first Medical Officer of Health – Dr Edward Sergeant – and how his work compares to the present day.

In November 1900, Edward Sergeant directed attention in his annual report for Lancashire County Council’s public health committee towards, ‘serious arsenical poisoning’, which had led to fifteen deaths in the county and nearly 1000 people falling ill. Defects in the manufacturing of local beer were identified as the cause. During that year, Sergeant had dealt with a scarlet fever epidemic and advocated for sanitary improvements such as sewage disposal for Lancashire’s residents.

Dr Edward Sergeant, Lancashire Archives (CC/PHV/2)

The role of a Medical Officer of Health (MoH) dates back to the 1840s, with the north-west leading the way in appointing England's first dedicated public health specialist – William Henry Duncan – in Liverpool.

History of the Medical Officer of Health role

The first Public Health Act of 1848 gave voluntary powers to any town to appoint a MoH. The Public Health Acts (1872 and 1875) created local districts (authorities) responsible for improving sanitary conditions such as drainage, water supplies, housing as well as tackling issues like the adulteration of food and drugs. Under the same Acts, each district had to appoint a local MoH who was a medically trained professional. With Local Government Acts of 1888 and 1894, newly established county councils like Lancashire were also given authority to appoint their own county-level MoHs and the power of supervising improvements in public health across their administrative county.

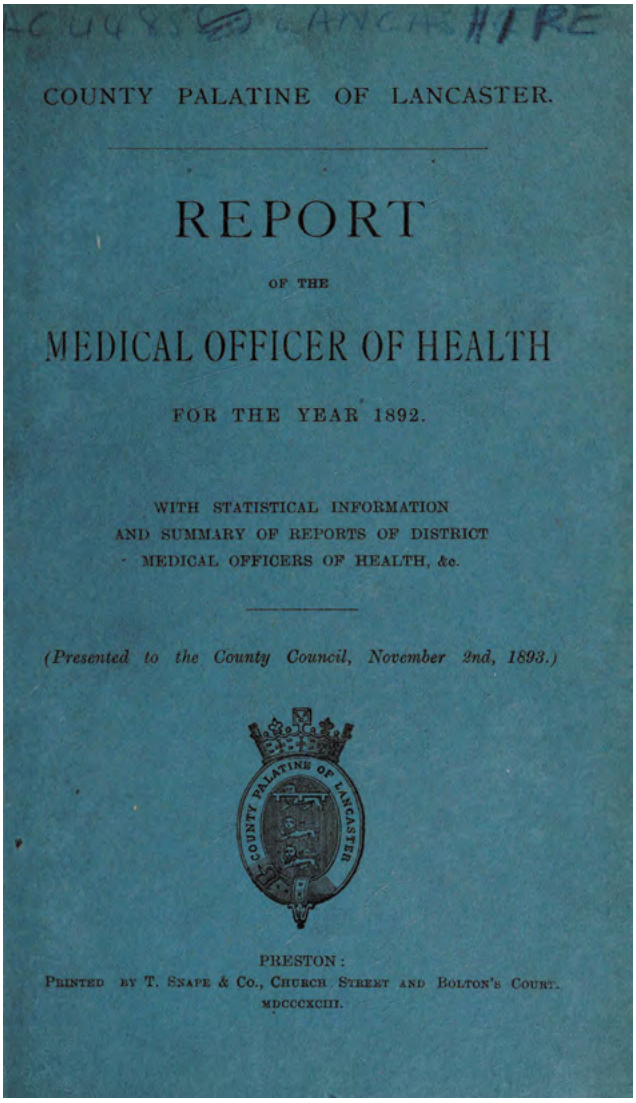
Originally from Preston, Edward Sergeant studied medicine at St. Thomas' Hospital, London, before returning north to a clinical post at Bolton Infirmary in the early 1870s. Soon after he was appointed as Bolton's Medical Officer of Health and Public Analyst in 1874, a post held for 16 years. Following Lancashire County Council's (LCC) creation in 1889, Sergeant was subsequently made the council's first county-level MoH where he remained until retirement.

Despite several years as a district MoH in Bolton, working at the county level presented new challenges. Like the present day, LCC functioned as a two-tier authority but its lower tier totalled no less than 112 urban and 23 rural districts when Sergeant came into post. Since the Public Health Acts in the 1870s, each district authority was responsible for managing local sanitary improvements and had its own district-level MoH. Yet Sergeant's reports indicate that local commitment to public health could vary between authorities.

Sergeant was responsible for collating information on the health of Lancashire's population and reporting this to LCC's public health committee comprising of senior council members including its aldermen and councillors. This took the form of annual reports detailing trends in births, deaths and disease (the full series of reports are available at Lancashire Archives). The reports also summarised information from each Lancashire district about sanitary concerns and improvements made locally. But with only one clerk to support him, collating this information was a major task, one that Sergeant understandably described as 'tedious and onerous', due to the sheer number of districts in the county, and because some districts did not submit the required information at all, or in a uniform way.

There could also be tensions with district authorities who did not appreciate this extra layer of scrutiny. Sergeant strived to build a good relationship with his district colleagues, noting the 'great kindness' with which he had been received. But his reports also recorded frustration with senior council officials in a small number of localities whom he perceived to, 'do nothing to improve their districts.' As an example of this, Sergeant drew attention to the 'small remuneration of many medical officers of health [that] gives an idea of the value some sanitary authorities attach to their chief officer'; in some cases, a MoH's salary could be as low as £10-15 per year.

In many respects, the nature of public health issues in Lancashire were similar to other regions at the turn of the century. The prevention of infectious disease remained at the forefront of Sergeant's reports. Sergeant 'pioneered' compulsory notification of infectious disease during his time in Bolton and continued to press for greater precautionary measures. Even so, reports reveal the occasional lack of agreement over restrictions. Following a measles epidemic, Sergeant recorded 'differences of opinion [between different authorities]… as to the



COUNTY PALATINE OF LANCASTER.

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1892.

WITH STATISTICAL INFORMATION
AND SUMMARY OF REPORTS OF DISTRICT
MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH, &c.

(Presented to the County Council, November 2nd, 1893.)

PRESTON:
PRINTED BY T. SNAPE & CO., CHURCH STREET AND BOLTON'S COURT.
MDCCCXCIII.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health, County Palatine of Lancaster, 1892, Lancashire County Council, Lancashire Archives

desirability of closing schools to stop the spread of this infectious disease.'

In efforts to improve living and working conditions, MoHs were backed up by an increasing raft of legislation. New powers under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts helped to identify the presence of arsenic in beer following the introduction of testing. Nevertheless, Sergeant also needed to navigate local politics in advocating for improvements. After giving evidence for a Bill to tackle river pollution, he reported this to have 'passed successfully through Parliament, notwithstanding strong opposition on the part of certain County Boroughs.'

Lancashire's rural and coastal geography also brought its own priorities. In rural areas, particular concern was raised about 'insanitary working-class dwellings'. Workplace legislation such as the Cotton Cloth Factories Act of 1889 was pertinent to the county's workforce too. In seaside towns, Sergeant drew attention to the 'almost universal method of sewage disposal [pumping raw sewage into the sea]' thought to exacerbate the spread of typhoid fever through shellfish consumption. Tourists could obscure trends in mortality rates, particularly when 'visitors [arrived] in a precarious state of health and died after a short stay.'

In reading Sergeant's reports it is important to bear in mind that this analysis of public health priorities was largely based on his professional perspective. Unpublished sources such as public health committee minute books hint at the role that communities played in advocating against health hazards locally. In 1897, for example, the minute book recorded that concern about pollution of Wrightington's water supply had caused 'great dissatisfaction… by the inhabitants, insomuch as frequent meetings are held to make complaints.' For future research, newspaper archives could also be a helpful resource to uncover how communities took action to improve local conditions.

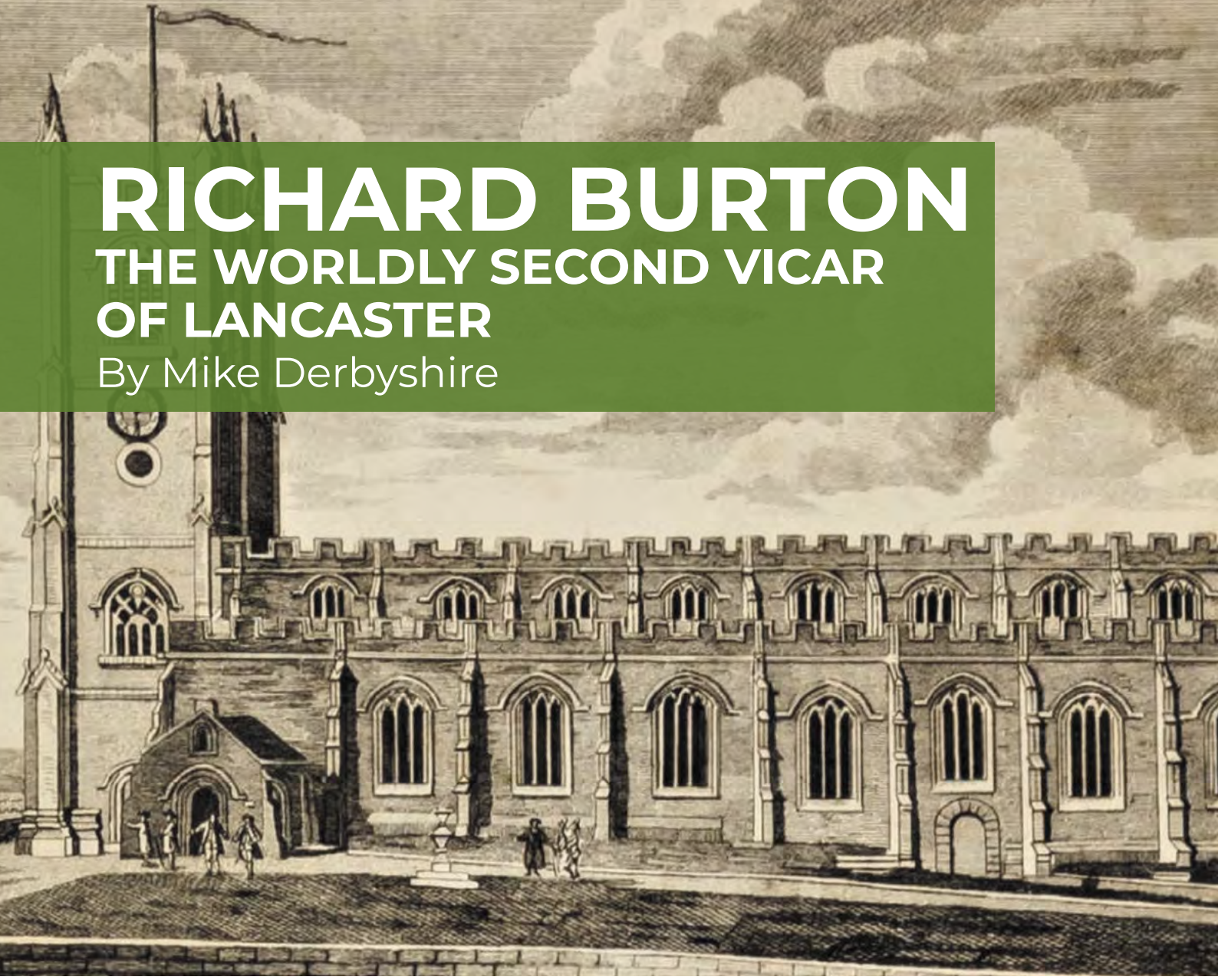
Sergeant retired in 1917 to be succeeded by Dr Butterworth. Despite the early challenges that Sergeant faced, the reports do suggest an increased prioritisation to public health at the local level over the years. In his 1911 report he noted, 'it gives me much pleasure to testify to the increasing attention paid to sanitary matters… and to the resulting greater comfort and healthiness of the inhabitants'. Alongside major health reforms during the twentieth century, the MoH role continued until 1974 when it was finally abolished. It would take nearly forty years for local authorities to regain their public health function, where they are once again leading the campaign to improve the health of the local population.

Dr Sakthi Karunanithi, Lancashire's current Director of Public Health

"The last County Medical Officer of Health Dr Charles Henry Townsend Wade said in his annual report in 1973, '…my grateful thanks to all the staff… who have continued to co-operate in the maintenance and advancement of the various services, whilst undertaking much work involved in the reorganisation'. Nearly 40 years since the county council had a Medical Officer of Health, Dr Sakthi Karunanithi picked up the baton when public health functions returned to Lancashire County Council in 2013.

I spoke to Dr Karunanithi in researching this article. He is the first person from an ethnic minority background that has ever been appointed to this role. He reflected that the portfolio of public health programmes has since become even more complex with his role playing a major role in protecting and improving the health of the residents from various social, economic, and environmental threats like poverty, poor air quality and contaminated land, whilst addressing the double burden of newly emerging infectious diseases like multi-drug resistant tuberculosis and rising non-communicable diseases like heart disease, cancer and mental health conditions.

He reflected that behavioural risk factors such as smoking, physical inactivity, obesity, alcohol misuse were little understood 40 years ago and have become a major part of improving health in the 21st Century. Dr Karunanithi led the county through the SARS CoV-2 pandemic including becoming a familiar face in the national and local broadcast media. His public health leadership practice involves addressing the root causes of society's ills through mobilising communities, continuously improving services, working in partnership with the NHS, districts and the voluntary sector whilst advocating for better local and national policies to reduce health inequalities."



RICHARD BURTON
THE WORLDLY SECOND VICAR OF LANCASTER

By Mike Derbyshire

Drawing of St Mary's Church, Lancaster, 1778, Lancashire Archives (DDGR Box 79)

An unusual document in the Clifton deposit at Lancashire Archives gives us considerable informal information about the mind-set of a worldly, late-medieval vicar. It is the 'notebook' of Richard Burton[1].

Although St Mary's Lancaster had acted as a parish church for centuries, it was not until 1431 that a vicarage was established. Earlier, the monks and priests at Lancaster Priory held exceptional papal dispensation to care themselves for the souls of the parishioners. It was only when the priory was dissolved, and its property transferred to the new monastery at Syon by Henry VI, that a vicarage was established. Syon Abbey was a double house with separate enclosures for women and men, under the overall responsibility of an abbess. At about the same time the rebuilding of the church at Lancaster was set in train, as the grand Perpendicular building that we have today.

The vicars at Lancaster were presented by the Abbess of Syon, as patron of the living. The first three that have been identified, Richard Chester, Richard Burton, and William Green, were all pluralists – they lived off several ecclesiastical livings.[2] Richard Burton, the second vicar, was a university man, probably from Christ's College, Cambridge, although he appears not to have taken a degree. It is also not clear that he was ever ordained as a priest.

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In about 1446, Richard was appointed by John Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury, as bailiff at Farnham Manor in Buckinghamshire. John was one of the most powerful nobles of his time and spent much of his life campaigning for Henry VI. Eventually he was made commander in Gascony and in 1453 he led the English troops to disaster and his own death at the Battle of Castillon, the terminal battle of the Hundred Years War.

Richard Burton went on to work for King Henry VI on the building of Eton College, acting as clerk of works from 1446 to 1448 and continuing in an advisory capacity thereafter. His involvement at Eton overlapped with that of his more energetic predecessor as Vicar of Lancaster, Richard Chester. There were connections between the building work at Eton and that at Syon Abbey, which were in progress at the same time. This will have led to Richard coming into contact with the authorities at Syon. Furthermore, his patron, John Talbot, is known to have had extensive links with the abbey.

It is not easy to determine which ecclesiastical livings Richard Burton held; in several instances it is difficult to identify which Richard Burton was involved with. However, our man certainly obtained the church at Navenby in Lincolnshire in 1456, despite not being the candidate favoured by the Abbess of Syon, who was the patron of the living. He may well also have held several benefices in the south of England.

Richard served as the second Vicar at Lancaster from 1466 until about 1484. He became vicar a few years after the decisive Yorkist victory over Henry VI at Towton, following which Edward IV seized the throne. At this date, the ambitious rebuilding of the church at Lancaster was half-completed. The scale of the fifteenth-century church at Lancaster is certainly impressive. It was built on a grander scale than would be expected in a northern parish, even a large one.

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The extravagance of the project must owe much to the first two vicars, Richard Chester for its initiation and Richard Burton for its completion. Their close involvement in several aspects of the building of Eton College will have placed them in a strong position to manage the project. Work on St Mary's Lancaster continued, as it did on the great projects at Eton College and King's College, Cambridge, through the transition from Lancastrian to Yorkist rule, with Edward IV generally being well disposed to taking forward Henry VI's unfinished grandiose schemes. It appears that Richard Burton took advantage of Edward's attitude to see through to completion the building of the church at Lancaster.

This said, Richard was not an easy man to work with. Within a year of his appointment as Vicar of Lancaster, he was involved in disputes with the abbess of Syon about tithes and he clashed with her in legal proceedings on several subsequent occasions. [3]

One wonders what made Richard Burton tick. Fortunately his notebook provides some hints. It

comprises a roll of parchment about 250cm by 25cm, which would have been portable enough for him to use for reference. Nearly all of the text is legible, although it is in Latin. The back of the membrane mainly contains deeds from the manor of Burton in Buckinghamshire, apparently for use as specimens of different types of land leases for use in Richard's work as bailiff at Farnham. The face of the roll contains a variety of more personal notes. There are copies of various documents connected with Richard's business activities: land sales; fees received for his advice; the management of lands of Syon Abbey; his work for the abbey; and a payment via him for work at Eton.

Interspersed among these are various aphorisms, mostly concerning money, with a dash of cynicism. For example: If you are rich, you will be thought wise; if poor, you will be thought simple, like anyone else.

The notebook contains little information about Richard's ecclesiastical appointments. There are two letters concerning the benefice of Navenby, but nothing about his appointment as Vicar of Lancaster. The only religious references come at the end of the back of the roll and comprise three brief extracts, in the Latin of the Vulgate Bible, from psalms 36, verses 3 and 4, and psalm 26, verse 14,: 'Delight in the Lord and he will grant you the requests of your heart; trust in the Lord and do good; act manfully and let your heart take courage'.

But the most intriguing notes, also on the back of the roll, concern Richard's horoscope. This records that,

Richard Burton…was born in the Parish of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Nottingham on the penultimate day of January in the year of the Lord 1419… with the sign of Aquarius reigning on that day. Nate that a man born under Aquarius… will be friendly, eager and naturally irascible, he will not be incredulous, but faithful.

Soon after he is born, he will be given money. He will be apprehensive. He will lose his first wife. At the age of 22, he will reach an improved situation. He will go to strange places and return with profit. He will achieve wealth through the goods and work of others. He will be a physician or he will practice medicine. And he will live for 76 years. Friday and Monday will be good days for him, but Tuesday and Saturday will be bad.' Richard does not tell us the extent to which he felt that his life bore out these predictions.

Overall, the notebook gives the impression of a man primarily interested in worldly success and wealth. How did the Abbess of Syon come to present such a man as Vicar of Lancaster? Certainly his experience at Eton and Syon will have been relevant for seeing to completion the building work at Lancaster. However, given the trouble that he caused for the abbess, it seems likely that the king will have exerted pressure on Syon Abbey to propose a candidate who had served the king well and was qualified to oversee the building work at Lancaster, even if she was certainly came under intense pressure with regard to appointments to some of the other churches for which she was patron.[4]

In many ways, Richard Burton was similar to his more energetic predecessor as vicar, Richard Chester. Both were university men who were primarily interested in administrative work for the Crown. They lived off ecclesiastical livings while showing little interest in the care of the souls of their parishioners. Both made life difficult for their patron, the Abbess of Syon. In the case of Richard Burton, we can be confident that he was indeed more concerned about secular matters than the spiritual life. While these are not the attributes we would consider appropriate for a vicar today, we must remember that these men lived in a very different age and acknowledge that they both played their part in providing us with a magnificent church at Lancaster. ■

[i] Lancashire Archives, DDCL 1053. This article has made extensive use of an account of Richard Burton's life and notebook provided by F R Johnston, 'Richard Burton, Vicar of Lancaster', Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire, volume 104, 1952, pp. 163– 167.

