

Do you remember?

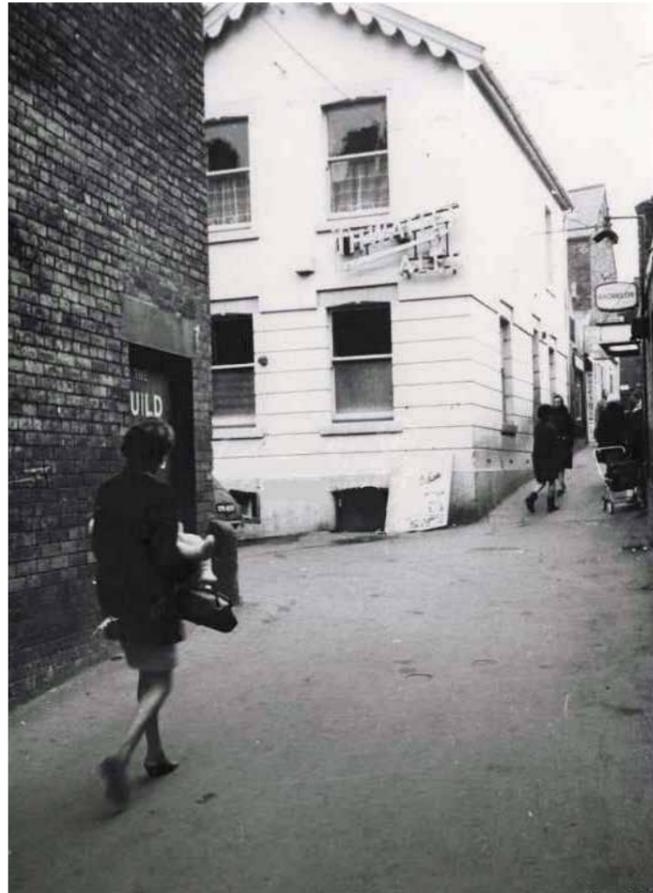


image: Preston Digital Archive

Wards End led from Lancaster Road to the old Ribble Tithebarn bus station which was demolished in the 1960s to make way for the present building. Do you remember it? Here's a nice line up of Ribble buses in 1967, being passed by a Lancashire United X60 on its way to Manchester. June 2019 is the centenary of the founding of Ribble Motor Services. There are exhibitions and events culminating, with a day of free vintage bus rides and displays in Morecambe, on Sunday 26 May. The Harris Museum's display continues until 7 July. Details on Facebook and at www.rvpt.co.uk/events



image: Preston Digital Archive

Your help needed



Do you know where and when these Preston celebrities lived? Jimmy Clitheroe (1921–1973), the diminutive comedian and radio star, may have lived at 84 Malvern Avenue, Frenchwood. Is this true? Does anyone remember him? The trumpeter Eddie Calvert (1922–78), who enjoyed a hit record 'Oh mein papa' in 1953, was born in Preston. Where? Delia Derbyshire (1937–2001), the electronic music pioneer and joint-creator of the Doctor Who theme, moved to Preston in 1940 where Wikipedia claims most of her relatives live. Are you one? Do you know where she lived and for how long?

What's on

The Preston Historical Society has three walks planned for this summer: Tour of historic Poulton-le-Fylde. Meet Poulton Stocks, Market Square at 7.30pm, 24 June, leader Christine Storey; The Romans and Walton-le-Dale. Meet St Leonard's Church at 7.30pm, 1 July, leader Dr David Hunt; Rivington. Meet at the Top Barn car park at 2pm, 19 August, leader Pete Wilkinson.



The former Community History Library at the Harris reopens as their Heritage Reading Room. There will be an exhibition in the Room called Writing: Making Your Mark. The display, which runs until 27 August, is inspired by the British Library exhibition of the same name which investigates the origins, means and future of writing. The Friends of Winckley Square have a busy programme of guided walks about Edith Rigby; former residents; and 'Extraordinary women of Winckley Square'. Details are in the Winckley Square Times newsletter and from enquiries@winckley.org.uk. The 2019–20 season of Preston Historical Society talks starts at 7.15pm on Monday 2 September, with a talk by Sir Peter Openshaw on 'The Dreadful Murder of Ann Walne at the Joiner's Arms, Ribchester.'



Preston Historical Society

NEWSLETTER

PROMOTING THE STUDY OF LOCAL HISTORY IN PRESTON AND LANCASHIRE

Issue 9

Summer 2019

About the PHS

The aims and objectives of the Preston Historical Society are to promote the study of local history in Preston and Lancashire by way of social and natural history talks given by local historians and speakers, various events, and by using social media such as Facebook and Twitter. Meetings usually start at 7.15 pm on the first Monday of each month during the season. The seasonal membership subscription is £12.50. Non-membership admission is £3.00 per visitor.

Contact PHS

Need to contact the PHS for information or to find out any last minute info?

