

Founded in 1948



Preston Historical Society

## OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

If any member has an article or story for the newsletter, please get in touch with Karen Doyle (Secretary) at [info@prestonhistoricalsociety.org.uk](mailto:info@prestonhistoricalsociety.org.uk). We have purchased a new laptop over the summer and have moved all your contact details over. 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](mailto:info@prestonhistoricalsociety.org.uk)

### **1. Next Meeting: “Preston Dock and its Hydraulic Power Scheme”**

A reminder of our next meeting on **Monday 3 October 2016**. The speaker will be Colin Dickinson. Meetings are held at St. John (The Minster), Church Street, Preston starting at 7.15 pm. Visitors and new members are very welcome. Admission for visitors is £3.00.

### **2. World War 1 Lecture Series – Kirkham Grammar School**

Kirkham Grammar School will be hosting a lecture by Prof. Gary Sheffield from the University of Wolverhampton entitled: **“Douglas Haig and the Battle of the Somme revisited”**. The lecture will be held on Wednesday 5 October 2016 at 7.30pm. Tickets are £7.50 and available from the school on 01772-684264. Professor Sheffield has established himself as one of the foremost authorities on the British Army of the First World War.

### **3. Much Hoole Power Station**

A request has been received from a reporter at the Lancashire Evening Post seeking any information about plans and proposals for a Power Station at Much Hoole back in 1966. If anyone has any information please contact [G.Sutherland-west@uclan.ac.uk](mailto:G.Sutherland-west@uclan.ac.uk)

### **4. New book: “Fostering Family History Services: A guide for librarians, archivists and volunteers”**

We have been circulated details of the new book above by Nicole Wedemeyer Miller and Rhonda Clark.

“This is not a how-to genealogy title, rather a guide for those of us who work with other genealogists. A variety of topics are covered including how to conduct a genealogical reference interview, planning programming, oral history projects, dealing with old photographs, providing good collection access, digitization projects, and more. This is the first book to cover this subject.”

Further information on the book can be found online. A short video explaining how this writing project began can be found here: <https://www.facebook.com/fosteringfamilyhistoryservices/>

## 5. Victorian Society –2016 Top Ten Endangered Buildings

National architectural charity the Victorian Society has released its 2016 Top Ten Endangered Buildings list. All the buildings in the Top Ten are in real risk of being lost if action is not taken in the immediate future. Griff Rhys Jones, Victorian Society Vice President, has urged people living near the buildings on the list to 'seize the opportunity' and campaign to save them. Amongst the Top Ten buildings listed is **Mount Street Hospital, Preston, Lancashire (Grade II, 1872, RW Hughes)**.

## 6. Planning Applications

For those who have not spotted these recent planning applications in the press:

Proposed development of **Fishergate Baptist Church** – “change of use from a church to a restaurant & public house including creation of a mezzanine floor”.

Proposed development of the 1903 **Preston Post Office** – change of use to a boutique luxury hotel with 60 rooms, restaurant/bar, spa and wedding/function space; accommodation would be over 5 floors with a mezzanine level and roof extension.

## 7. Lancashire Literature Festival (Organised by scRibble, the Preston writer's group)

Members may be interested in the Lancashire Literature Festival to be held at the Continental Hotel, South 2 Meadow Lane, Preston PR1 8JP - it will feature history authors on its first day – details are below.

**Saturday, Oct 22nd      2.00 pm              The Historic Authors**

Local author and scRibbler Paul Atherton, Ireland's Tom Hodgkinson and Scotland's Margaret Elphinstone will introduce themselves and their work. Each will give an autobiographic intro and readings of their writing, around a 45 minutes presentation each. Afterwards the three will form a panel to take questions.

Paul is author of *Viking Voices*, under the pen name Vincent Atherton, which tells how the Cuerdale Hoard came to the Ribble. He lives in Hoghton, Lancs and is a former Director of Human Resources with Tata Steel International. He holds an M.A. in Creative Writing from Lancaster and is the Chief scRibbler.

Tim Hodgkinson was born and lives in Northern Ireland and is author of novels, *Lions of the Grail*, *The Wasteland*, *Spear of Crom* and *the Undead*, as well as short stories. He has just sold the option for a TV series of his first novel to Celtic Films. He studied Celtic civilization, Medieval English and Old Norse Literature with a subsidiary in Medieval European History.

Margaret Elphinstone has written two Viking novels, *Islanders* (1994) and *The Sea Road* (2000). Her other historical novels are: *The Incomer*, *A Sparrow's Flight*, *Hy Brasil*, *Voyageurs*, *Light* and *The Gathering Night*. She has also published a volume of short stories, *An Apple from a Tree*. Margaret is the author of novels as well as poetry and short stories. She is a graduate of Durham University and an Emeritus Professor of Strathclyde University where she was a member of the English Studies Department from 1990-2008.

**Tickets are £6 per day or £9 for the weekend.** <http://www.newcontinental.net/whats-on/event/lancashire-literature-festival> tickets: <http://www.seetickets.com/tour/lancashire-literature-festival-at-the-continental>

*The Lancashire Literature Festival is supported by Lancashire County Council.*