[2] Victoria County History of Lancashire, volume VIII, pp. 28-29; F R Johnston, 'The Lancashire Lands of Syon Abbey', Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire, volume 107, 1956, pp. 45–49.

[3] Victoria County History of Lancashire, volume VIII, pp. 28–29, note 271.

[4] F R Johnston, 'The Lancashire Lands of Syon Abbey', pp. 47 & 49.

The Friends of Lancashire Archives

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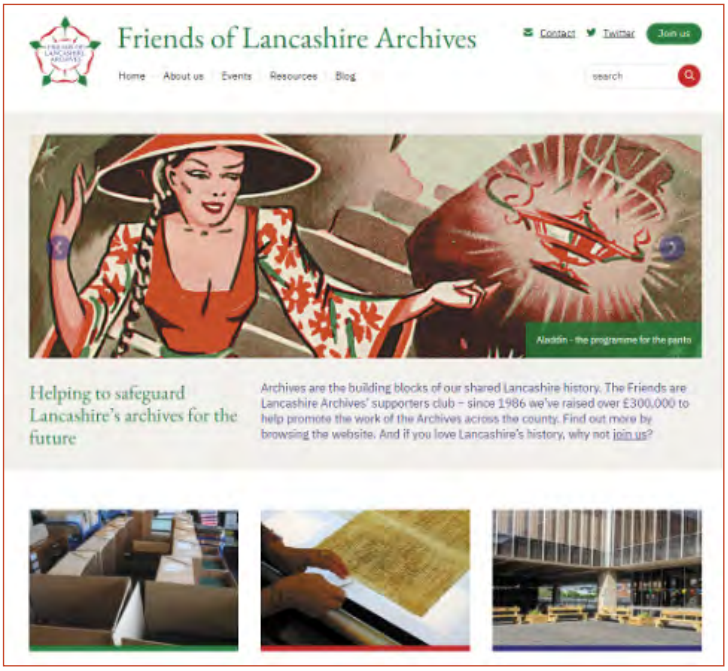
The Friends of Lancashire Archives launched their new website at Easter - take a look at: www.flarchives.co.uk

You can now join the Friends directly through the website, find out about the Friends' activities and events - and share your Archives discoveries online!

A key role of the Friends is to promote the use of the Archives and encourage people to explore the incredible range of documents and other material held by the service. From Astronomy to Zoos, you'll find something relevant to your interests.

The Friends are inviting Lancashire Archives users to share what they've found and inspire others to go delving in the collections. Just fill in the form on the website with information about your discovery and how it helped your research or interest. We'll turn it into a blog post and share it on the website.

Maybe you're not ready to write a full article for the Archives magazine yet - the Friends blog is a great way to start publishing a snippet of your research. **And you'll be supporting Lancashire Archives!**



Participants at the 1913 NUWSS Pilgrimage, Beatrice standing on the right, Lancashire Archives Archives (DDX 2182)

A World on a Page: Unpacking the Life of Beatrice Blackhurst

By Carmel Hustler

Beatrice Blackhurst (1869-1955) was born in 1869 in Goosnargh and was the first child of five born to George and Elizabeth Boyce. Her father, originally a farmer, became the publican of the Railway Hotel, but died when Beatrice was thirteen. In 1895 she married Alfred Blackhurst, a solicitor from a family that had practiced law in Preston since the eighteenth century. It was a surprising marriage with Beatrice the daughter of a farmer and publican. By 1911, the couple were living at 29 Ribblesdale Place, Preston, a prosperous area. They had three children, Maud (born 1896), William (born 1900) and Alfred (born 1904). Beatrice was a passionate and committed volunteer, particularly for welfare issues for women and children, including the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC), Preston Infant Welfare Association and Preston Women's Association.

> Beatrice was a passionate and committed volunteer, particularly for welfare issues for women and children, including the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC), Preston Infant Welfare Association and Preston Women's Association.

She was an active member of the National Union of Women Suffrage Societies (NUWSS) and took part in the 1913 Pilgrimage to London to campaign for the right to vote. Beatrice remained active until the 1940s and died in Lytham in 1955. Her scrapbook documents her life and family memories (Lancashire Archives DDX 2182/1), and contains many items, some of which are discussed in this article.

NUWSS Pilgrimage (1913)

Beatrice was an active NUWSS volunteer. Members were generally middle-class women, lobbying parliament, producing leaflets, writing letters to newspapers and organising public meetings. Partly due to rising militancy of the WSPU (Women's Social and Political Union) that many believed was damaging the cause, the NUWSS organised a five-week nationwide Women's Suffrage Pilgrimage, for women to show they were law-abiding and disciplined.

The Pilgrimage started on 18 June 1913, with six main routes across the country converging in Hyde Park, London, for a rally on 26 July 1913. Campaigners hoped Prime Minister Asquith would receive a deputation from them. Beatrice's scrapbook contains many details of her involvement including her rosette, a photograph of her participating, a NUWSS letter outlining the organisation of the march and instructions regarding payment of a donation, clothing, luggage and duties on the march. The original cost of 5 shillings a day to participate (to pay for food & lodgings) has been hand amended to a lower amount of 3 shillings or 3 shillings and 6 pence. The meeting points of the route have also been amended for the North West contingent, at Chorley and Southport. She also kept a newspaper clipping in the scrapbook concerning a list of, '25 accomplishments necessary before a young woman can be said to be educated'. Many women in the NUWSS conformed to this Victorian ideal, they just wanted a right to have a voice in politics. Clearly this article, struck a chord with Beatrice for her to keep it, perhaps agreeing (or not) with the ideas it contained.

Preston Infant Welfare Association (1915)

Beatrice helped set up the Infant Welfare Association in 1915 with clinics opening in five locations across Preston, after the NUWSS proposed the idea in 1914. The Association in partnership with the Maternity and Infant Welfare Committee helped mothers and children across Preston, with free meals, dental clinics, a massage clinic and a rest home for expectant mothers. To raise funds, initiatives included charity balls, church sermons, baby parades and other fundraisers. Beatrice kept the programme for a ball held on 5 January 1921 to raise money for the Association and Harris Orphanage. There is also a programme for a children's fancy dress ball on 2 January 1921, with a report outlining their successes, their aim to extend their work further and their belief that, 'prevention is better than cure' to 'save them much suffering and the community much expense'.

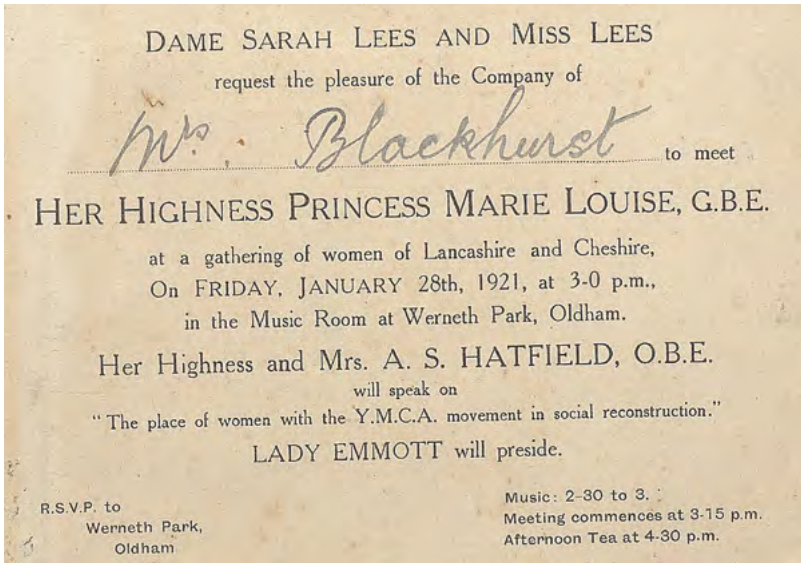
Visit of King George V and Queen Mary (1913)

Royalty arrived in Preston in 1913. Beatrice's copy of the visit's programme describes the King and Queen arriving by motor car at Preston Market Place, precisely at 1.49pm, with the band of the 4th Battalion Loyal North Lancashire Regiment playing the National Anthem and a Royal Salute by the troops. The special guests left the car by a Royal Platform, were greeted by the Mayor, Mayoress and the Earl of Derby, whilst 800 children sang. This was followed by 'three cheers' and the singing of the National Anthem 'by the populace'. At 1.59pm the King and Queen were escorted to the Bull & Royal Hotel for luncheon. Exactly 1 hour and 1 minute later, at 3.00pm, they proceeded to Messrs Horrockses and Crewdson's textile mill to, 'inspect the industries carried on there'. At 3.38pm, they were escorted to Moor Park Avenue, where 20,000 children lined up in lines 5 deep on each side of the avenue, 'each scholar provided with a small Union Jack'. From here, the Royal party were driven on a set route around Preston, to then leave to go to Kirkham, Lytham, St Annes and Blackpool.

Invitation to meet Princess Marie Louise (1921)

Beatrice also kept an invitation to meet Queen Victoria's granddaughter Princess Marie Louise (1872-1956) at a gathering of women from Cheshire and Lancashire at Werneth Park in Oldham, the home of Dame Sarah Lees (1842-1935), a liberal politician, philanthropist and activist. Lees was

the first elected female councillor in Lancashire (1907-1919) and the second woman to be elected to the role of Mayor when she became the first female Mayor of Oldham (1910-1911). Princess Marie Louise, was also a committed philanthropist and a patron of the arts, devoted to charity work. The visit to Oldham focused on a speech by her and Mrs A S Hatfield on, 'The place of women with the Y.M.C.A. movement in social reconstruction'. This was undoubtedly an important occasion for Beatrice and she clearly treasured this invite, placing it with great care in her scrapbook. The invitation she received demonstrated her rise to a position of importance in campaigning circles, taking her place as an equal to women with grander social status than Beatrice's humble beginnings.



DAME SARAH LEES AND MISS LEES

request the pleasure of the Company of

Mrs. Blackhurst to meet

HER HIGHNESS PRINCESS MARIE LOUISE, G.B.E.

at a gathering of women of Lancashire and Cheshire,
On FRIDAY, JANUARY 28th, 1921, at 3-0 p.m.,
in the Music Room at Werneth Park, Oldham.

Her Highness and Mrs. A. S. HATFIELD, O.B.E.
will speak on
"The place of women with the Y.M.C.A. movement in social reconstruction."

LADY EMMOTT will preside.

R.S.V.P. to
Werneth Park,
Oldham

Music: 2-30 to 3.
Meeting commences at 3-15 p.m.
Afternoon Tea at 4-30 p.m.

The role of women in society evolved vastly over Beatrice's lifetime. She played an active role, as a member of committees, including the NUWSS, the NSPCC, Preston Infant Welfare Association and Preston Women's Association, and saw change come, equality within the political system and the impact of social and economic reforms on health, housing and living/working conditions. ■

Map fragment showing the Old Quay, Marsh End, taken from the Ordnance Survey Lancashire Sheet LXI, Surveyed: 1844 to 1847, Published: 1849

Preston Shipbuilding and the American Civil War

By Dave Berry

In April 1861 hostilities broke out in America, when the Southern Confederates seceded away from the Northern Unionists over, amongst many other things, the status of slavery. As a way of causing the South to surrender with as little bloodshed as possible, the North started blockading Southern ports with the intention of cutting off exports of cotton and other goods.

The effect of this would be to strangle the economy of the Southern states and force them to surrender. To counter, the Confederates used ships, known as blockade runners, to carry cotton out to their traditional markets and bring in arms and supplies. In the spinning towns of Lancashire this lack of cotton caused mills to close or, at the very least, to go on short time. The so-called 'Lancashire Cotton Famine' had begun.

In Preston, one surprising consequence of the war was an increase in the number of vessels built on the side of the Ribble and re-purposed as 'blockade runners'. This started in late 1862 when Mr J H MacKern took over the business of Mr Hodgson, based on the Old Quay in Ashton. One of his first vessels, launched on 19 February 1863, was an iron steamship called the Milly. In the Preston Chronicle for Saturday 21 February, there was a comment:

'Amongst many people the idea prevails that she is for the Confederates since all vessels built in this country have somehow been passed off as "China traders".'

The article continues, mentioning that the Milly, 'draws very little water and will be a very quick sailer'. This was exactly the specification for a blockade runner. These vessels needed to enter ports through narrow channels and be able to outrun Union vessels. Capacity was a secondary factor since outgoing cargo only needed to reach neutral ports such as Nassau in the Bahamas or St George's, Bermuda. Larger, ocean-going vessels could then take the cargo on to Europe.

Milly was followed up by the launch of the Bendigo (later admitted to be a blockade runner) and then the Cecilia on 3 August 1863. The newspapers stated that Cecilia was, 'the largest vessel ever constructed in Preston', weighing 1000 tons. The official line was that it was built for the White Star line of Australia but at its launch the paper mentioned that amongst the so-called 'elite' of Preston there was another possibility. This was made manifest when Mr E Haydock, vice-chairman of the company, whilst toasting the launch said they could:

'…perhaps see an account of her first sailing to Australia and coming back again; but if they found she was going on a Confederate cruise by mistake he did not think that any of them would wish her any less success.'

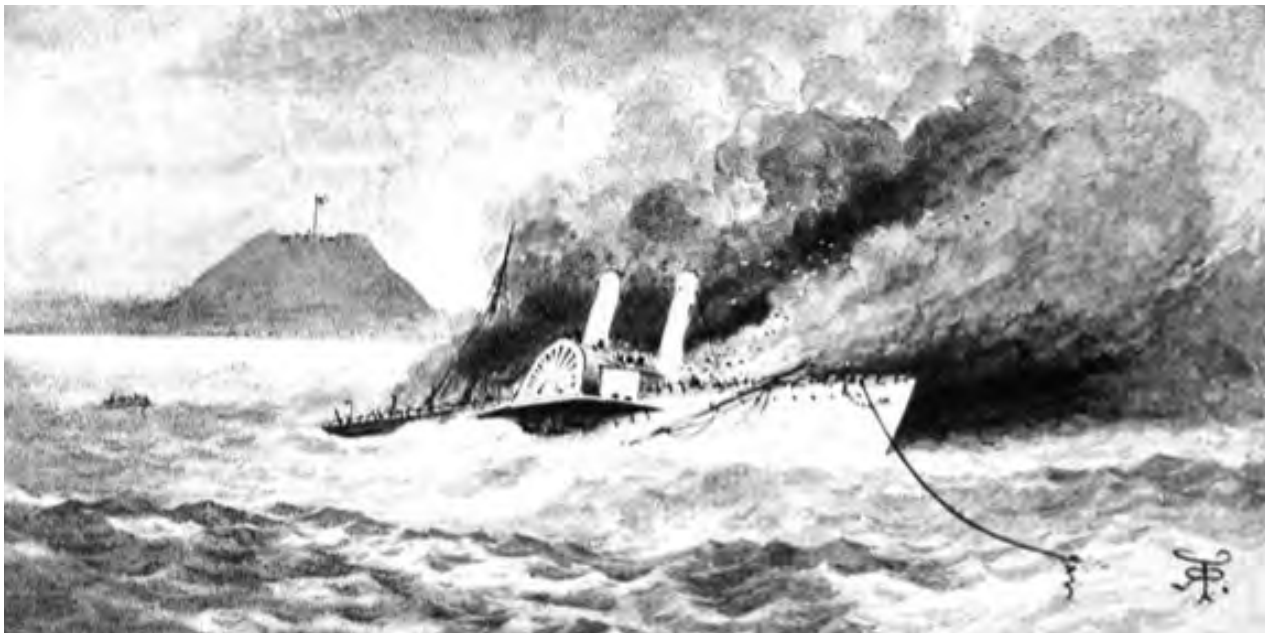
This comment was followed by shouts of, 'Hear (sic) and laughter'. So, at least in parts of Preston, there was backing for the Confederate cause. Further vessels were constructed at MacKern's yard over the next few months (including the Harmston and the Eastham) and again, rumours were rife regarding their eventual destinations. By June all pretence of hiding the truth of the vessels was abandoned when the Preston Chronicle produced the headline, 'Launch of a Blockade runner.

“By June all pretence of hiding the truth of the vessels was abandoned when the Preston Chronicle produced the headline, ‘Launch of a Blockade Runner’”

This latest vessel, an iron paddle steamer, was named the Night Hawk and was launched on the 23 June, 1864. Further evidence of Confederate support was seen in a Preston Herald article on the launching of the Night Hawk which contained the following pro-Confederate description of the ship:

'On each paddle-box is carved in ornamental style a hawk with wings outspread, and holding in its talons a bag of cotton'.

A few days after launch the vessel was moved to Liverpool to have engines fitted. Newspapers then report Night Hawk leaving Liverpool on 1 September 1864, reaching Bermuda by 15 September. Shortly after this date came the shattering news, found in the London Morning Post for 18 October, that the Night Hawk had been destroyed and that the three Preston men on board had been captured.



The Night Hawk burning, taken from 'Running the blockade. A personal narrative of adventures, risks and escapes during the American Civil War', by Thomas E Taylor, 1897

The owner of the vessel gives a different story, reported in the Liverpool Echo on 22 October 1864, that by an error on the part of the local pilot, the Night Hawk found herself run aground. Union forces then opened fire on the crew, wounding several. Lastly the steamer was set ablaze by its crew to avoid its capture, the captain and 22 crew being taken captive. The section of the story regarding the Night Hawk being grounded does make sense, since one of the main ways of outmanoeuvring the Union ships was to go into narrow shoals to escape capture.

The story, from the Union side, was slightly different. According to their records it was the USS Niphon which fired upon the Night Hawk as it was trying to get into New Inlet, North Carolina. After grounding, the crew were taken off and the Night Hawk set ablaze.

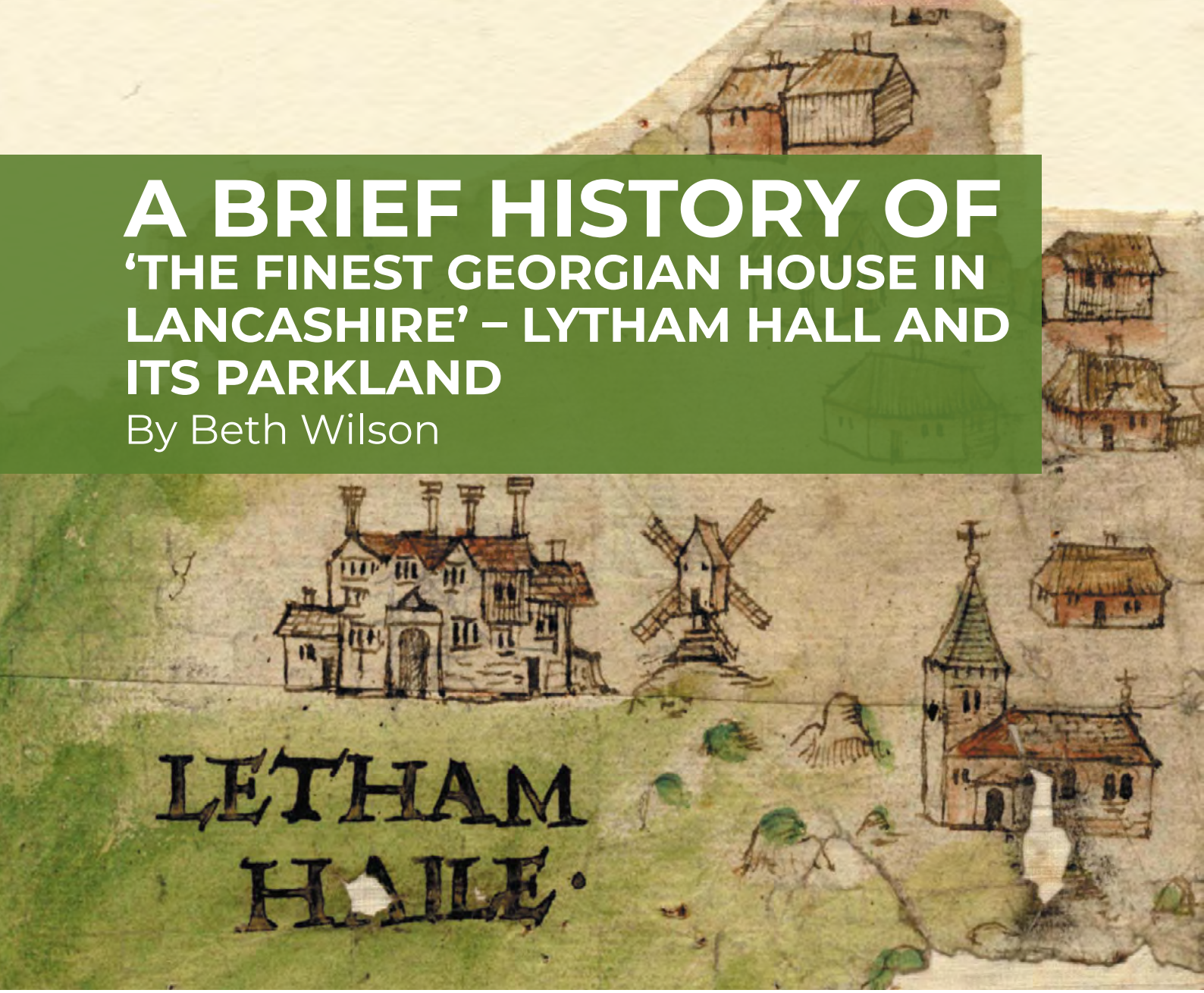
The damage to the vessel couldn't have been great since the Liverpool owners contacted the Union authorities in December 1864, requesting the return of the Night Hawk and giving documentation showing ownership. In that letter the owner was named as Edward Lawrence (Mayor of Liverpool at the time) who was part of a consortium who openly commissioned blockade-runners. The letter must have had the desired effect since it was reported in the newspapers that in late 1864, Night Hawk and another couple of vessels were in Wilmington undergoing repairs. Further reports show that the Night Hawk was one of several vessels reaching Nassau with a cargo of over 7000 bales of cotton. The Night Hawk eventually returned back to her home port of Liverpool by May 21st 1865. What really happened to the Night Hawk after this date is unknown. There were several reports of a vessel with the same name being on the India run but the name also seemed to have been reused, when a new vessel was built in a Glasgow shipyard in 1868.