You can now call the PHS on

07504 262497

COMING SOON

**Monday
13 May 2019**

**PRESTON AND
THE PETERLOO
MASSACRE**

**Speaker:
Dr Robert Poole**

Peterloo, 'Orator' Hunt and Preston

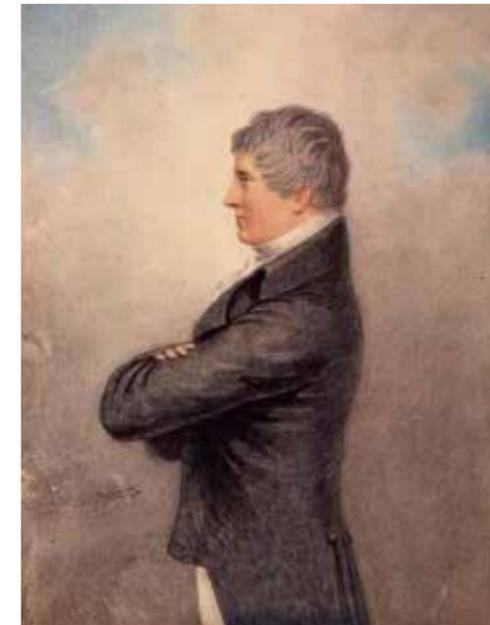


image: National Portrait Gallery

We often hear about demonstrations on Brexit, climate change, fracking and so on; we take them for granted. But the right to hold public meetings and demonstrate is hard won.

In 2019 we commemorate the 200th anniversary of 'Peterloo', the violent suppression of a public meeting in St Peter's Field, Manchester on 16 August 1819. A crowd of about 60,000 people demonstrating for parliamentary reform was attacked by soldiers, special constables, and yeomanry cavalry, resulting in eleven deaths and injuring more than 400. Of those killed five were sabred, three trampled, one hit with a stone, one was crushed, and one fell down a cellar. The attack was sparked by an attempt to arrest the principal speaker Henry 'Orator' Hunt, who later became MP for Preston in 1830. Hunt defeated the Hon E. G. Stanley which, according to Anthony

**Dr Robert Poole's talk on
Monday 13 May 2019,
will be about Preston
and the Peterloo Massacre**

Hewitson, 'threw the Huntites into a high state of ecstasy'. A special medal was issued for Hunt's voters inscribed "H. Hunt, Esqr., M.P. for Preston, Dec. 24, 1830: The time is come. The triumph of principle". Hunt's parliamentary career, which lasted until 1832, was a lively one. He presented to parliament the first petition for women's voting suffrage – a notable first for Preston. He died on 13 February, 1835, aged 62, and his remains are interred in Parham church, near Storrington, Sussex. A consequence of his victory is that the Stanleys, an influential county family, quit their home Patten



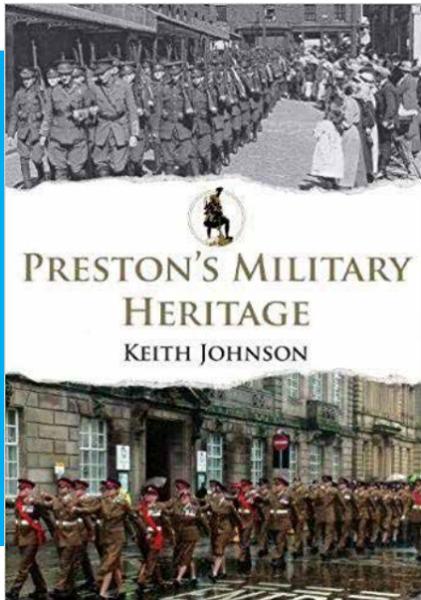
image: Harris Museum

House, Church Street, and withdrew from Preston public life. He has a rather obscure blue plaque on the first floor wall of the TSB bank, Fishergate – good luck trying to read it – and, besides the election medals, some of which are displayed in the Harris Museum's Discover Preston gallery, some quirky folk souvenirs. *Continued on page 2*

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Peterloo, 'Orator' Hunt and Preston

Hunt's horse Bob died on 8 September 1819 – some claim Bob was poisoned – and was buried in Mr Huffman's garden on the north side of Ormskirk Road. His grave was marked with a headstone: 'Alas! Poor Bob!!'. (Bob was said to be worth 70 guineas – £73.50 – £4,221 at today's prices to Hunt when a good 30-guinea horse would be worth £1731 today). Seven years later the horse's bones were dug up and distributed as souvenirs such as snuff boxes. Hewitson, writing in 1882, recalled seeing one in a second-hand shop in Lune Street as well as one of the shank bones being used for rubbing up by a boot and shoe maker in Fishergate. What happened to the rest of Bob? Do you know anyone with a Radical relic of poor Bob? In 2019 commemorations of the Peterloo Massacre peak with the unveiling of a memorial, designed by Jeremy Deller, outside Manchester Central exhibition centre, on Friday, 16 August. There are many other events and exhibitions; details can be found at www.peterloo1819.co.uk. In Preston we can hear Dr Robert Poole's illuminating talk at the PHS meeting on 13 May.



