

Founded in 1948



Preston Historical Society

February Newsletter

Welcome to our first meeting of 2017. Our talk this evening will be given by Dr Alan Crosby and is called "Family life in the Industrial Revolution" – The autobiography of Benjamin Shaw of Preston 1772-1841.

If any member has an article or story for the newsletter, please get in touch with Karen Doyle (Secretary) at info@prestonhistoricalsociety.org.uk If any of you used to receive an electronic newsletter and now do not please send an email to the address below and we will rectify the situation. info@prestonhistoricalsociety.org.uk

Peter Bamford has asked for the item below to be brought to the attention of our members.



Friends of Lancashire Archives

Charity Registration No. 518611

Horrocks Collection Appeal

Established in 1791 by John Horrocks in Preston, the company became one of the pioneers of the Lancashire "factory system" by which the cotton industry was revolutionized. Within ten years Horrocks owned seven large mills and in 1816 the company became Horrockses, Miller and Co, also employed 7,000 handloom weavers working at home. In 1887 Horrocks, Crewdson & Company was established after mergers with two other Preston based textile companies and was running thousands of looms and hundreds of thousands of spindles in Lancashire at a time when the county dominated the international cotton textile industry.

The "Yellow Factory" in Preston, Horrocks' first, built in 1791



In the 1940s the company created its iconic Horrockses Fashions brand, the first collection being launched in April 1946 to rave reviews.



Pattern Book samples, c.1950 (DDHS 29)

The Friends need to raise £12,000 to complete the cataloguing of this archive of international importance, one which reflects Lancashire's position as the centre of the world's textile industry in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Some work on the collection was completed last year with £1,250 from the Textile Society. This generous grant enabled us to improve the online listing for the earlier period of the company's history, up to the 1880s. This revealed aspects of the company's activities previously unknown - it's involvement in Far Eastern trade in spices, opium and silks. The collection contains :

- over 100 pattern books
- financial records (starting in 1795)
- wage books and other staff records
- factory plans
- 100s of photographs of buildings, staff and production processes
- There's still a great deal to do though and £12,000 would pay for a qualified archivist to complete the project and promote the collection's use

It is essential that archives are made accessible - there's little point in having them if people cannot use and enjoy them. Producing catalogues and making these as widely available as possible is the most fundamental way of helping people engage with archives.

Please help us.

Ways to donate.

Online: Visit our website at www.flarchives.co.uk and click on the 'Donate Now'. button.

Cash: There will be a collection box at the back of the Minster at the February meeting.

Cheque: Please complete the following and send with your cheque made payable to
'Friends of Lancashire Archives' to: The Treasurer

Friends of Lancashire Archives
c/o Lancashire Archives
Bow Lane
Preston
PR1 2RE

Enclosed is my donation of £ towards the Horrocks Collection Cataloguing Project.

Title : Name :

Address :

Post Code :

Email address :



If you are a UK taxpayer and would like to Gift Aid your donation please complete and sign below:

I want to Gift Aid this donation and any other donation or subscription I make in the future or have made in the past 4 tax years to the Friends of Lancashire Archives.

I am a UK tax payer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax then the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in any one tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

First name/initial(s):

Surname :

Full Address:

Post Code :

Signature:

Date:

Thank you for your support.