The Night Hawk, if only for a short time, became famous around Preston with a pub on Plungington road being renamed Night Hawk.

The end of the American Civil war in 1865 also coincided with massive contraction of shipbuilding on the Ribble. The Mazeppa was launched early in 1865 and the last blockade runner, the Ribbleton, was put up for sale later that year with Mr MacKern being declared bankrupt in 1867. His role in producing blockade runners had ended and there was no further use for shipbuilding at this level on the Ribble. ■

A BRIEF HISTORY OF
'THE FINEST GEORGIAN HOUSE IN LANCASHIRE' – LYTHAM HALL AND ITS PARKLAND

By Beth Wilson



A pre-1754 representation of Lytham Hall, (DDCL 1056) Lancashire Archives

I have worked at Lytham Hall as a volunteer Tour Guide and Room Steward since 2000. This article gives a brief history of the fascinating hall and some of its recent family members. Situated in 78 acres of wonderful Grade II listed parkland and grounds, close to the town of Lytham, Lytham Hall is an award-winning Grade I listed Heritage attraction, having won the Historic Houses Restoration Award in 2022; it is said to be 'The Finest Georgian House in Lancashire'. [1]

Left picture: Cuthbert Clifton, Lytham Hall

Right picture: Thomas Clifton, who commissioned John Carr to build the new Hall, Lytham Hall Archives

The Priory and Early Beginnings

A Benedictine Priory was established in the area in roughly 1199 when the Manor of Lytham was given by a local landlord Richard Fitzroger to the Priory of Durham. The Durham Priory set up a small monastic 'cell' in Lytham, having a Prior, two monks, several domestic servants and a clerk. At the time the area was wild, with sand dunes, and moss lands. Eventually the 'cell' moved inland to the approximate site of the Hall today.

The Priory continued until the Dissolution of the Monasteries and by 1555 the land and priory were in the hands of Mary Tudor, who granted it to the Holcroft family. They sold the property to Sir Richard Molyneux, a local landowner. Molyneux sold it to a relative of his, Cuthbert Clifton, lord of the adjacent manor of Westby. Cuthbert purchased the Manor of Lytham for £4,300 and with it came about 5,500 acres of surrounding land. The Cliftons were one of the oldest families in the county and could trace their family lineage to William De Clyfton in the 1200s.

Cuthbert Clifton built a Jacobean Manor House on the site of the priory, possibly incorporating some of the old monastic buildings and came to live here in about 1625. Cuthbert Clifton is known as the founding father of the Cliftons at Lytham. The family were Catholic and supported King Charles I during the English Civil War. Cuthbert was knighted for his support. He lost three sons and a grandson during or as a result of the conflict. His estates were confiscated and only returned to the family after the restoration of the monarchy.

The Georgian Cliftons and Lytham Hall

The Hall you see today has changed little from when the architect, John Carr of York, completed it. The house was built to the east of Cuthbert Clifton's Jacobean Manor house, which was used as the servants' quarters, with the exterior made to match the new building. The 'new' house was built in the Palladian style and has exquisite original plaster work, by Cortese and Rose, leading lights of decorative stucco in their day.

Over the next two centuries, the Cliftons prospered. Their income was derived from ground rents from Lytham, the tenanted farms, cottages and tithes from their estate. Their wealth grew steadily with the development of Lytham as a upmarket resort, early involvement in the beginnings of Blackpool and the foundation of the 'new' town St Annes-on-the-Sea in 1875. At the height of their wealth they were the third largest landowning family in the county, possessing about 15,000 acres of land.

Although not titled, the Cliftons married into wealthy families, raising their profile and status. In doing so they spent little time in Lytham; some of the Squires were absent but kept in touch with developments via their land agents. However, it

Left picture: John Talbot Clifton (1868-1928), Lytham Hall Archives.

Right picture: Harry Clifton (1907-1979), Lytham Hall archives (taken from picture in Lytham Express)

Images reproduced with the permission of Lytham Hall.

was the life of the last two Lords of the Manor that depleted the family fortunes who are the most interesting.

John Talbot Clifton – The Explorer (1868-1928)

Born in 1868, the oldest son of Thomas Henry and Madeline Clifton, John Talbot had a restless nature and found an outlet in exploration. He inherited the estate at the age of sixteen, after his grandfather's death in 1882. At the age of 22 he had a short affair with the 'Jersey Belle', Lillie Langtry. Although taking full control upon gaining his majority he took little interest in the management of the estate but had the time and money to indulge in one of his many passions, travelling and exploration. He journeyed to North and South America, Canada, Africa, Siberia and Japan.

It was in Peru that John Talbot met his future wife, Violet Mary Beauclerk, daughter of the British Consulate in Lima, William Nelthorpe Beauclerk. They returned to England in 1907, married in London, with their eldest son, Harry born there. They came to live at the Hall in 1908. Settling down to become 'Lord and Lady of the Manor', they were great benefactors of both Lytham and St Annes. Talbot (as he was known in the family) and Vi (as he called her), went on to have four more children, Avia, Aurea, Easter Daffodil and Michael. Even after the children were born, Violet accompanied Talbot on his travels, including to Middle East and Dutch East Indies where they collected orchids (a great passion of his). In 1917, he sold the family's original estate, Clifton with Salwick and purchased Kylemore House in Connemara and later Kildalton Castle on the Isle of Islay. Kildalton Castle became the main family residence from 1922 onwards. They lived extravagantly, dissipating some of the Estate's wealth.

John Talbot died in March 1928, whilst on a journey with Violet to reach Timbuktu in North Africa. After becoming ill, he and Violet turned back and he died in Tenerife. She accompanied his body back to Scotland on a Norwegian steamer and he is buried overlooking Kildalton. Violet Clifton remained at Kildalton for some time after John Talbot's death and for a while, was a novice nun in Arundel, in West Sussex. She eventually returned to Lytham Hall in 1957 remaining there until her death in Lytham in 1961. In 1935, the author Evelyn Waugh was a guest at Lytham Hall and in a letter to a friend mentioned, 'the Cliftons are all tearing mad… and all sitting at separate tables at meals'. He also commented that they lived in the 'lap of luxury.[2]

Henry (Harry) Talbot De Vere Clifton – The Last Squire (1907-1979)

'Harry' Clifton was the oldest son of John Talbot and Violet. He went to Downside School, a Catholic Boarding School near Bath and Christ

Church College, Oxford. His father had died just before he had gained majority. After paying off death duties and other debts, he was able to spend the capital of the estate and again took very little interest in daily management but rather saw it as a source of income to finance an extravagant lifestyle. An expensive gambling habit, along with imprudent business deals and questionable investments, helped to further erode the family's fortunes. Like his father he travelled and visited places such as Egypt, Ceylon and Ankor Wat. In October 1937, whilst in Boston in the USA – and after a supposedly wild party – he married Lilian Lovell Griswold, a divorced American actress and socialite.

They came back to Lytham with Lillian making the first upgrades to the Hall for years. It was a tempestuous relationship, with the marriage only lasting seven years. From 1936 onwards Harry gave orders for the disposal of the ground rents of the Clifton properties throughout the Fylde, thus severing financial links to the Clifton Estate and depriving the family of income. Although Harry did dissipate the family fortunes, there were other issues. Death duties, land prices, the economy before and after the Second World War and the rise of the Urban District Councils all played a part in the demise of the Estate. Between the late 1930s and 1960s Harry probably squandered nearly £4 million in the run up to the final sale of the remnants of the 800-year-old ancestral estate. By 1963 Harry was near bankrupt and forced to sell. He died in November 1979 in Brighton, where he had been living with a lady friend, leaving just £35,000 in his will.

Guardian Royal Exchange (GRE) (c.1963-1997)

Harry had a very large mortgage with Guardian Royal Exchange and was forced to sell his estate to them. The company were looking for an estate outside London in which to set up their headquarters and became the owners in 1963.

They adapted the houses for offices and later for corporate entertainment. Some of the former parkland was leased for development, which today is the South Park housing estate. GRE spent approximately £4 million on restoration during its 30-year tenure of the Hall. In the mid-1990s it was decided that maintaining a house the size of Lytham Hall was not in their interests and a decision was made to sell it.

The Hall was put up for sale in 1996 and a campaign was started to try to save the Hall and the estate for the local community. In 1990 a Trust was set up to preserve local buildings of architectural interest in Lytham. With the involvement of a former Board member and together with the Head of GRE, a large donation came forward, which enabled the Trust to purchase the Hall and parkland for the community in 1996-1997.

In order to manage the property – something that the Trust realised they did not have the means to do – the Trust began a partnership with the Heritage Trust for the North West (HTNW) for a period of 99 years. HTNW is a leading building preservation trust which rescues and finds new ways of preserving and generating income streams for historic buildings.

Today the hall is managed by HTNW and is run by an executive management and staff team working alongside a team of over 300 dedicated volunteers. The Palladian house and 78 acres of parkland are open throughout the year and offer an excellent coffee shop, retail shop, antiques and reclamation centre, animal hub, and garden centre. The Hall hosts a large number of events throughout the year. Free flow tours of the house are available in the summer (six days a week) and in the winter (weekends only), with welcoming and knowledgeable guides situated throughout the house. For further information regarding fuller opening times and events please see the website: **www.lythamhall.co.uk**

Sources and Notes:
Lytham St Annes – a Pictorial History, Phillimore, R A Haley, 1995
Victorian Lytham – a 19th Century Watering place, Brian Turner, 2011
The Clifton Chronicle, Kennedy, Carnegie Publishing 1990
Lytham Hall Archives and Estate Papers, (DDCL) Lancashire Archives

[1] Taken from Lancashire's Architectural Heritage by John Champness 1988 Lancashire County Council
[2] Taken from a letter written by Evelyn Waugh to Katherine Asquith.

100 YEARS ON GUARD

By Shirley Penman

Clitheroe Cenotaph and the Memorial Garden, Red Rose Collections (ECL20140814003)

> A Grenadier Guard in full battle dress and mourning pose has stood for almost a century in a leafy and flower-filled Memorial Garden, keeping guard over the town of Clitheroe.

Unveiled on 18 August 1923 by the Mayor of Clitheroe, Alderman John Thomas Whipp, the sculpture was the work of Frederick Louis Roslyn R.B.S. of London, who attended the unveiling. Two identical statues stand at Slaidburn and Denholme and are amongst the many memorials which Roslyn created in the British Isles plus one as far afield as Jamaica. The Scots granite plinth was designed by Mr A E Blezard, Clitheroe Town Council's surveyor, who also oversaw the construction of the cenotaph and the memorial garden.

The financing of the cenotaph at Clitheroe Castle came from a part of the public donations which the citizens of Clitheroe raised for the purchase of the castle and the 6.4-hectare grounds surrounding it. The land was bought from the Duke of Buccleuch for the princely sum of £9,500. His Lordship asked for more but reduced the sum when told that the purchase was for a war memorial. More cash was accrued after this to pay for making the grounds into a public park. The money was collected in many ways; millworkers had one penny (1/2 p) stopped from their wages each week; school children sold bunches of wildflowers for a penny; mill owners provided multiples of tens of pounds at different times and there were fayres, bazaars, dances and auctions held to swell the funds.

On the momentous day, almost 1,000 servicemen – some horribly wounded or disfigured – lined the streets through the town from the mayor's parlour in Church Street to the entrance to the castle at Castle Gate. The mayoral party was made up of the Mayor and Mayoress, Aldermen, Corporation councillors, magistrates, Town Clerk, Sergeant of the Mace and halberdiers, and members of the War Memorial Committee. They made their slow and dignified way between these men who grieved for their lost companions until they reached the locked gates of the castle grounds.

The little market town's losses had been great – a portion of the next generation gone for ever. Hardly a family or a street was spared, with drawn

curtains at many of the cottages in the little back-to-back houses in the Salford area, including the homes of the three Fielding brothers and the three McHales – all of Harrop Street. Mrs Annabella Park of High Street, Low Moor, lost three of her sons, one of whom enlisted from Canada to fight for the 'mother-country', one whilst a prisoner of war and one so inhumanely treated whilst a prisoner of war that he came home terminally ill and took his own life. Less than a hundred yards away, the aging Alston parents were left with only one son and a daughter from their family of five. The Boothman family of Pimlico lost two sons, Frank and Bertram, both of whom worked in the offices of the local authority. Joseph and Thomas Durham, brothers from Brownlow Street, both unskilled workers, also lost their lives.

Many were the names and tragic stories of these 'lost boys'. The very fabric of the township's life was changed by these blows – the churches and Sunday schools, the football teams, cricket teams, industries and businesses. The lives of the parents, wives and children of all these brave men and boys were changed forever; and so, the mood was sombre as they gathered.

At the gates were waiting the Subscribers' Committee, who handled the weekly savings and the purchase of the castle, headed by Alderman Tom Garnett JP. Whilst handing to the mayor the deeds to the castle and a key with which to open the gates, he voiced the hope that, 'the memory of the great dead would remain treasured and cherished in their hometown until time shall be lost in eternity.'

Photograph showing Mayor Whipp and Mr Snape at the unveiling of the war memorial, Clitheroe Advertiser and Times, 23 August 1923

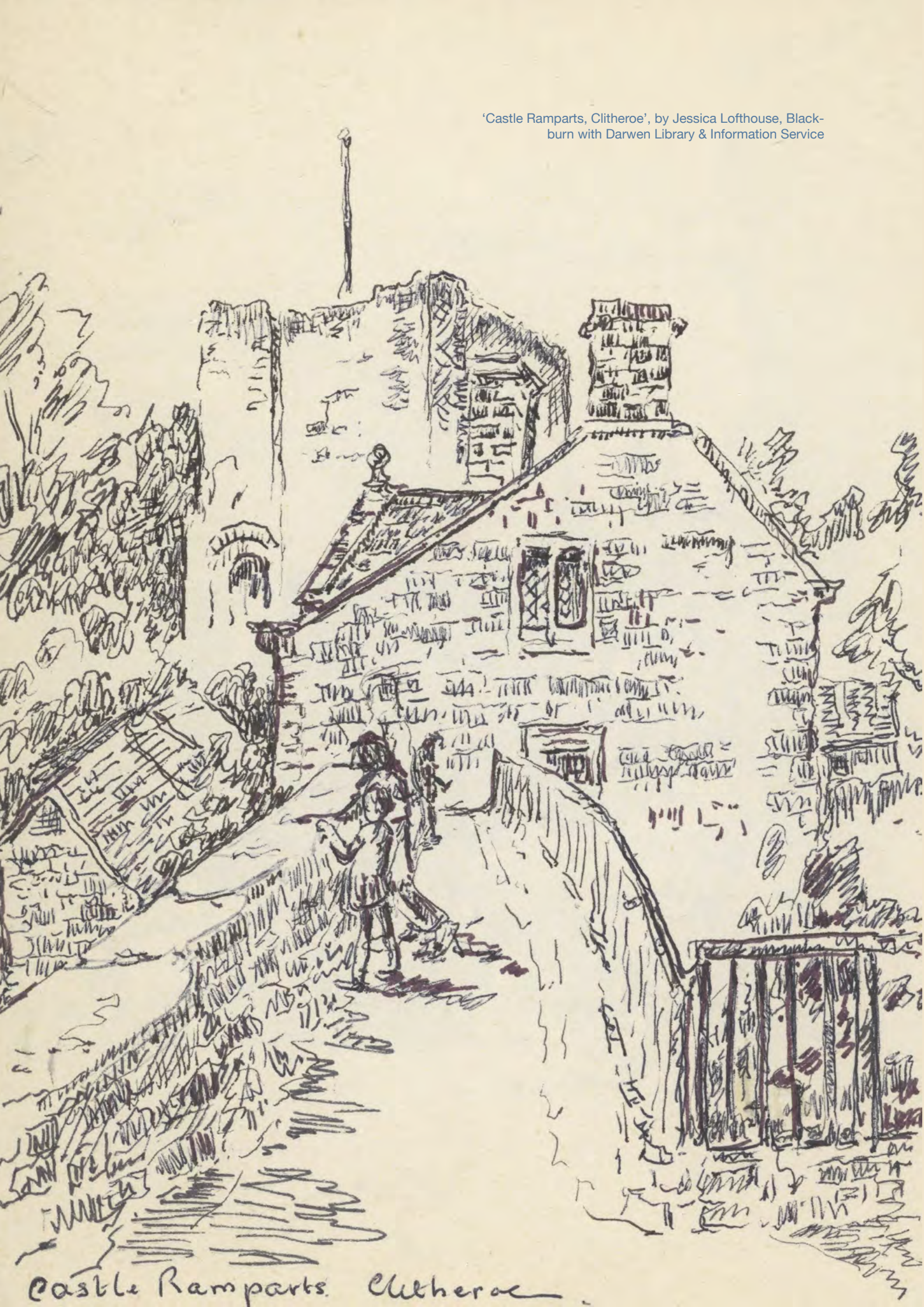
In the name of all Clitheronians, Mayor Whipp accepted these tokens of custody and said, 'The Castle would stand as a perpetual reminder of the great deliverance wrought for our land by those who fought in the Great War. The Corporation would carefully guard the Castle and grounds as a sacred trust and would hand it on as a precious heritage to future generations.' So began the council stewardship of the splendid and unique war memorial which the castle had become.

Once more the mayoral party, followed by the servicemen and onlookers, made their slow, reverential way up the castle drive to the Garden of Remembrance where the Memorial stood, covered by the Union Jack. Relatives of the fallen were granted two tickets per family as entrance to the garden; other onlookers squeezed into every available nook and cranny. A solemn unveiling by Mayor Whipp was followed by the Last Post, a two-minute silence and Reveille but then, instead of laying the first wreath himself, the mayor handed it to Mr Thomas Snape and said, 'Please, you have more right to lay this wreath than I.'

Mr Snape walked forward and took the beautiful arch of white lilies grown in the castle greenhouses which had the words 'In Remembrance' picked out in purple flowers and laid it at the foot of the memorial. He, who lost four sons and a son-in-law in the vicious five-year conflict, did indeed deserve this honour.

The service culminated with the hymn Abide with Me and the National Anthem. Everyone was now allowed to place their own tributes at the foot of the Guard on his lofty plinth. By the evening over 400 floral tributes formed a beautiful token of love, gratitude and remembrance - wreaths, anchors, crosses and cushions, laid in memory of the 334 men of the town who went away singing, never to return.

“Mayor Whipp... said, 'The Castle would stand as a perpetual reminder of the great deliverance wrought for our land by those who fought in the Great War'.”



'Castle Ramparts, Clitheroe', by Jessica Lofthouse, Blackburn with Darwen Library & Information Service

Exploring Blackburn with Darwen Library & Information Service's Community History Collections

By Mary Painter

As is to be expected, the local history resources in Blackburn with Darwen Library & Information Service's Community History Collections comprise of maps, photographs, town histories, genealogical records, council minutes and a significant number of municipal records. The collections embrace the political, religious, industrial and social history of the area.

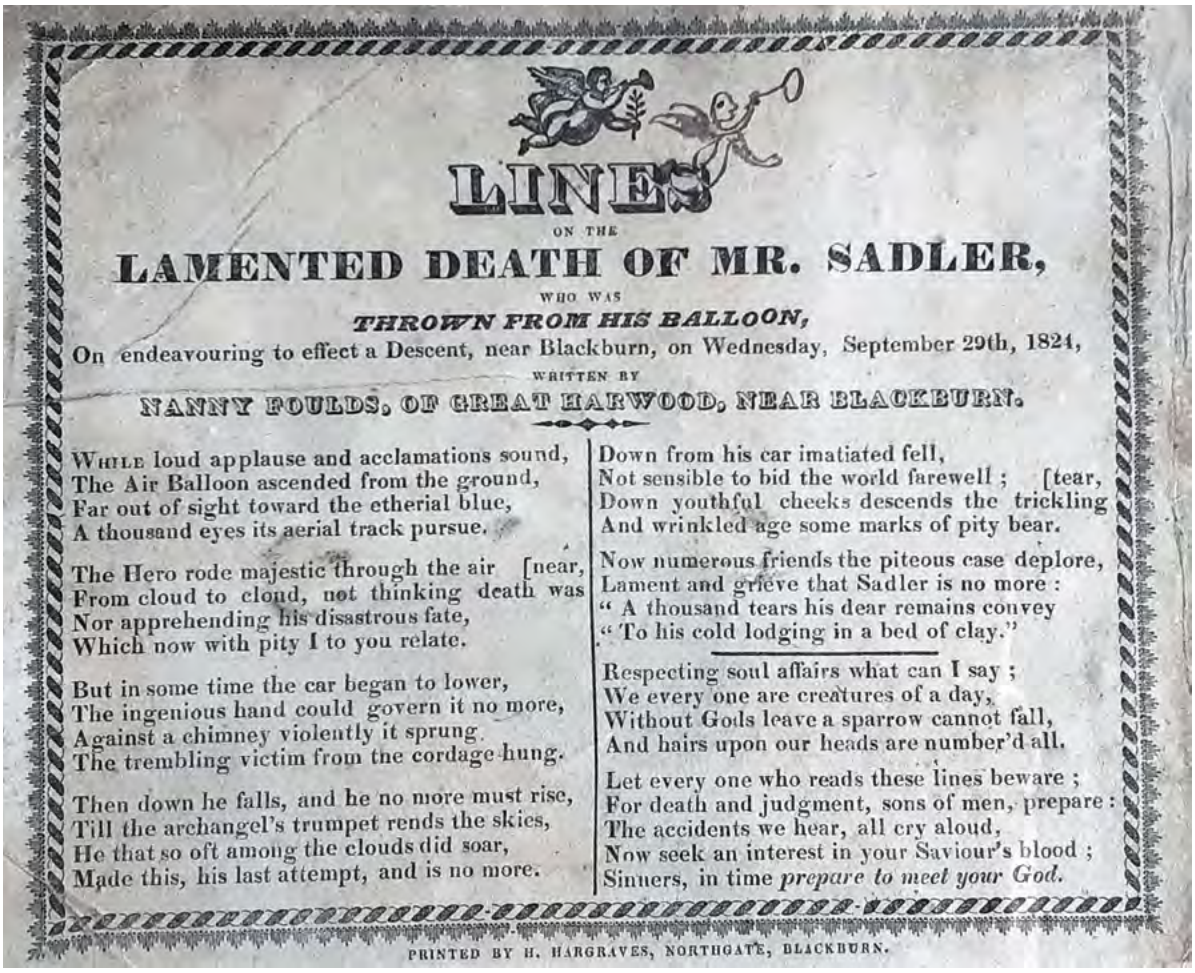
Both libraries hold a number of collections of special interest and which infuse their holdings with a unique and interesting perspective.

So, what can you find in Blackburn which is particularly note-worthy? Well, anyone interested in twentieth century literature might be pleased to discover Dorothy Whipple!

Born in Blackburn in 1893, Dorothy Whipple counted J B Priestley as one of her notable literary friends. Priestley is often quoted as calling Dorothy Whipple, 'the Jane Austen of the 20th Century'. In response to a request, Dorothy gifted her manuscript copy of 'Greenbanks', which is set in a fictional representation of Blackburn, along with the manuscript of 'Other Stories', a biographical account of her early life, to Blackburn Library. The Library is also privileged to hold a large proportion of her literary endeavours, an archive including manuscripts, notebooks and letters from publishers.

Dorothy's novels cover a variety of important themes and her work continues to inspire a devoted readership and to garner academic recognition. In the novels set in Blackburn there is a prevailing sense of empathy and understanding of her native town and a deep love and appreciation for the beauty of the Lancashire countryside. Dorothy revealed in her second autobiography, 'Random Commentary', that she was asked to consider writing a book about 'Lancashire'. After consideration she decided against accepting the offer. Instead, she recommended that Jessica Lofthouse would be best suited to the task!

It only seems appropriate to mention that Blackburn Library also holds the Jessica Lofthouse archive. Jessica was the author of many books about the history and countryside of Lancashire and beyond. This collection includes diaries, books, hand drawn illustrations, and photographs. Her diaries cover the period 1922-1987 and provide fascinating glimpses into national and local events. The other feature of Jessica's diaries are the scraps of newspaper cuttings, programmes,



LINES

ON THE

LAMENTED DEATH OF MR. SADLER,

WHO WAS

THROWN FROM HIS BALLOON,

On endeavouring to effect a Descent, near Blackburn, on Wednesday, September 29th, 1824,

WRITTEN BY

NANNY FOULDS, OF GREAT HARWOOD, NEAR BLACKBURN.

While loud applause and acclamations sound,
The Air Balloon ascended from the ground,
Far out of sight toward the etherial blue,
A thousand eyes its aerial track pursue.

The Hero rode majestic through the air [near,
From cloud to cloud, not thinking death was
Nor apprehending his disastrous fate,
Which now with pity I to you relate.

But in some time the car began to lower,
The ingenious hand could govern it no more,
Against a chimney violently it sprung.
The trembling victim from the cordage hung.

Then down he falls, and he no more must rise,
Till the archangel's trumpet rends the skies,
He that so oft among the clouds did soar,
Made this, his last attempt, and is no more.

Down from his car imatiated fell,
Not sensible to bid the world farewell ; [tear,
Down youthful cheeks descends the trickling
And wrinkled age some marks of pity bear.

Now numerous friends the piteous case deplore,
Lament and grieve that Sadler is no more :
" A thousand tears his dear remains convey
" To his cold lodging in a bed of clay."

Respecting soul affairs what can I say ;
We every one are creatures of a day,
Without Gods leave a sparrow cannot fall,
And hairs upon our heads are number'd all.

Let every one who reads these lines beware ;
For death and judgment, sons of men, prepare :
The accidents we hear, all cry aloud,
Now seek an interest in your Saviour's blood ;
Sinners, in time *prepare to meet your God.*

PRINTED BY H. HARGRAVES, NORTHGATE, BLACKBURN.

'Lines on the Lamented Death of Mr Sadler', (G3 SAD 60) Blackburn with Darwen Library & Information Service

letters, invitations and hand drawn sketches secreted into various volumes. These ephemeral inserts provide a fascinating insight into her life-long interests.

The catalogued collection of ephemera at Blackburn is a gem of a resource on social history, illuminating long forgotten events. The survival of many documents in this collection is remarkable in itself. This collection is listed and annotated and is available to search on the service's digital history website, Cotton Town:

www.cottontown.org/Resources/Pages/Ephemera/aspx

Some of the earliest examples of ephemera are several theatrical handbills from the late eighteenth century for Blackburn New Theatre. The 'lively' collection of political squibs, posters, notices and cartoons provide an excellent primary resource on political machinations and intrigue covering the period from 1832 to the late 1860s. There are a couple of memorable examples of vitriol directed at individuals! The handbill written in the 1880s decrying Blackburn poet, William Billington, entitled, 'A Poet's Last Legacy or Burlesque on a Wayward Friend' (T54) is a poem which is quite vicious in its satirical appraisal of the 'Bard of Blackburn'.

Perhaps the first prize for an all-out character assassination should be awarded to the poster about the Reverend Robert West Pearson (H2)! On first sight this could be a prime example of an early 'naughty vicar' story! That being said, there is so much more to Robert West Pearson; his life, misconduct, reinvention, move to the United States and survival, merit some admiration. There is a full account of the poster and Roberts's deeds on Cotton Town.

The scope of this appraisal does not really do justice to the wealth of resources held in both libraries. Blackburn born William Wolstenholme,

blind organist and composer, who was a friend of Elgar and other notable musicians deserves far more than a passing mention. Wolstenholme's archive of manuscripts held in Blackburn Library is currently receiving diligent attention.

These collections are also held in Blackburn Library (BL) and Darwen Library (DL):

- Foster Yates & Thom (Engine & Boiler Makers), BL
- The Lees Hall Collection of Temperance material, BL
- Woodfold Estate Collection, including Thwaites' estate holdings, BL
- James Dunn Collection, gifted to Blackburn Library in the 1940s, BL. Dr Cynthia Johnston has spent many hours working on the significance of the collection. More information about the wonderful collection of books can be found:
  www.cottontown.org/Resources/Pages/The-Dunn-Collection.aspx
- The Over Darwen Local Board of Health Minutes, 1854-1885, DL
- The Manor of Over Darwen Court Leet 1811-1918, a fascinating record of the operation of the offices associated with the local manor court, DL
- Morton Archive, Darwen artist James
- Hargreaves Morton, died in France on 6 November 1918, DL
- Singleton Collection, which shines a light on the early history of football in East Lancashire, DL

Further Information:

A prior appointment is always required to access items from the special collections:
www.blackburn.gov.uk/libraries/libraries-blackburn-darwen

Blackburn with Darwen Library & Information service digital history website:
www.cottontown.org

1921 Census:
FREE Online Access at Lancashire Archives & Lancashire Libraries

Visitors can now research the 1921 Census online and for FREE on Find My Past at the county council's Archives and Library venues.

You can access the census via the public computers and your own device on the public WiFi.

Offering a unique and rare snapshot into the past, the 1921 census provides incredible insight into Lancashire's history.

Lancashire Archives New Accessions

LANCASHIRE AND WESTERN SEA FISHERIES COMMITTEE

By Keri Nicholson

'Jubilee Wharf, Fleetwood', 1909, (DDX 1263/17/46) Fleetwood Fishing Vessel Owners Association, 1896-1979, Lancashire Archives

In late 2022 we took a trip to Carnforth to visit the offices of the Northwest Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority. The organisation was set up in April 2011, but its history stretches back as far as 1890 with the original formation of the Lancashire Sea Fisheries Committee. The role of the committees was to manage the viability of inshore fisheries, and that remains the primary focus today, although conservation is increasingly important in the work of the Authority. The district spans 850km of coastline, from the Welsh border in the Dee Estuary to the Scottish border in the Solway Firth.

The original Sea Fisheries Committee included members of the County Council and County Boroughs, as well as the Board of Trade and the Boards of Salmon Conservators. The links to the County Council meant that we already held many relevant records, reference CC/SF. We quickly realised that the records at Carnforth would add to and complement our existing holdings. Sets of minutes record the management of the inshore fisheries from 1890 right through to 2011. The Superintendents' diaries, which survive for most years between 1912 and 1935, give a snapshot of the high-level work of the committee, from visits to Liverpool University to plan a programme of training for fishermen, to inspecting lab equipment on Piel Island, to conducting prosecutions.

The committee were empowered to make bye-laws restricting the activities of the fishing industry, controlling the shellfish industry and regulating the discharge into the sea of substances likely to be detrimental to fish or fishing. Criminal prosecutions are recorded in more detail in two registers which cover offences committed between 1891 and 2014. Offences generally relate to minimum landing sizes for fish and shellfish, the management of the cockle fishery and specifications for fishing nets and equipment. Punishments range from the payment of court costs to short spells of a week or two in jail. The registers are name indexed, making them particularly easy to search, but for earlier cases it may be possible to learn more from the prosecution papers held in our existing collections.

“The registers are name indexed, making them particularly easy to search, but for earlier cases it may be possible to learn more from the prosecution papers held in our existing collections.”

The committee were also at the forefront of scientific investigation, working in collaboration with University College Liverpool to operate a laboratory at Piel Island near Barrow. The site was eventually developed into the first marine hatchery in Britain, with early experiments including the breeding of plaice, flounder and lobsters. Alongside enforcement, superintendents would be expected to collect samples for scientific research. The laboratory was forced to close in the 1920s after a loss of government funding, but the scientific remit of the committee wasn't forgotten. One item in the collection is a register of water samples taken from rivers and coastal sites in the 1960s. Staff were measuring levels of nitrogen, alkalinity and salinity, data which might prove interesting as a comparison for scientists or environmentalists studying water quality today.

A full catalogue can be found under the reference DDX 3633. These new additions build on the wealth of records we already hold relating to the local fishing industry, from the registers of fishing vessels and crew lists in our shipping collections (SS) to the wonderful sets of glass slides which form a small part of the collection deposited by the Fleetwood Fishing Vessel Owner's Association (DDX 1263).

CHORLEY WINDRUSH GENERATION PROJECT

By Jenny Cree, Chorley Heritage Group

Chorley Heritage Group (CHG) began eleven years ago with the aim of creating a Heritage Centre for the town. Since then, we've worked with local organisations, schools, businesses, churches, Chorley Library, UCLan and Chorley Council in collecting photographs and memorabilia, hosting exhibitions, establishing a garden project, and in recording the memories of Chorley residents.

As several local families are of West Indian heritage, CHG decided to celebrate Windrush 75. We hope to acknowledge the contribution these Chorley citizens made in the past and continue to make. Our Windrush 75 project is based on the oral history recordings of people who came from the West Indies, or of their descendants. Recollections vary, even within families, but we hope that our project will provide a picture of how Chorley became home for almost everyone who left the West Indies to settle in the town.

Ossie Williams, Jamaican born, who became a successful Chorley haulage company owner. Image courtesy of Mr T Williams.

May Williams, mother of Trevor and Derry Williams. Image courtesy of Mr T Williams.

As a 20-year-old bride, Francesca Williams came to Chorley from Jamaica in the early 1950s to join her husband. He came to Chorley with a small group of young men, friends and relatives. In Jamaica, they saw British Government advertisements urging people to come to Britain. Workers were needed and jobs would be plentiful. No-one knows exactly why these young men chose the North West of England, nor Chorley itself.

In a 2012 oral history recording, Francesca remembered arriving in February in the bitter cold. Her husband, Mike, and his friends were living in a former Second World War hostel in the town. The hostel facilities were basic and initially, Francesca was very unhappy. 'I was the first black lady to come to Chorley, and it was very, very rough. Walking in the street was roughest. Children would shout at me: "A Black Sambo, a Blackie Sambo!" Going to work, coming from work (as a machinist), going to a restaurant, and I wouldn't get served. Going anywhere, it was very unpleasant.' Other bus passengers wouldn't sit next to Francesca and on one occasion, shoppers and assistants ran from her when she went into a local clothing shop. Francesca generously excused their behaviour, saying,

> "…a lot of people, when I came in Chorley, most of them hadn't left Chorley. They hadn't been to London. They didn't have the experience, everything was new to them."

Finding a home for their growing family was difficult for Francesca and her husband. Eventually, they moved into a room in a large house. Of this Francesca said, '…you wouldn't get a room from an English person, but the foreigners, like the Ukrainians, they would let rooms.' In time, the Williams bought their own home; Mike continued to work at British Leyland, the children went to school, and life improved for the family.

Mike's nephew, Trevor Williams, recollected that his own father was amazed to see so many mill and factory chimneys on his journey northwards and was reassured that there would be work available in the area. His father came to Chorley because it was a town, rather than a city, and he wanted his children to become part of the local community. He did not want to live in a city with a large West Indian population. In so doing, his family was in part protected from the racial tensions experienced in some British cities in later decades.

With the arrival of wives and children from the West Indies, and the birth of more babies in Chorley, the families began to grow. The recordings of the Williams' relatives, and of most other people, confirm Chorley's acceptance of the West Indian families. Trevor Williams and his brothers arrived in 1960 with their mother, May. By then, their father, Ossie, had bought and renovated a house for them. Ossie worked tirelessly and established his own haulage business with three lorries. He was very well liked in the town, as a local businessman and as a singer. Trevor was 6 years old when he arrived in Chorley from Kingston and was enrolled in primary school. He has happy memories of school, primary and secondary, and went on to have a successful career in banking. He and one brother returned to Jamaica for a time, but Trevor came back to Britain because, for him, this was home.

The Demming family's story is a little different. Oliver Demming, from Trinidad, was a member of the 1953 West Indies cricket team. In 1953, like the young Jamaican men, he arrived in Britain alone and eventually came to Chorley as Cricket Professional at Chorley Cricket Club. In 1954 his wife Hannah, and their three children, joined him. A fourth child, Ross Demming, was born in Chorley. The family attended Trinity Methodist Church (now Chorley Methodist Church), and Ross was named after the minister of the time, whose surname was Ross. Ross' memories of his school days in Chorley were positive ones, just as Trevor Williams' had been.

Hannah and Oliver Demming with their family. Hannah, Oliver, and their 3 elder children were born in Trinidad. Their youngest child, Ross was born in Chorley. Image courtesy of Mr R Demming.

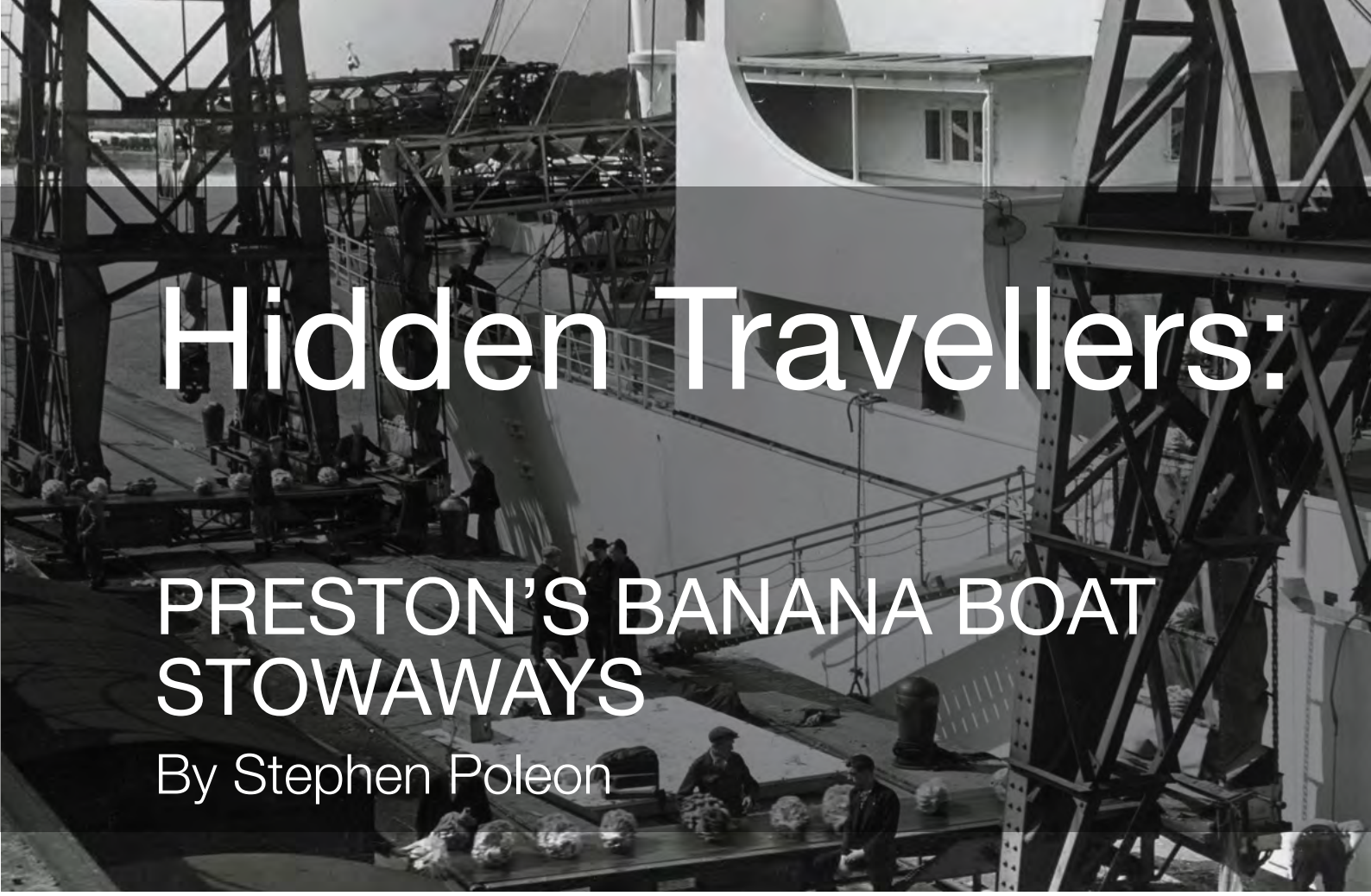
Oliver Demming is a Chorley cricketing legend, still remembered in the town, but his wife Hannah had her own remarkable career. She taught in this area for many years before returning to Trinidad with her husband and one of her sons. There, she became a school principal, and did not retire until she was 85 years old. Meanwhile, Ross, his brother and sister all preferred to remain in Britain.

There are many more stories that could be told. After the early years of arrival, the recorded memories of most of these Windrush families were positive ones. Sadly, from some families, there were recollections of the difficulties adults found in adapting to life here. Not all schools had a caring ethos, and racist attitudes shown by staff and children were remembered. It has taken some Windrush descendants many years to overcome the unhappiness of childhood.

Several families have put down firm roots in the town. Amongst them are people with great talent – professionals in various fields, musicians, singers, and dancers. Francesca Williams, who longed to be a professional dancer, but could not be as a 1950s wife with a large family, would be very proud of all the achievements of her own descendants and those of her friends.

With thanks to those who participated in recording their stories, Chorley Heritage Group's Windrush exhibition will be held in Chorley Library this summer. A celebration with food and music will take place in late June. Other linked events during this period will be hosted by Chorley Library.

Note: For more details of the planned events and exhibition, please see the Chorley Heritage Group's website and the Lancashire Library, What's On web pages.



Hidden Travellers:

PRESTON'S BANANA BOAT STOWAWAYS

By Stephen Poleon

Bananas being unloaded at Preston Docks, c. 1960s, Lancashire Archives (DDPP 33/8/1)

During the 1972 Guild, schoolchildren from Deepdale Country Junior School performed a pageant celebrating Preston's links to the Caribbean. The children divided into two groups, one dressed as bananas and the others in carnival dress, highlighting the presence of West Indian migrants in their town and the importance of the banana boats visiting Preston docks. This shipping of bananas into Preston docks was well known locally, but it is unclear what locals knew about the estimated several hundred West Indians who stowed away to Preston on board these boats.

On 1 March 1960 an article detailing the arrival of eight stowaways on one ship in Preston appeared on the front page of the Daily Telegraph. This piece also highlighted the issue of stowaways from the West Indies causing concern for ship owners visiting the ports of Preston, Barry, Greenock, Southampton, and Liverpool. In the preceding years, an estimated 250 stowaways reached Preston; in the first three months of 1960, 30 men from countries that were British Colonies or part of the Commonwealth reached Preston. All of these men arrived on banana boats from the Windward Islands. The Islands supplied the vast majority of fruit arriving in Preston docks.

Avonmouth in Bristol was previously the main centre of the banana trade. The Daily Telegraph estimated that at least 12 stowaways arrived here every week. On arrival the procedure followed saw that these men were arrested and appeared before the local Magistrates, where it was normal practice to receive 14 days imprisonment and leave to remain afterwards. All of the West Indians arriving in Preston came on foreign registered vessels. According to the article anyone arriving in Britain as a stowaway on a foreign ship was unlikely to face prosecution. Being passport carrying British citizens they could freely enter the country with leave to remain. The fare evading

passengers arriving in Preston on this occasion sailed on the Norwegian registered Bjorgstein.[1]

Since leaving the last port of Roseau in Dominica and after three days at sea, Captain Larsen, Skipper of the Bjorgstein, decided to have a fire drill. Unknown to him and the crew, eight Dominicans were hiding amongst the bananas below deck. They boarded the ship in Roseau, her last port of call and secreted themselves in the hold. When the fire alarms sounded for the fire drills, panic broke out below as the men thought the fire alarm was real and struggled to get out of their hiding places.[2]

Normal practice was for stowaways to alert the crew to their presence after two or three days at the most in the cold refrigerated hold. Geest Industries officials responsible for the export of bananas and other fruit to the UK, were extremely concerned for the safety of their unwanted passengers. They felt after three days in freezing conditions wearing unsuitable clothing, that it would be acutely difficult to keep them alive. Those arriving in Britain as stowaways on a foreign ship were unlikely to face prosecution. As it was unlikely that they could afford the normal £75 fare, Geest Industries felt that prosecution was meaningless. Moreover, a Lancashire Police spokesperson pointed out that the stowaways were British subjects and providing their passports were in order, they could enter the country freely.[3] This was a cause of concern for some local politicians.

At a meeting in Preston Town Hall, Councillor Weir, reading a report of the Ribble Committee, stated that January was a record month for revenue receipts. Revenue in the sum of £90,000 was earned through port traffic. He also stated that there was an increase in passengers and jokingly referred to the unwanted non-fare-paying passengers. Councillor Weir placed on the record that it was not the responsibility of Preston Port or his committee to prosecute stowaways. This lack of action was a moot point in Preston at this time.

The Lancashire Evening Post highlighted that the eight men who arrived on the Bjorgstein remained free whereas a local man who attempted to stowaway on a ship leaving Preston for the West Indies found himself returned to England and sentenced to one month imprisonment.4 William John Mackie, a 28-year-old unemployed joiner had recently finished a three-month term of imprisonment for theft and making hoax calls to the emergency services, and he became homeless. In January 1960, Mackie sought and was refused employment on a ship plying her trade between Preston and the Caribbean, the SS Constable, sailing for Trinidad. He decided to stowaway in search of a new life and hid himself in a lifeboat. After one day out at sea he revealed himself and had no option but to work his passage on a two-week voyage. Each of the four Caribbean islands that the ship visited refused to grant Mr Mackie entrance. He had no choice but to remain on board, return to Preston and to prison.[5-6]

All stowaways were in breach of the Merchant Shipping Act 1894. This act stipulated that stowaways if prosecuted should receive a sentence of no more than four weeks imprisonment. Foreign registered vessels did not prosecute their illegal passengers. Mackie stowed away on a British registered vessel. They were more inclined to prosecute stowaways. Stowing away on a foreign ship gave a better chance at freedom.

In papers held at The National Archives as part of the records of the Colonial Office and Commonwealth Office, would-be Dominican stowaways were encouraged by letters received from fellow islanders who successfully stowed-away and reached Preston. One letter writer commiserated with a friend as he heard that 11 Dominicans failed in an attempt to reach Britain, had been taken off a banana boat and transferred to another vessel heading in the opposite direction. He implored his correspondent not to settle for this and try his luck again. 8 of his compatriots, including the letter writer, landed in Liverpool on Sunday 28 June 1959. He claims that they were accommodated at a hotel. Like their Guyanese counterparts who arrived with a shipment of sugar in 1956, the Dominicans received apparel and after two weeks were instructed to go to Preston where work was available.[7]

This letter signifies a successful attempt at encouraging would-be stowaways to come to Preston or at least attempt to get to Liverpool. Indeed, three stowaways arriving in Preston in September 1959, who apart from their clothes and passports possessed one spare pair of trousers between them, told a local newspaper, the Lancashire Evening Post, that Liverpool was their preferred destination.[8] The news of their fellow Dominicans receiving clothes and accommodation in a Liverpool hotel, was one pull factor.

Another factor claimed to influence would-be stowaways was the possibility of relationships with white women. Another letter writer boasts of the women he was seeing. He exclaimed that he could, '…get them by the dozen.' This letter's recipient was also told not to make haste wasting his time in Dominica when the promise of a good life, good times and women awaited.[9] Everything highlighted seemed too good to be true. Sexual relationships with white women, imaginary or otherwise, conferred a favourable status on black men.[10] England was the land of milk and honey. However, this piece of correspondence also contained a note of caution.

Whilst reminiscing about the rum bars in Dominica, the letter writer noted that you could get rum and coke in England, but it was expensive. He failed to mention or indeed highlight the presence of a colour bar in the vast majority of public houses in Preston. Dominicans in Preston mostly socialised in the Jazz Bar. This letter writer also asked his friend to tell his mother to send his clothes, stockings, belt and shoes as soon as possible. Life in England was not as it seemed. Apart from extolling the virtues of his alleged sexual conquests, this gentleman did not provide any real reason for potential stowaways to make this trip.

The second of the two-letter writers provided a more viable reason for anyone considering making this illicit journey – the promise of a social welfare payment of £3 a week whilst seeking employment.[11] The idea that Caribbean migrants, stowaways or not, came to Britain to seek unemployment benefits, was nothing new. Unfortunately, it was a racist trope that gained considerable traction. These letters however, whilst giving an indication of why Dominican stowaways made the perilous journey in the holds of banana boats, do not tell the real story behind the letter writers. Both men lived rewarding lives in Preston and made valuable contributions to their community. Their stories are more than the sum of two letters written in 1959 that were partially sensationalised and stored in a government file. Their story deserves to be told.

Aerial view of Preston Docks, 1959, Lancashire Archives (DDPP)

[1] Daily Telegraph and Morning Post, '8 Stowaways in One Ship W. Indians' Route', 1 March 1960

[2] Lancashire Evening Post, 'Eight More Stowaways Arrive in Preston', 1 March 1960

[3] The Daily Gleaner, 'West Indians Risk Death to Reach UK', 28 September 1959

[4] Lancashire Evening Post, 'Stowaways Have Free Access to This Country', 3 March 1960

[5] Lancashire Evening Post, 'Brigade Sent to Wife's Home: Preston Man Gave False Alarm Jailed', 4 November 1959

[6] Lancashire Evening Post, 'Banana Run Stowaway Jailed', 15 February 1960

[7] TNA CO 1031/4083, 'Stowaways on Board Banana Boats From The Windward Islands'

[8] Lancashire Evening Post, Another Three Stowaways Arrive in Preston: Banana Boat Trip, 22 September 1959

[9] TNA CO 1031/4083, 'Stowaways on Board Banana Boats From The Windward Islands'

[10] Marcus Collins, 'Pride and Prejudice: West Indian Men in Twentieth Century Britain', Journal of British Studies, Volume 40, Number 3, July 2001, p. 406

[11] TNA CO 1031/4083 'Stowaways on Board Banana Boats From The Windward Islands'

IN SEARCH OF THE 'LEATHER-HUNTERS'

USING ARCHIVES TO TRACE LANCASHIRE'S EARLY FOOTBALL ENTHUSIASTS

By Dr Stephen Tate

Writing one of the earliest histories of Association Football, Lancashire sports journalist James Catton reckoned the county 'went frantic on football' in the closing decades of the nineteenth century.

Catton had first-hand experience of 'The Real Football', as he termed it in his review published in 1900. He had joined the Preston Herald newspaper in 1875 as a fifteen-year-old apprentice reporter. London-born, this was his introduction to the football mania that gripped boys and young men in the textile manufacturing districts – collectively identified in light-hearted fashion as 'leather hunters' by the press of the day.

He remarked how, 'The numerous clubs which sprang up in Lancashire between 1874 and 1880 found the people flocking to their grounds, especially for Cup Ties, and for matches between neighbouring towns and villages…There were all sorts of little feuds and personal vendettas.'

A sense of those heady early days of football's development in Lancashire can be found in archives across the county – from stray photographs of late-Victorian and Edwardian neighbourhood, church, pub and works teams in library local history collections, to substantial records such as those of the Lancashire Football Association (LFA) and the Football League, from their formation in 1878 and 1888, respectively, and both held by Lancashire Archives.

Several of the newly-formed clubs went on to become household names; Rovers and Olympic in Blackburn, Bolton Wanderers, Darwen, Preston North End, Accrington and Burnley, for example. But behind the well documented histories of those clubs, a host of other ad hoc, unheralded teams flitted with varying degrees of impermanence across a fast-developing footballing sub-culture, leaving only the faintest of traces. How were these ultimately less successful clubs established and financed? How organised were they? In a decade before the idea of leagues emerged how were fixtures arranged?

> "How were these ultimately less successful clubs established and financed? How organised were they? In a decade before the idea of leagues emerged how were fixtures arranged?"

A rare survival of ephemera providing a paper trail to the solution of some of these puzzles can be found in the Singleton Collection in the Local

The football craze brought a flash of colour to Lancashire's towns and villages as young men adopted a dazzling range of strips to promote a new sense of identity with their new clubs. Image courtesy of the National Football Museum

Studies section at Darwen Library. There's a handful of receipts, a minute book, financial accounts, cash book and printed fixture lists dating from 1877 to 1880, associated with Darwen Rangers Football Club and the town's Wesleyan FC. In addition, there are copies of a short-lived penny weekly sports paper, The Darwen Cricket and Football Times which ran for 13 editions from February to May 1879...

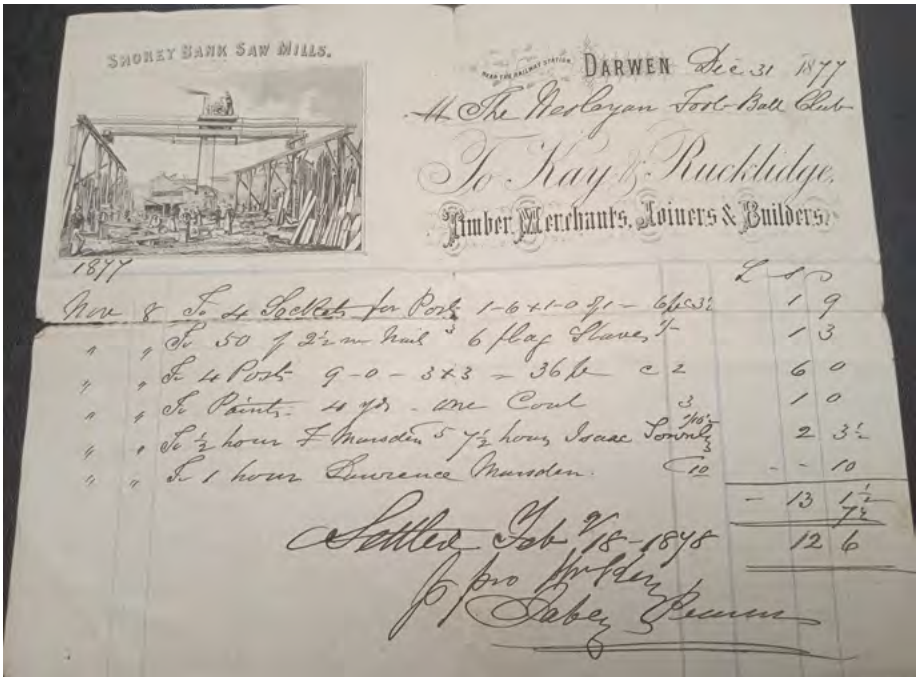
> The Darwen Cricket and Football Times ran for 13 editions from February to May 1879... it is possibly the first of its kind in Britain, a print media historical gem.

(only eight editions are extant). It had been renamed the East Lancashire Cricket and Football Times at least by edition seven. As an example of a sports periodical, primarily covering football and published to serve a geographically discrete audience (with the paper on sale in Darwen, Blackburn, Church, Accrington, Turton, Astley Bridge and Bolton), it is one of the first, possibly the first, of its kind in Britain. It is a print media historical gem. The paper was published as a commercial accompaniment to the football fever sweeping those communities.

Darwen Rangers FC were one of the 28 original members of the LFA in September 1878. A year later they proudly took their place among the 40 clubs competing for the newly-created Lancashire FA Cup. Five other clubs from the town joined, too. And the surviving papers include a receipt for Rangers' first annual subscription to the LFA for 10s 6d in October 1878 and one for 2s 6d the same month for 24 football rulebooks. A year later the paperwork shows the club spending 5s at a local timber yard for four 'goal poles', nine feet tall, plus what appears to be four four-feet-tall 'Staffs' for 2s – probably for use as corner markers.

A ruled 'School Exercises' book was used for minutes for 1879-80, with the club running a first and second team. At the general meeting in March 1879, about 20 members were present and player subscriptions for the year were set at 5s, later reduced to 3s 6d. Either sum would have represented a noticeable drain on working-class family resources.

At subsequent meetings correspondence was outlined detailing the issuing and acceptance of challenges with other clubs for a season-long fixture programme – there was, as yet, no league structure anywhere in the country. Over the course of two seasons opponents included Lower Darwen, Turton, Halliwell, Padiham, Bolton North End, Blackburn St George's, Edgeworth, Darwen Lynwood, Blackburn Park Road, Darwen Foresters, Darwen Lower Chapel, Darwen Baptists, Queen's Own Blackburn, Blackburn Rovers 2nd team, Blackburn White Star and Bolton Rovers.



How to build a football club... a receipt from 1877 detailing the purchase of material and associated labour costs to create goalposts and corner staves for one of the Darwen football clubs. Image courtesy of Blackburn with Darwen Library & Information Service.

A selection of Darwen Rangers FC ephemera from the Singleton Collection. Image courtesy of Blackburn with Darwen Library & Information Service.

Summer practice nights were organised, with two captains elected by committee. Later, a fee of £4 for the hire of a field for the best part of a year was agreed. Further funds were raised through the resale of LFA rule books. Printed match cards detailing fixtures were being produced and sold and there was a sharing of gate takings on some opposition grounds. Expenses included rent for dressing rooms, 'Football materials' (£1 14s 6d), printing and stationery, match officials and costs associated with attendance at LFA meetings. For the 1879-1880 playing season the accounts balanced at £10 10s 4d.

The previous season, 1878-1879, the books had balanced at £8. A gala had been held, earning 5s profit on a 10s outlay. Three football outer-cases and internal blow-up bladders had been bought for just over £1, later requiring mending at a cost of 2s 2d. A football annual had been bought for 1s, and a clothes rail for 1s 8d to make changing a more orderly affair. So, too, had rope, tacks, staples and tape, probably to string between the posts, eight feet above the ground, as the crossbar had not yet been introduced, and neither had goal-netting.

There is mention of players buying their own kit – 'obliged to purchase the uniform agreed upon as the club dress'. There is no clue as to what colour of jersey and leggings players were expected to wear. The adoption of association football by an ever-growing number of teams across Lancashire must have added a welcome dash of colour to the otherwise drab uniformity of urban life come Saturday afternoons. Sports goods retailers sprang up to meet demand. It must have been exciting for young men to play a hand choosing their side's colours, ...

> "It must have been exciting for young men to play a hand choosing their side's colours, ..."

perhaps copying some of the strips used by more established clubs or even those worn by the famous public schools.

Robert Singleton, who kept hold of the ephemera, played for the club along with his brother Fletcher and they seem to have taken on organisational roles, too. The 1881 Census lists them as commercial clerks, Robert, 22, and Fletcher 24. The paperwork takes the football story back further, revealing a second Darwen team, Wesleyan FC, spending £2 10s to hire a field at Tithebarn in November 1877, probably near the railway station – what would become Rangers' home ground. Wesleyan FC also ordered post sockets, 50 nails, six flag staves, four nine feet posts, plus paint which, with associated labour costs, ran to over 13s. The two clubs were linked. Robert Singleton's son, George (born 1890), in an overview of the Singleton Collection written in August 1981, suggests several of the Rangers' founding members were Wesleyan Methodists.

In a further aid to researchers George, 'ventured to include the subsequent careers of the members as I knew them in later life'. The list of 20 members is revealing. With due acknowledgement of the potential shortcomings of memory in old age, they all seemingly went on to earn a living in middle class occupations, including cotton manufacturers, works secretaries, a manager, merchants, accountant and auctioneer. Social advancement in later life might not necessarily reflect an earlier economic status, but the evidence suggests Rangers was a sporting adventure shared by aspirational lower middle-class young men.

Rangers took their responsibilities seriously, regularly sending a representative to the many LFA meetings, unlike several clubs with very limited attendance. They showed ambition, recruiting experienced full-back Angus McWetherill from the town's leading club, Darwen FC, at the start of the 1879-80 season, making him first team captain and paying his expenses. And yet they failed to renew their LFA membership for the 1880-81 season when almost 60 clubs competed in the second year of the cup. They all-but disappeared from the sporting scene; a November 1881, local press report of a humbling 8-1 thrashing at the hands of Padiham FC was among their meagre final mentions.

Other original members had equally brief stories, mentions of clubs having 'broken up', changed names, or 'having lost their ground' occasionally featuring in LFA minutes. But Rangers had been active a few weeks before the LFA general meeting to kick-off the 1880-1881 season, taking on extra responsibilities in the summer, making the disappearance appear sudden and unexplained – unless more evidence surrounding these early Lancashire 'Leather Hunters' remains to come to light in the county's archives.

Part Two of this article in the next edition of Archives will examine the fan culture developing around the county's early clubs, the trade in sports-related goods and the first flowering of Lancashire's extraordinary Saturday football press. ■

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Zaberjad Iftikhar and Kai Sinclair in conversation in the Searchroom at Lancashire Archives

What makes an ‘archive’?

A PERSONAL REFLECTION

By Zaberjad Iftikhar

I very recently started working at Lancashire Archives. One of the amazing things about this place (outside of the 900 years' worth of collections) is the people that work tirelessly in the background to bring Lancashire's past into the present and keeping it relevant. There is a push centred around making the Archives more representative and inclusive – bringing minority and often forgotten groups to the fore and moving the often-dominant narrative of the white, middle-class, male, perspective on our history, to something more British, encompassing all classes and cultures, from all walks of life. Every story (no matter how insignificant people may think it is) is relevant and important to tracking how we, as people of Lancashire, view our County and our place in time.

I was born in Burnley and have lived in Lancashire my whole life. Despite considering myself simply to be British, I have grown up with people insisting on labelling me as foreign. My parents were born in Pakistan and emigrated to England in the 1960s. Their arrival was difficult, navigating a foreign language, bureaucracy, employment. I spent years carrying the burden of their immigration; whilst trying to assimilate into the British culture, I was living a 'traditional' Pakistani life at home. I would dress in shalwar-kameez (a long tunic and loose trousers), eat food referred to as 'curries', and speak to my elders in Punjabi only. I was firmly fixed in the Pakistani box, and not the British box.

Going through school was interesting – my race was on the periphery. I was a bookworm and always wanted to please my teachers. In my early-to-mid-teens I started to register things differently. People would use offensive terms to refer to me not just when I wasn't around. I suppose this is where my understanding of discrimination began. Some language was subtle and undermining, where other things were more blatant and much harder to ignore. There was an 'us and them' mentality that seemed to follow me around. I'd like to stress that not everybody was exclusionary. For the most part my teachers were supportive and kind, and I did have a group of white friends who would spend time with me.

Despite this, I still felt on the periphery of both groups of friends I had. It took me until college and my late teens to begin reconciling the two different parts of my identity into a 'hybrid' – a balanced blend of both cultures, where I (consciously and subconsciously) picked and chose the bits I liked and adopted them. Studying English Language and Literature in college and at university gave me the tools to not only analyse what I was reading, but to analyse myself. To reflect on who I was and who I wanted to be. These were teachings I had grown up with as a Muslim – to be reflective, to understand myself, to always aim to be better and kinder, to be empathetic – and it was refreshing to find myself slowly merging into the one, unified personality that I am now.

For a long time, I didn't think my story was worth telling. I would like to make my story known, so that more people will come and talk about their stories. I want my story to be a part of Lancashire's history because I am part of its present. To that end, I would encourage people from all walks of life, including those from minority backgrounds, to come forward and share their everyday stories with the Archives. To add to the rich tapestry of our history and help challenge previous perceptions of living in Lancashire. Whether it takes the form of a written testimony to be included in future issues of this magazine, or a voice recording to add to our oral histories, everyone's story matters.

START YOUR ENGINES

HEYSHAM HEAD KART TRACK

By Graham Dean, Heysham Heritage Centre

To provide something new for returning visitors to Heysham Heritage Centre we started to have a series of changing displays about five years ago. The first few of these were created from materials donated to the Centre. Since reopening following the first Covid lockdown an increasing number of visitors asked about the international kart track which was sited on the headland from the late 1960s to the early 1980s. We had very little information about this other than a handful of programmes. Some of our volunteers are local and remember the track, others (including myself) knew of its existence but were unable to answer visitors' questions.

We decided that the new display for 2023 would feature the kart track. The track was established on the headland that had been part of the grounds of Heysham Lodge, a large house built in 1816. The house and grounds were purchased by Septimus Wray in the mid-1920s and he developed the site as 'Old English Pleasure Gardens'. The original house became tea rooms and an amusement arcade. There were children's playgrounds, outdoor dancing, ornamental gardens and puppet shows (Pinky and Perky appeared at Heysham Head before their appearances on television). It continued in the ownership of the Wray family until 1964, when holiday makers were starting to find low-priced holidays in Europe more attractive than British resorts.

Extract from promotional material for the 'New Heysham Head', Borough of Morecambe and Heysham, Lancashire Archives (MBMO/HE/acc6430/38/3)

When the site was put up for sale, Morecambe and Heysham Borough Council didn't want to lose one of the resort's attractions – but it needed investment to continue to be attractive. The council looked for ideas to develop the site; one suggestion was the construction of a kart racing circuit.

Our research generated the loan of a wealth of material, including photographs and newspaper cuttings about the kart track (far more than we could utilise in our displays). The kart track was designed by Bert Hesketh and managed by him and his son Kelvin. We were fortunate that among the people who responded to our request on social media were Bert's two daughters and a mechanic who had worked with Bert and Kelvin.

But the recollections of the people who loaned or donated material still left unanswered questions, especially about the decisions of the town council to develop the track in the first place and about its final closure.

An email query to Lancashire Archives prompted a response with a link to their online catalogue. This listed documents from the former Morecambe & Heysham Borough Council. Publicity Department files listed 150 items, one of which was titled, 'Heysham Head Karting'.

A subsequent visit to the Archives led to examining a folder containing a treasure trove of correspondence and artefacts relating to the setting up and early operation of the track in 1967, including entry forms for drivers, tickets and a programme for the first event. Further visits to the Archives will be needed to explore further records relating to Heysham Head. To find out more about the final days of the track we are still in the process of scanning through microfilm copies of the local newspaper held at Morecambe Library.

The site of the track, along with the remainder of the headland (including the Grade I listed St Patrick's Chapel and nearby stone graves, dating back to the eighth century) are now in the care of the National Trust, while the Lodge is once again a private residence and the remainder of the 'Pleasure Gardens' have been developed for housing.

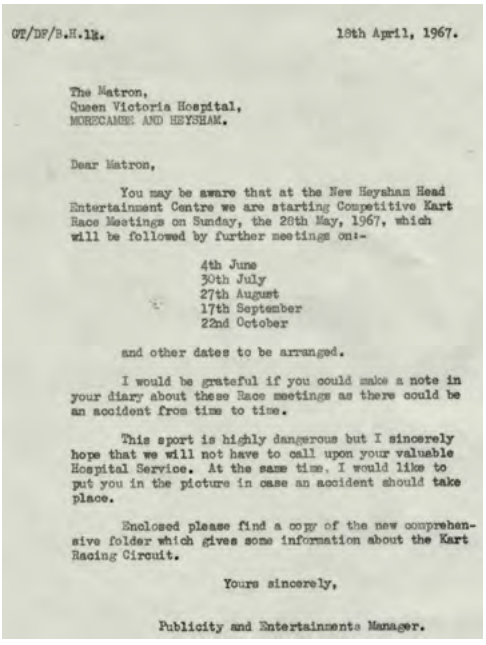
Heysham Heritage Centre

Heysham Heritage Centre was first opened in 2000 in a Grade 2 listed building that had been purchased by the Heritage Trust for the North West (HTNW). Ten years later HTNW purchased the adjoining cottage, which enabled the Heritage Centre to be extended and the adjoining cottage let out to provide income.

The building is a Lancashire longhouse: a cottage and barn in one stone building, though for most of the twentieth century the barn had been used as lock-up retail units. Following sympathetic conversion, the barn became the Heritage Centre, staffed by volunteers from Heysham Heritage Association (now Friends of Heysham Heritage Centre). Permanent displays tell the history of the village from Saxon times to the village's twentieth century heyday as a tourist destination.

The Centre is staffed entirely by volunteers – since Covid has left us with a shortage of these we are unable to advertise regular opening hours, but we do aim to open for at least 3 hours a day Friday to Sunday, Easter to the end of October, as well as other weekdays when volunteers are available.

To find out more, please visit our website at: **www.heyshamheritage.org.uk** ■



OT/DF/B.H.lk. 18th April, 1967.

The Matron,
Queen Victoria Hospital,
MORECAMBE AND HEYSHAM.

Dear Matron,

You may be aware that at the New Heysham Head Entertainment Centre we are starting Competitive Kart Race Meetings on Sunday, the 28th May, 1967, which will be followed by further meetings on:-

4th June
30th July
27th August
17th September
22nd October

and other dates to be arranged.

I would be grateful if you could make a note in your diary about these Race meetings as there could be an accident from time to time.

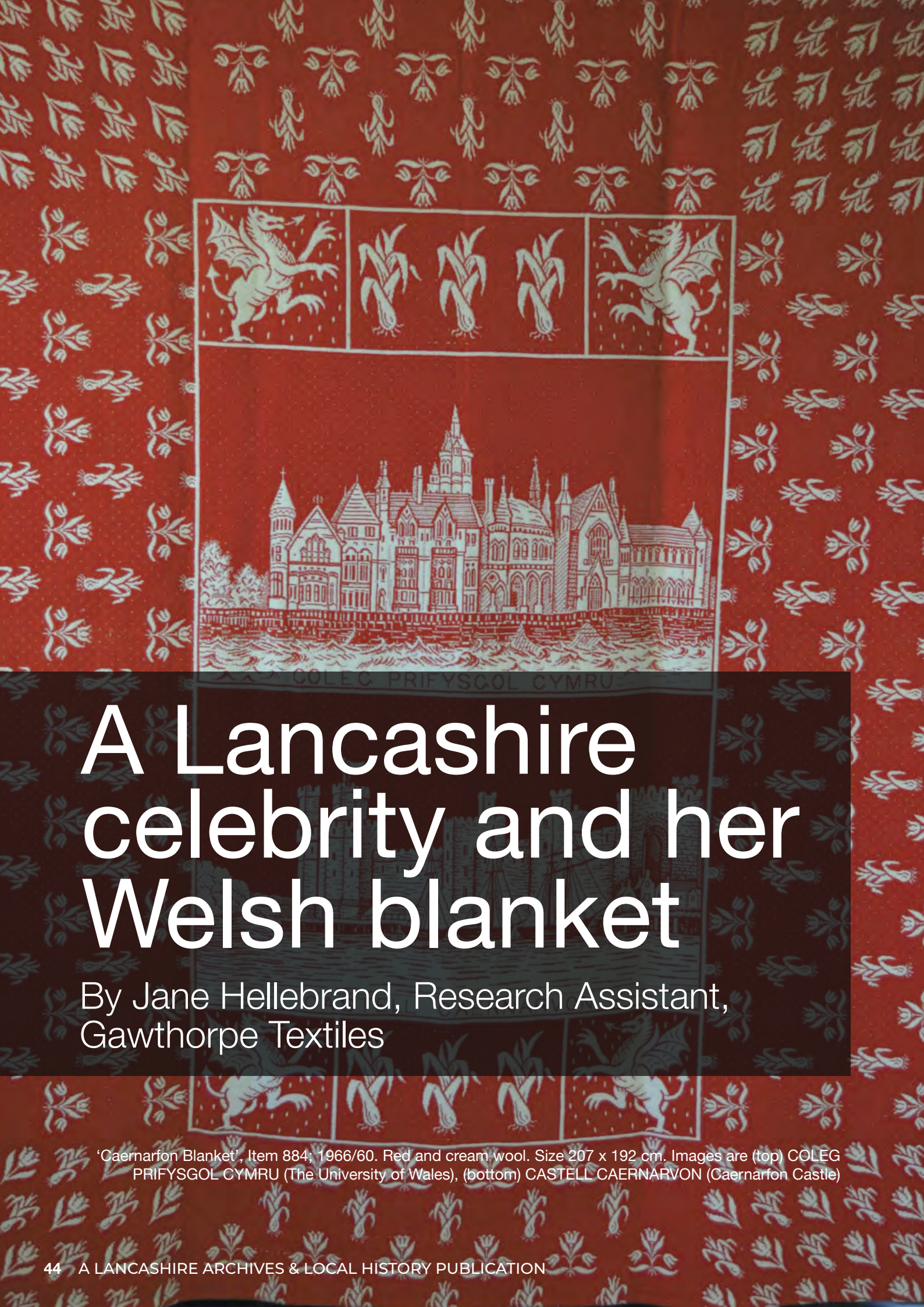
This sport is highly dangerous but I sincerely hope that we will not have to call upon your valuable Hospital Service. At the same time, I would like to put you in the picture in case an accident should take place.

Enclosed please find a copy of the new comprehensive folder which gives some information about the Kart Racing Circuit.

Yours sincerely,

Publicity and Entertainments Manager.

Letter to the Matron at Queen Victoria Hospital concerning the open of the new karting track, April 1967, Lancashire Archives (MBMO/HE/acc6430/24/2)



A Lancashire celebrity and her Welsh blanket

By Jane Hellebrand, Research Assistant, Gawthorpe Textiles

'Caernarfon Blanket', Item 884; 1966/60. Red and cream wool. Size 207 x 192 cm. Images are (top) COLEG PRIFYSGOL CYMRU (The University of Wales), (bottom) CASTELL CAERNARVON (Caernarfon Castle)

Gawthorpe Textiles Collection is an internationally recognised collection of global and historic textiles. It was founded by the Hon. Rachel Kay-Shuttleworth (1886-1967) and is housed at Gawthorpe Hall, Padiham – the ancestral home of the Shuttleworth family. The Hall is now owned by the National Trust and managed by Lancashire County Council. The Textile Collection display galleries are on the first floor of the Hall. Since 2015, we have been researching the stories behind some Collection items and their donors, to provide valuable context and extra interest.

Caernarfon Blanket

This woollen blanket was donated to the Collection in 1966, and is listed in the Accession Register as: 'Red and white woven Welsh quilt. 1910-1920. Donor: Miss Nellie Carbis'. There is a later note on the database, 'Miss Carbis was the village teacher at Grimsargh School and was the author of several books on Lancashire life. She died aged 95 in November 1999.' Nellie sounded an interesting lady, and ideal for our research!

A skilled lace-maker and embroiderer herself, Rachel Kay-Shuttleworth was an early believer in the therapeutic value of handicraft. She wanted to promote craft skills and prevent them dying out. She collected textiles from all over the world for this purpose. Rachel always intended it to be a teaching collection and was determined it should stay in Lancashire. In the 1950s and 1960s, the local newspapers were full of articles about Rachel and the proposed educational use of Gawthorpe Hall as a 'Craft House'. As a teacher, this may have influenced Nellie's decision to donate her blanket to the Collection.

The Welsh woollen industry flourished in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries due to the combination of wool from locally raised sheep and the availability of fast flowing water in the valleys to power the mills. By the early 1900s, there were more than 300 Welsh mills, but the industry went into decline after the First World War.

Only a few mills had looms capable of producing such complicated pictures and designs as this 'Caernarfon Blanket'. There are similar examples in the Museum of Wales, Cardiff, and the National Wool Museum in Camarthenshire. Traditionally, woollen blankets were part of the 'bottom drawer' of Welsh brides, and a pair was often given as a wedding present. Individual mills had their own patterns, and one pattern book has survived from 1775 (compiled by William Jones of Holt, Denbighshire). Antique examples of Welsh blankets are now highly prized.

There are several different types of Welsh blankets, and Nellie's blanket is 'Welsh Tapestry', although it is not a true woven tapestry. The term refers to the double weave cloth, effectively two layers of cloth joined together, which is fully reversible with a geometric pattern on both sides. In the 1960s, double weave cloth was extensively used for tourist items such as purses, handbags and, of course, blankets.

Dating the blanket

In 'The Textiles of Wales', Ann Sutton says that Prince Albert Edward (the future King Edward VII) was presented with a blanket, with an image of Caernarfon Castle, at the opening of the Caernarfon Waterworks in 1876.[1] Further research indicates this could have been earlier in 1868.[2]

Later copies of this original blanket have two central images: 'CASTELL CAERNARFON' with the Welsh words 'CYMRU FU' above (which translates as 'Wales as Was') and 'COLEG PRIFYSGOL CYMRU' (the University of Wales) with 'CYMRU FYDD' above ('Wales Will Be' – meaning that the future of Wales is in education.) Also featuring emblems of dragons, daffodils and leeks, it is an iconic Welsh design.

The University of Wales was founded in 1893, with any blankets which feature the University made after this date. Ann Sutton wrote in 1987:

'The original punch cards and loom are still being

used in Trefriw Mill to weave this coverlet. It was mentioned in a report of 1927 as an 'oddity' in Welsh textiles, and is still sold today, in many colour variations, in the mill-shop at Trefriw.'

Nellie's blanket is a later copy, but with no Welsh above the images. The smaller horizontal panels feature two Welsh dragons flanking three leeks, and all are surrounded by a wide border of stylised daffodils and leeks. The anglicised spelling of 'CASTELL CAERNARVON' also indicates that it was made in the twentieth century, fitting the 1910-1920 accession date.

The donor – Miss Nellie Carbis

Looking at the official records, Nellie's birth was registered in the second quarter of 1904, in the Warrington district, with the mother's maiden name of Owen. Thomas Lake Carbis married Ruth Owen in the third quarter of 1890 in Cardiff, so here was our first link to Wales!

Nellie's next appearance, aged six, is in the 1911 Census at 34 Mercer Street, Newton-le-Willows, together with her father Thomas, aged 48, a Printer's Labourer; her mother, Ruth, 44; and four older siblings, Dora Ruth, 20; Benjamin, 16; Clara May, 12 and Fred, 10. A family of seven, living in a five-roomed house.

But here our searches ground to a halt. Apart from Nellie's death in 1999, there was no sign of her in either the 1921 Census or the 1939 Register. Eventually we found that the Census details had been wrongly transcribed: 'Carbis' was 'Carlis' in the 1921 Census, and 'Corbis' in 1939. All family historians will know just how time-consuming and frustrating this can be.

In 1921, of the three children still living at home with their parents, Clara is an Assistant Cashier, Fred is a Postman, and Nellie is in 'Whole Time Education'. Nellie's other sister Dora (now Harrison) was visiting with her two small children, Frederick and May. On the 1939 Register, Nellie – Single, Elementary School Teacher, Head – is living with her widowed mother, Ruth, at 35 Preston Road, Grimsargh.

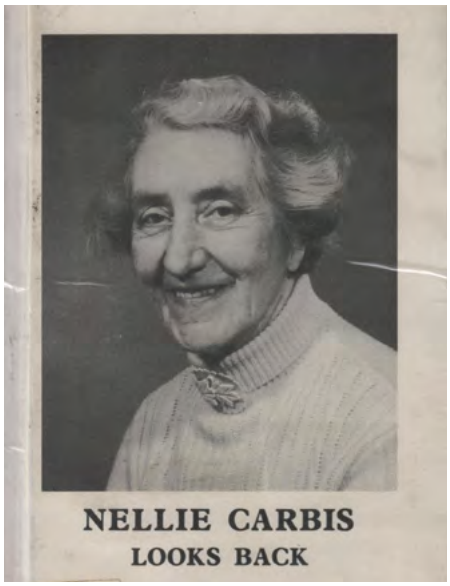
We discovered that one of the books on Lancashire life written by Nellie was her own autobiography. Published in 1978, there is a copy of 'Nellie Carbis Looks Back' in Lancashire Archives' Lancashire Printed Collection. Full of photos of Nellie and her family, it only covers her life up to 1935 and the move to Grimsargh, but it provides a great deal of information that we could not possibly find in the official records alone.

The synopsis on the back cover reads:
'Nellie Carbis was born in Newton-le-Willows, the seventh child of working class parents. After education at the local village school and Leigh Grammar School she went to the Diocesan Training College at Derby. In 1924 when her father retired on the Lloyd George pension of 10s. a week, Nellie Carbis stayed at home to look after her parents in their old age. Her first teaching job was at Salford in a class of 64 children. She subsequently became head mistress of Grimsargh Parochial School and stayed there for 29 years until her retirement in 1964.

Retirement has not meant idleness for Nellie Carbis. She finds time to follow her interests of photography and gardening as well as being a keen student of natural and local history. She spends a lot of time giving talks on various subjects to widely differing audiences to raise money for Imperial Cancer Research. She is well known for her radio broadcasts on her experiences during a full and busy life'

From the biography, we learn that Nellie's father, Tom, was the son of Benjamin Tippet Carbis, a Master Mariner, and his wife, Rebecca, née Lake. Nellie recalled her grandfather visiting them, 'He wore a sealskin cap and 'weskit' and carried his goods in a sailor's bag'. In the early 1870s, the ship-owners who employed Benjamin in Penzance transferred their business to Cardiff, and the whole family moved to Roath Park, Cardiff.

But how did Tom Carbis in Cardiff meet Ruth Owen from Newton-le-Willows? Ruth worked as a refreshment-room waitress for the Great



Cover photograph of 'Nellie Carbis Looks Back', published by Titus Wilson & Son Ltd, Kendal in 1978

Nellie with a group of children in the school-yard at Grimsargh, 1936. The donkey is one of many from Blackpool beach, who were over-wintered at farms in the area at that time, Tom Higginbotham Collection

Western Railway, and on her final transfer (to Cardiff) she met and married Tom, who was then a hansom-cab driver. After the birth of their first two children in Cardiff, Ruth became very homesick, and they moved to her home town of Newton-le-Willows, where a further five children were born.

Nellie's older brothers, Tom and Ben, were both called up in the First World War – Nellie donated her brothers' wartime letters home to Lancashire Archives, and there are also recordings of her talks. Tom was wounded in action in May 1915, and nearly lost a leg. When he was sent back to Britain to recover, Tom was treated at a hospital in Roath, Cardiff, very close to where his aunt still lived. With the Accession Register date of 1910-1920, could this be when the blanket was purchased?

Nellie never married; her parents moved with her to live in Grimsargh in 1935. Tom died, aged 73, in 1937, Ruth, aged 77, in 1944 and Nellie in 1999. They are all buried together in St Michael's churchyard.

There is a Millennium Wood in Grimsargh, dedicated to Nellie.[3] The land was originally rented by the Mallotts of Grimsargh House to the School for a peppercorn rent in 1942.[4] The garden was tended and developed by Nellie and the schoolchildren for many years. A keen plant lover since childhood, she maintained it after her retirement, but as Nellie got older, this became too much and the garden was taken over by the Parish Council in 1995. Work began in January 1999 to turn it into a woodland area, with new paths and a pond. It was completed just before Nellie's death in November, with her full approval. ■

Notes:

1. Source: 'The Textiles of Wales', Ann Sutton, Bellew Publishing Co Ltd, 1987. The original blanket was made by John Roberts, a local weaver.

2. The 1868 date is supported by contemporary newspaper reports of the visit, and the plaque on the commemorative fountain in Caernarfon, which reads, 'This fountain was opened April 25th 1868 by HRH Albert Edward Prince of Wales on the occasion of the completion of the Carnarvon Waterworks'.

3. See Grimsargh Parish Council website for a fuller history of the Millennium Garden,

https://grimsarghparishcouncil.org/projects/nellie-carbis-millenium-woodla/

4. Mrs Margaret Mallott (1896-1966) was also the East Lancashire District Girl Guides Commissioner. This links to Rachel Kay-Shuttleworth, who was a pioneer of the Guiding movement and the North East Lancashire County Commissioner for 30 years. Nellie had also been a Girl Guide herself.

Our grateful thanks to David Hindle and to E Heighbotham for permission to use the photograph of Nellie with the donkey.

Building 'The Moor' Lancaster Moor, 1816-2000

By Bernard J Melling

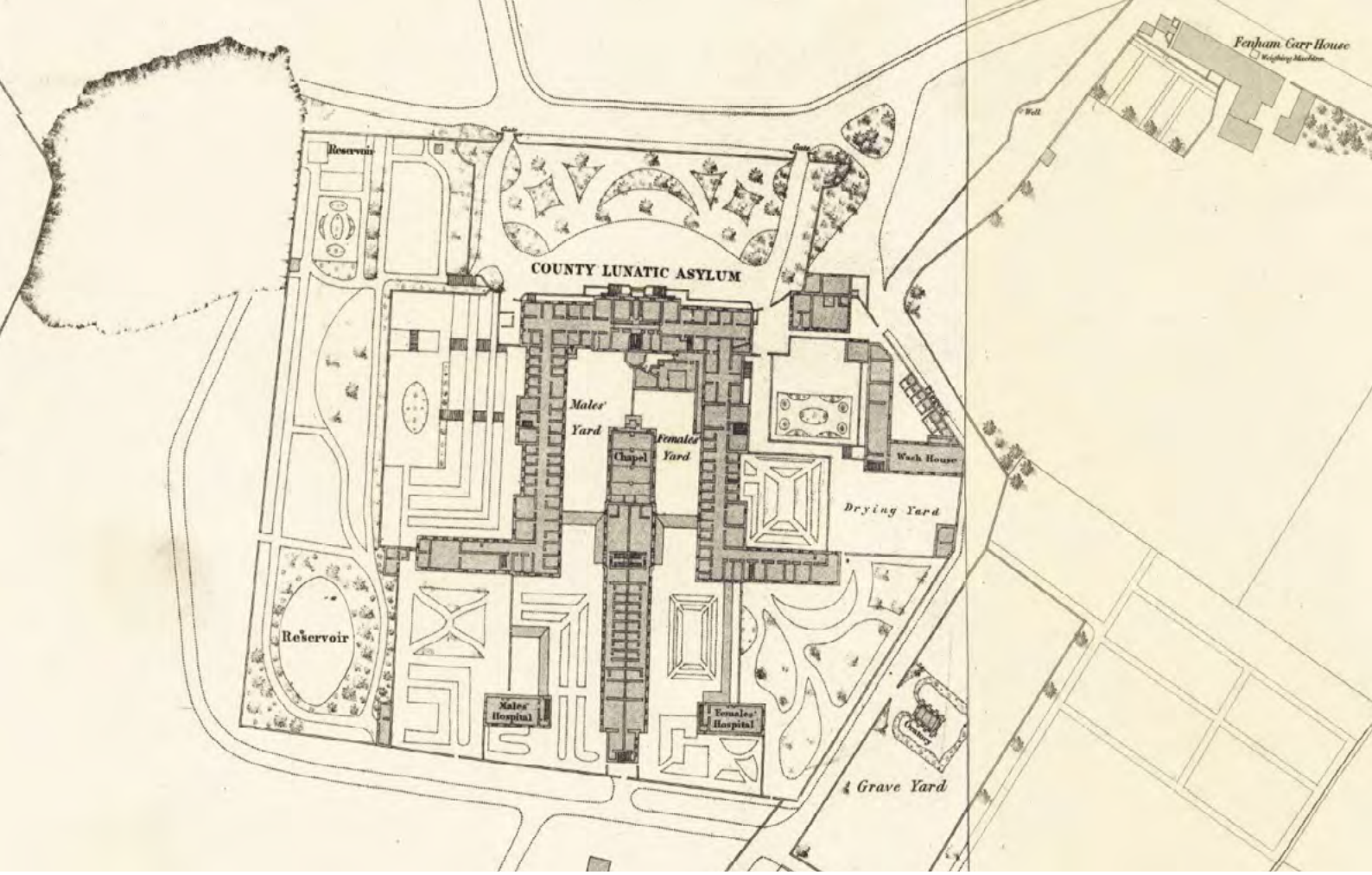
On 28 July 1816, Lancashire opened its first Public Pauper Lunatic Asylum outside Lancaster, the fourth such asylum to open in England. This article will discuss the reasons for the construction of these institutions, the decision to build near Lancaster, the construction of the asylum and the role of the Annual General Sessions of the Magistrates in the process.

Historical Context

Prior to the building of the Pauper Asylums there was very little provision for those identified as lunatics or natural fools, and certainly very little of what we would identify as treatment.[1] Chains and manacles were often the only option for the most severely disturbed. There was a Parish Workhouse system, based on the Elizabethan Poor Laws, in which the undeserving poor and unfortunates in local communities could be placed at the discretion of the Parish in which they lived. Such provision was very limited and at best, in cases of lunacy, involved basic containment of distressed individuals. The 'furiously and dangerously' mad man (or woman) could also be detained under the terms of the 1744 Vagrancy Act, and sometimes would be sent to the County Bridewell or House of Correction. Those living at home with family were referred to as the 'single lunatic'. Some of this category could often be found chained up, perhaps in an out building, or were left free to roam the countryside and streets begging for food and shelter.

The 1700s saw the growth of a trade in containing the mad. Private madhouses were established and run for profit and varied in size from those containing two or three lunatics, to the much larger institutions accommodating hundreds of individuals. There was little or no regulation and conditions in some were horrific; there was also evidence emerging of inappropriate detention, particularly relating to women. In 1763 a Select Committee was appointed by the House of Commons to investigate the system and the abuses which were occurring in some of the madhouses. Eventually a new Act for the Regulation of Private Madhouses was passed in 1774. This established important principles in the development of lunacy provision.[2]

From 1750 onwards a number of public subscription hospitals for the insane were also built. Locally these included hospitals at Manchester (1766), York (1777) and Liverpool (1792). Within such provision a debate was emerging about the 'correct' way to deal with lunacy, and the need to establish a balance between secure control and humane treatment. A non-restraint movement was developing and



Map showing the layout of the site at Lancaster Moor

found expression in the establishment of the York Retreat in 1792. The Retreat was designed to treat patients within a family-type environment and ill treatment was not tolerated. The eventual aim was to return the patient to his/her family and to a productive life. This debate about the correct way to deal with lunacy was to continue for many years and to influence our own understanding of the nature of mental ill health.

Within the context of these opposing views on treatment and facilities, or lack of them, there was a recognition that lunacy was a growing social issue and to deal with this England needed to build pauper public asylums which could house the lunatics of the poorer classes and the criminally insane. In 1807 a Select Committee was established 'to inquire into the State of Criminal and Pauper Lunatics in England, and the Laws relating thereto.' The following year the '1808 Act for the Better Care and Maintenance of Lunatics, being Paupers or Criminals in England' passed easily through Parliament. The Act was concerned with establishing a more benevolent asylum provision for the poor but also with maintaining social order and establishing scales of economy in provision.[3]

Any County could raise money through a local rate to construct and maintain an asylum for the poor but there was no requirement to do so. The body in Lancashire which had the power to make this decision was the Annual General Sessions (AGS) of the County Magistrates. The Lancashire Sessions Act of 1798 had resolved that this meeting should take place in Preston rather than Lancaster and gave the AGS the power to fix the county rate and to elect a County Treasurer and other officials as were deemed necessary. The AGS had the power to deal with 'erecting, building, maintaining and regulating gaols, houses of correction, bridges and public buildings'.[4] After 1808 the AGS added the building of public pauper asylums. The Court of the AGS was held annually at Preston; such was the volume of business that further adjourned meetings, up to five in number, were scheduled throughout the year. This was the means through which Lancashire County was governed until the 1888 Local Government Act set up what we now know as Lancashire County Council.[5]

An illustration of the imposing nature of Lancaster Moor

Architecture and Construction

In July 1809 the AGS agreed to proceed with the building of an asylum and issued an official intention to build in April 1810. The first decision was to agree on the location. The requirements suggested that it should be in an airy and healthy situation, with a good water supply and preferably sited on the edge of the County town. Within the building there should be separate wards for men and women, and separate wards for Convalescents and Incurables, also known as Acutes and Chronics. It was acknowledged that chronic inmates may be capable of assisting in the running of the asylums, employed in the gardens or the kitchens. The design should also allow for surveillance of behaviour, in the same ways as prisons did, and still do. A meeting of the Magistrates in a public house in Wigan on 29 April 1810 discussed the merits of Orrell, Chorley and Wigan before settling upon Liverpool. One advantage of Liverpool was the access to sea bathing, a potential treatment method. The original decision was that the asylum should be built on the outskirts of Liverpool.

This initial decision met with considerable objections from the medical profession in Liverpool and as many as 40 local doctors led by Dr James Gerard wrote to the Magistrates voicing their opinion. They stated it would not be possible to carry out the extra responsibilities for the asylum, that sea bathing was not beneficial and that it should be in a more central location to ease transport costs for relatives. They in turn suggested that Chorley or Wigan would be more suitable. The Magistrates did reconsider and were offered a plot of 'free' land to the east of the centre of Lancaster. The location has been described by Hewitson, a local historian and newspaper owner of the late nineteenth century as, 'panoramic and charming… very few scenes are equal to this… an entire book descriptive of this sight – might be written'. [6]

Having settled the location in 1812 the AGS appointed a Committee of Visiting Magistrates to oversee the construction of the Asylum. The minutes of these meetings were recorded and they reported back on progress to the AGS. One of their first tasks was to appoint 'A Surveyor of the Building of the said Asylum' and the key role was given to Thomas Standen, a local slater and plasterer who interestingly had no experience of civic building work. He was paid £1 6s per week during the construction of the asylum and a lump sum of £40 for his plans. Edward and James Harrison, Stonemasons of Kendal, were employed to build the 'whole of the North Front' which was to be completed by 1 September 1813. The architecture of most of the asylums

reflected a general pattern, that of a palace on the outside but a workhouse on the inside; Lancaster was no exception. The building was finished by 28 July 1819 and the following year there were 120 patients resident. The cost of the building work and furnishing was £42,000.

Life Inside

Patients were admitted as 'dangerous to be at large' under the terms of the 1744 Vagrancy Act. A warrant was issued by two Justices of the Peace following an application from an Overseer of the Poor, who had been alerted to the patient's condition. The Parish of origin could pay up to 14s per week per patient. A workhouse place was usually far less than even the cheapest asylum and there was a reluctance on the part of some Parishes to pay for expensive asylum care. Patients could only be discharged by the Visiting Committee of Magistrates upon recovery from their illness. In 1815 the Overseers were required to furnish a return of all 'lunatics and idiots' in their parish, including the single lunatics, and to provide medical certification to that effect.

The first Medical Superintendent, Paul Slade Knight, was appointed to oversee the running of the Asylum. 'Keepers' were recruited from within the local population to deal with the patients. Most of the Keepers had no experience of this role and certainly nothing but the most basic training, or rather instruction in how to deal with lunatics, would be offered. Lancaster followed a policy of restraint when necessary and conditions were very basic. Those inmates who were capable worked in the gardens (men) or in the kitchens (women) and by way of recreation were allowed to play ninepins (men) or knit (women). Straw was used as a bedding material and in 1820 the account books reveal that potatoes were a dietary staple, and that the cost of each patient per week was only 3s 1d, far from the maximum 14s per week. Knight's reign was short lived and in 1824 he was dismissed for malpractice in the supply of patient clothing. Thomas Standen, the architect, also met with misfortune; in 1822 he was declared bankrupt.

The asylum continued to expand and was both the second largest in the country and overcrowded with around 600 patients. In 1840 a new Medical Superintendent, Samuel Gaskell (1807-1886) was appointed. In 1841 as part of his humanitarian approach to lunacy, he abolished mechanical restraint at the asylum. He replaced straw as bedding and was also critical of treatments such as bleeding and blistering. As a temporary measure to deal with the overcrowding, the Chapel was converted to a dormitory and services were held in a 'shed'.

Reflections on the End of an Era

In the 1840s the Asylum Reform Movement gained momentum and in an era of therapeutic enthusiasm a new and significant piece of legislation was passed in 1845 – the Lunacy Act. In brief this progressive legislation clarified the power of the Commissioners, one of whom Samuel Gaskell was to become in 1849, and annual reports were to be submitted to Parliament. All counties were now required to have a pauper asylum. Thus began an era of Asylum building throughout the country. Lancashire, with its large and rapidly growing population, was at the forefront of this movement and asylums were built and opened at Prestwich (1851), Rainhill (1851), Whittingham (1874) and Winwick (1902). These asylums were the basis of provision for Mental Health services until the introduction of Community Care from the 1970s onwards. Lancaster Moor finally closed in 2000 and there is still much to learn from reflecting on the experiences of those that lived in such institutions. ■

[1] It should be noted that the language used in the article reflects the language of the period. We should acknowledge the power relationships which underpin such language.

[2] Kathleen Jones, (1955), 'Lunacy, Law and Conscience, 1774-1845', Routledge and Kegan Paul Ltd., London.

[3] Leonard D. Smith, (1999), 'Cure, Comfort and Safe Custody: Public Lunatic Asylums in Early C19th England', Leicester University Press, London & New York.

[4] A.F.Davie, 'The Administration of Lancashire, 1838-1889' in S.P.Bell (ed.), (1974), Victorian Lancashire, David & Charles, Newton Abbot.

[5] A full discussion of the legislation can be found in R. Sharpe France 'The Lancashire Sessions Act, 1798' in Transactions of the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire, Vol. 96, pp 1-57, 1944.

[6] Anthony Hewitson (Atticus), 'Amongst a Thousand Mad People', pp177-189, in 'Places and Faces', Printed and Published at the "Chronicle Office", 1875. Lancashire Archives, E HEW.

SCALING UP CHANGE MINDS:

An Archives Project By Anna Watson

Change Minds is a culture therapy programme that works with people living with mental health challenges. The participants have the opportunity to explore historical mental health records from over 100 years ago and by choosing a case study, learn more about how patients were treated in the past.

This course was run at Lancashire Archives from January-April 2023 and with twelve course participants plus staff and volunteers, examining the records of Lancaster Moor Asylum (QAM, HRL) held at the Archives. The records comprise a variety of documents relating to the Asylum's administrative functions, staff, buildings and of course the patients. There is an excellent series of admission registers and medical case books for men and women, private and pauper patients.

The course looked at the history of the asylum, introduced archives and research skills to the participants, studied admission registers and looked at different sources available for the history of the Moor. We also had a trip to Lancaster to look at the Asylum building as it is now.

Participants identified a patient to research from the medical case books, which provide details of the patient while they were in the Moor. All the patients chosen had recovered and been discharged from the asylum. As the Project Co-ordinator, I undertook a case study in advance to show the course participants what they might be able to find out and how. At random I chose a gentleman called Samuel Bithell who I found in a Medical Register for Private Patients (HRL/4/3/1/1). This provided me with some basic information. Samuel was 42, a brass moulder, suffering from 'recent mania' resulting from a head injury. He was admitted to the asylum on 5 March 1910 and then discharged on 10 May.

My next move was to look at the census returns for 1911. I found Samuel and worked back though the returns to 1871, finding him and his family in each. The 1901 return shows Samuel and his wife Margaret living at the Red Lion pub in Manchester Road in Ince-in-Makerfield. They have three children at this stage, Lena, Evelyn and Samuel Herbert.

I then turned to his medical case file and experienced a moment of panic when he appeared in the volume's index, but not the register itself. This happens in archives and is where the detective work comes in. By examining the catalogue, I identified another case book he might be in and there he was (HRL/4/12/2/29).

I was so pleased to see his photograph; I was getting to know and like Samuel. Many of the later case books contain photographs of the patients, sometimes with a photograph taken on admission and one on discharge, often showing the person looking better. From the case book, I discovered that Samuel was injured in a motor car accident on 17 January 1910 in Southport.

As he was working for the Vulcan Motor Car Company at the time, one assumes he may have been in one of their cars. There is no newspaper story about the accident and all we

know is that Samuel spent five weeks in Southport Infirmary with a fractured skull. His file provides a physical description as well as information on Samuel's health on admission to the asylum. The notes made by the Doctor who saw Samuel describe how he is feeling and what he observes about his behaviour:

'March 5th 1910 pm He was restless and excitable: He declared he was brought here by deceit: He must go home as his wife and children were waiting on station platform… He refused food... Later on he settled down and slept moderately.'

'Mental condition: He is unnaturally placid and self pleased: He is quite content to be here now:[…] he has been asked by his employers (for the British Automobile Club) to go on a racing tour to East Indies, Ceylon and Australia in a Vulcan car 16hp It is arranged he will drive Czar, the German Emperor and later the King of England:[…]'

Samuel Bithell, as pictured in the Medical Register for Private Patients (HRL/4/3/1/1)

A month or so later, the file records:

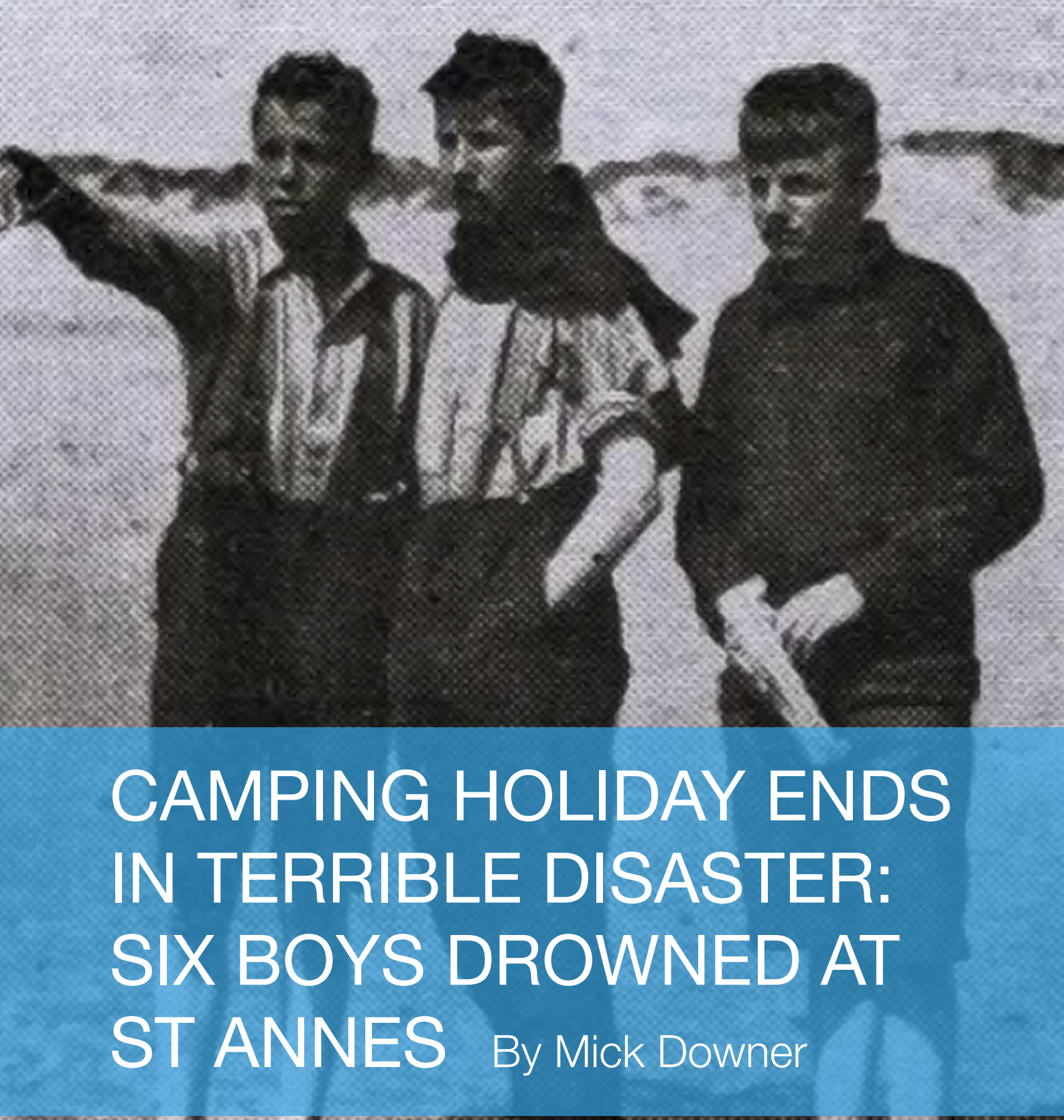
'19 Apr 1910 No change. Orderly & well behaved. Anxious to get home. Feels "better than 18 carat"

Not long after this Samuel is discharged.

I discovered a great deal about Samuel's life. He was born in 1868 in Wigan and lived with his parents until 1893, training to be a brass moulder. Working with metal ran in the family; his father was a coppersmith and other family members worked in copper and brass. In 1893 he married Margaret Barton and gave his occupation as Brass Moulder. Samuel entered the family business and became a publican until roughly 1906. He then returned to his trade as a brass moulder at the Vulcan Motor Works. By the 1921 census he was working in Liverpool for Harland and Wolfe shipbuilders. In the 1939 register he is retired and still living with Margaret in Brook Street in Crossens. He died in 1946.

Samuel lived a full life and his stay in the Moor was perhaps not typical of other patients. It is the only period in his life when we get an insight into his character and his emotions. It is also perhaps the lowest point of his life. We have no way of knowing if his injury affected him in any way during the rest of his life. He never appears to have been out of work – he and Margaret raised 6 children, one of whom became a professional footballer. We know from newspaper stories that Samuel played rugby and cricket. We also don't know how his family coped while he was unwell. Samuel was a private patient, so someone paid for him to stay at the Moor. Was that his employer? If Samuel had been in a Vulcan motor car which was involved in an accident, perhaps they supported his recovery?

There are still many questions to ask about Samuel's life that perhaps will remain unanswered. The course participants have researched their case studies and the Moor in great detail. They have also produced a creative response to their research and there will be more about this in the next edition of Archives. ■



CAMPING HOLIDAY ENDS IN TERRIBLE DISASTER: SIX BOYS DROWNED AT ST ANNES

By Mick Downer

Three boys who gallantly attempted the rescue of their drowning friends

9 July 2023 marks the 93rd anniversary of one of St Annes' worst tragedies. It was one of the worst beach drownings in the history of the United Kingdom. Until recently I was unaware of this tragedy. I learned of this terrible event browsing the editions of the Lytham St Annes Express in the Lytham Archives. I've carried out research which has increased my interest in the circumstances surrounding the drownings. It's an incredibly sad tale but it is a story that needs to be told.

On or around 1 July 1930, a group of 91 boys and staff from the St Aidan's Nautical School for Roman Catholic Boys arrived in St Annes for a fortnight's camping holiday.[1] The school was based in the Farnworth district of Widnes. They encamped at Blackpool Road across from Jameson's Farm at the junction with Leach Lane, St Annes.

The School

In the 1800s, harsh criminal sentences for children were questioned by many and as the century progressed, an experimental reformatory school system was established for young offenders.

As an alternative to prison, the reform schools provided outdoor industrial training combined with academic and religious teaching. Convicted juveniles under the age of sixteen could be pardoned if they attended a Certified Reformatory School for two to five years.

Amongst the Reformatory Schools for boys were three naval training ships, the Akbar on the Mersey, the Cornwall on the Thames and the Clarence that was specifically for Roman Catholic boys, also on the Mersey. In 1899, the training ship Clarence was destroyed by fire and was replaced by a land-based successor, the St Aidan's Nautical School for Roman Catholic Boys situated at Norland Lane in Farnworth, Widnes.

During November 1905, the School was certified as a Reformatory that could accommodate 125 Roman Catholic boys aged twelve to sixteen. As well as seamanship, the boys were taught tailoring, boot and shoe making, knitting, carpentry, farm and garden work.

Such schools had a strict disciplinary regime. In 1910 an account of serious ill-treatment of boys at the Akbar Nautical Training School was published detailing the caning of unwell boys as malingerers. We don't know what offences the boys involved in the tragedy committed, only that they warranted them being sent to the Reformatory. We know that after being found guilty, they were packed off to St Aidan's, often hundreds of miles from their homes and families and it was likely they knew nobody when they arrived at the reformatory.

The Events of Wednesday 9 July 1930

The boys were at their camp for about eight days before they visited the beach for the first time to bathe. On the morning of 9 July, the boys were marched from the camp at Blackpool Road to the shore. The section of beach was close to the Blackburn Home about a mile and a half north of St Anne's Pier where the coastline was fringed with sandhills.

I imagine the boys were full of excitement and invigorated by the big skies and endless horizons of the beautiful beach. Many of the boys were from inland towns and cities so I expect that it was breath-taking to experience the massive sense of space.

The Lytham St Annes Express reported that the boys entered the water at high tide, shortly after 11.00am. The day was pleasant although the seas were a little choppy. They were soon splashing about and enjoying the water. The first indication that anything was wrong was when someone saw George Barton throwing up his hands frantically and shouting, 'Save me! Save me!'.

An alarm was raised and a schoolfellow, James Hoskins, bravely entered the water and pulled Barton ashore semi-conscious. Mr Welsby and Mr Roberts, convalescing at the Blackburn and District Home following illness, were on the beach and quickly offered assistance.

‘We applied artificial respiration’, said Mr Welsby, ‘and kept it going for about 25 minutes and he came round all right.’ It was noticed that other boys were throwing up their arms, but it was thought this was only in fun.

At 11.30am, a whistle was blown for the boys to come out of the sea and return to the school. At the roll call, six of the boys were discovered missing. The waters, on the ebb and choppy, were scanned with binoculars but no one could be seen. Mr Welsby went on to tell the reporter:

‘We waded out for nearly 100 yards, and then I saw a body. I called Mr Roberts, and we brought him close to shore. I lay down in the water and Mr Roberts put the boy on my back, using me as a table, and he applied artificial respiration for about twenty minutes… At this moment the boys brought another of their comrades out of the water, but he was apparently beyond human aid.’

One of the boys from the school, Augustine Panetta told the reporter:

Two lifesavers went into the water and brought out Thomas Rogers. He was dead. Joseph Clough, Joseph Durkin and I saw a body floating on the water. We all three dashed into the sea and brought him out. He was James Ellis, and he was dead.

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‘We went further down the beach, and with the assistance of a man we went into the sea again and brought out John Halligan. He was also dead. We went down the beach further still, and on the shore were the bodies of George Fitzgerald and Sidney Barker. They had been washed up. Going down the beach still further we saw Cyril Marchant lying at the edge of the sea, and we carried him out.’

Miss Lloyd, matron of the Thursby Convalescent Home, told the reporter, ‘The first I knew of it… was when Mr McDonald, the second in charge with Mr McAvoy, came across, and said there was a boy drowning on the front. I informed the police and summoned Doctor Staley.’ Inspector Rosbotham, Sergeant Ormerod and several constables were quickly on the scene, and everybody in the vicinity rendered all possible assistance. Artificial respiration was applied for some time by Miss Lloyd and members of the police force, but without success.

Distressing scenes were witnessed when the bodies were brought out of the water and laid on the shore prior to their removal. Many of the boys from the camp cried bitterly at the loss of their schoolfriends, and some of them had the mournful task of helping to carry their dead comrades across the sands to a motor vehicle which took them to the mortuary.

How Could the Tragedy Have Happened?

At 11.00am, seven fit and healthy boys went into the sea off St Anne’s Beach with smiles on their faces. An hour later, and after facing the terror of drowning, one was barely alive whilst six others lay dead on the sand. Out of the six boys who drowned, all of them aside from Cyril Marchant were reported to be strong swimmers.

The Lytham St Annes Express reported that in the previous 30 years there had been six drowning incidents, some involving the death of more than one person. The danger points were listed as: just beyond the pier; at the end of the promenade, near the Ormerod Home; and opposite the Thursby Home.

It was said that at all three of these spots there were sandbanks about 100 yards out from the shingle, as well as inner channels that filled rapidly at high water and were out of the depth of anyone on the sandbank, or that ran out with equal swiftness when the tide turned, sweeping swimmers off their feet with the strength of its undercurrent.

Importantly, the two convalescents from the Blackburn Home, Mr Albert Welsby of Wigan and Mr B Roberts of Haydock reported the following:

'We had to relinquish our hold of the body of one of the boys for a few minutes in order to save our own lives. The curious thing is that I have been bathing for the last four days… and each time the sand was firm. On Wednesday it was just like slipping into some quicksand. The cause of it may have been the ebb tide. There was a very strong current running at the time, and it may have softened the sand in some way. The nearer we got to St. Annes the more gripping the sand became.'

The Aftermath

Perhaps the saddest part of this awful tale is the aftermath of the tragedy. Mr Billington, the headmaster of the school, declined to make any statement or to permit any of the officers of the camp to do so. When the Press visited, the boys in the camp understandably appeared to be very depressed and were gathered in the centre of the group of tents.

Only one of the boys (we don't know which) was buried close to home. For whatever reason, nobody took responsibility for the burial of the other five who were later interred together in the Roman Catholic section of the Park Cemetery, Lytham St Annes.

The paper reported that local Councillor Arthur Rawstron interested himself in providing a memorial to the boys and several local sympathisers came forward and enabled a beautiful headstone to be placed on the grave.

The work was designed and executed by Messrs George Rushfirth and Sons of St Annes. Over the inscription, in relief, was a female figure bearing in her hands a laurel wreath.

The memorial to the tragedy, paid for thanks to the generosity of the people of Lytham St Annes.

Each time I visit the cemetery, I always go across and visit the memorial. It has few if any other visitors and flowers are never left. After 93 years of facing directly into the worst of the Fylde Coast weather, the memorial has deteriorated. The engraved inscriptions have faded along with our collective memory of the tragedy.

It is not for me to tell individuals, businesses, charities or councils how to spend their money, but the memorial marks a hugely important event in the history of St Annes. In life they only had each other and in death they had nobody aside from the people of Lytham and St Annes. I think it would be highly appropriate if the badly deteriorating memorial could be replaced with a replica of the original along with a blessing from one of the local Roman Catholic priests. ■

[1]St Aidan's later became a Catholic run Children's Home and in 2018 was subject to an enquiry into Child Sexual abuses that took place during the 1960s, 70s and 80s. Fifty people came forward claiming that they had been sexually abused by staff during this period. Sixty people were initially identified as suspects. The enquiry led to ten people being arrested and charged leading to four convictions. Ten suspected offenders died before they could be charged. St Aidan's closed in 1981 and the school buildings no longer exist.

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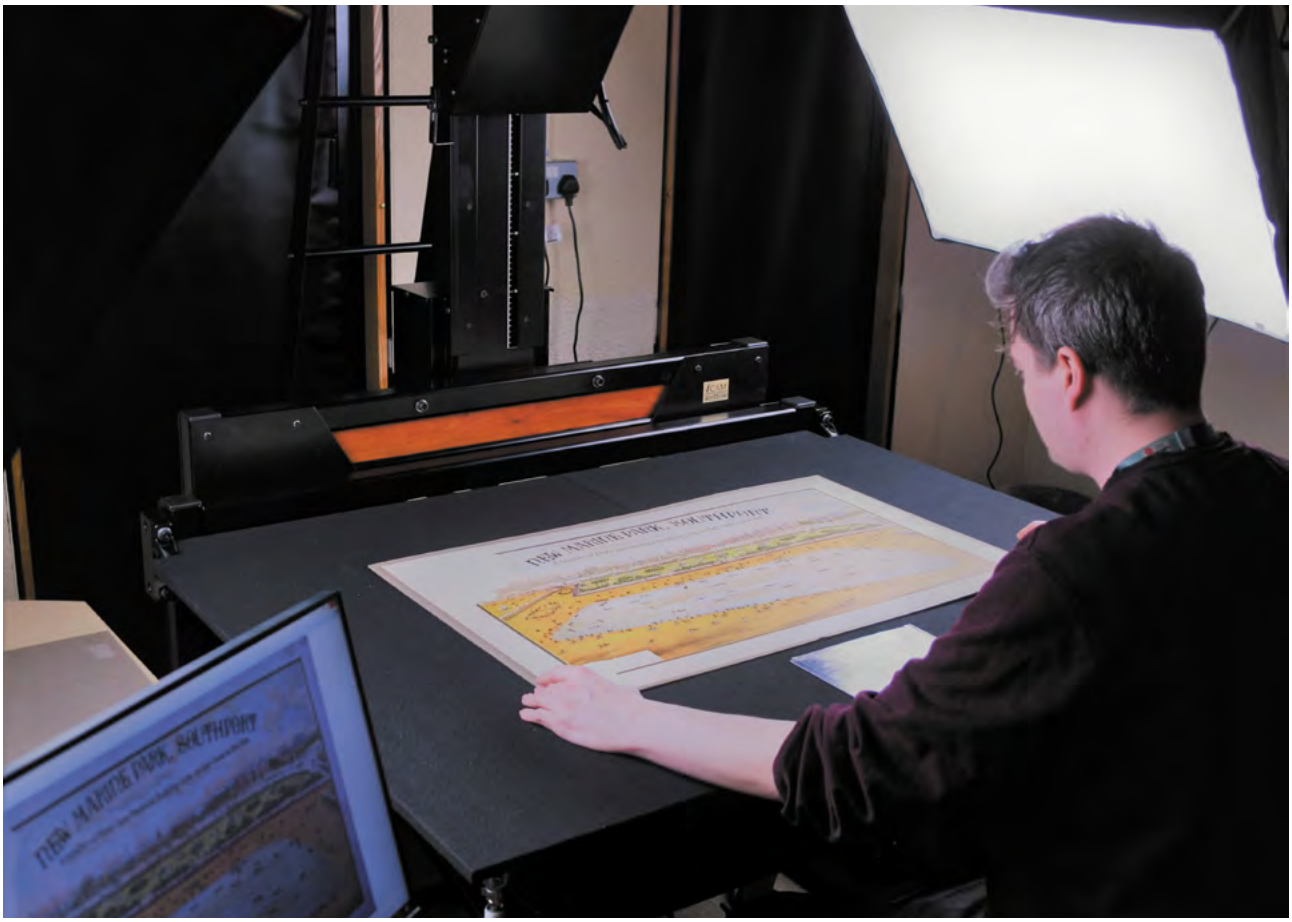

Mark O'Neill, Archive Conservator, operating the new digitisation equipment to capture images of drawings of the New Marine Park, Southport

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