Preston's Military Heritage by Keith Johnson (Amberley, £14.99) is a new book that reminds us that our city's strategic location on the Ribble crossing means we have had an important military role since Roman days. Keith Johnson covers the Romans, Robert the Bruce's incursions, the Civil War and Jacobite rebellions, the Crimean and South African wars and two world wars, and their poignant war memorials. Fulwood barracks have housed famous regiments and battalions. Preston station buffet fed soldiers, sailors and air personnel in both world wars. Local industries, manufacturing aircraft and other equipment, have all prospered servicing military demand. Dick, Kerr Ladies footballers were munitions workers. Military heritage is a surprisingly wide-ranging topic involving men and women.

Preston's forgotten woman pious scholar

The *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* contains essays about the great and famous. However it does indulge in articles about lesser known figures; one such is Ann Baynard (1672–1697) who was born in Preston. She was tutored by her father Edward Baynard (c.1641–1717), a physician and member of the Royal College of Physicians in London. Ann was educated in sciences, literature, mathematics, philosophy, theology, classical languages and literature. By the time she was in her early twenties she was considered to be a scholar. She was a pious and diligent churchgoer, never missing daily services unless by illness. She spent much of her time in solitary meditation and other pious exercises. According to Penelope Whitworth (Project Continua, 2013), she urged all young people to study philosophy, and, especially read the Bible, with a particular appeal to women to make an effort to educate themselves. Ann died, aged 25, on 12 June 1697. She is buried in Barnes churchyard, London. Her epitaph read: 'Here lies that happy maiden, who often said, that no man is happy until he is dead; that the business of life is but playing the fool, which hath no relation to saving the soul: for all the transaction that's under the sun is doing of nothing – if that be not done, all wisdom and knowledge does lie in this one.' Now the question for Preston local historians is where did the Baynards live in Preston? Are there any of their family members still living here? You can search the *ODNB* online for free using the number on a Lancashire Libraries reader's card.

Horrockses Summer Fashion



Old Tram Bridge

The Tram Bridge from Avenham Park to Walton-le-Dale closed in late February 2019. County Councillor Keith Iddon, cabinet member for highways and transport at LCC, was reported in the *Lancashire Post* (27 February) saying 'I'm sorry we've had to close the Old Tram Bridge. However this is our only option after the recent inspection raised concerns about its safety. The original bridge was built in 1802. It has been completely rebuilt in the twentieth century. The current bridge piers, which are made of reinforced concrete, date to the 1930s, and the pre-stressed concrete deck dates to the 1960s. These elements have reached a point where they need to be replaced. Officers are now looking into the options and we will let people know more as soon as we can.'

As many of you will already know, the bridge connected the Kendal-Lancaster-Preston canal to Walton Summit and the national canal network using a horse-drawn tramway. 'Waggons' were hauled to a steam-powered pumping station near the present Belvedere in Avenham Park and then, after being attached to a revolving cable, they were lowered to the river and bridge level, unhooked, and continued along the straight embankment pulled by horses. The tramway's workshop and stables were at the Mackenzie Arms site in Bamber Bridge. The bridge seems to have been completed in 1802 although the entire system through to Johnson's Hillock wasn't opened until 1803. Originally

there were plans, designed by William Cartwright in 1801, for a rather grand (and expensive) three arch classical aqueduct across the Ribble but, of course, it was never built. The tramroad bridge, which looks rather rickety and hazardous in old photographs, was repaired from time to time. Coal waggon traffic ceased by 1865 when the bridge and embankment were taken over by Preston Corporation.



image: Robert Pateson 1864

In 1936 torrential rainfall almost caused the bridge to be swept away but the damaged piers were replaced in concrete in 1937. At the outbreak of the Second World War the bridge's decking was removed as an anti-invasion measure. (On reflection, this seems over-cautious: if the Nazi Wehrmacht had reached Penwortham they would probably

have been able to ford the Ribble easily at low tide; the Seine and Vistula rivers didn't hinder them). The decking was replaced after the war. The present bridge deck was constructed in 1966 by Matthews & Mumby. It has lasted well despite high tides, fierce river flows, and the occasional floating tree trunk battered against its piers. The south bank near the bridge is visited by Latter Day Saint (Mormon) pilgrims as the site of the first LDS baptisms in Europe in 1837. In the 1990s it became Sustrans National Cycle Network route 555 linking, after 2012, into the round-Preston Guild Wheel cycle route. The Tram Bridge is an important local cycle path junction.

A good source about the tramway is Steve Barritt's book *The Old Tram Road* (Carnegie, 2000). A Facebook group has been set up for those who wish to keep the bridge and eventually have it reopened.

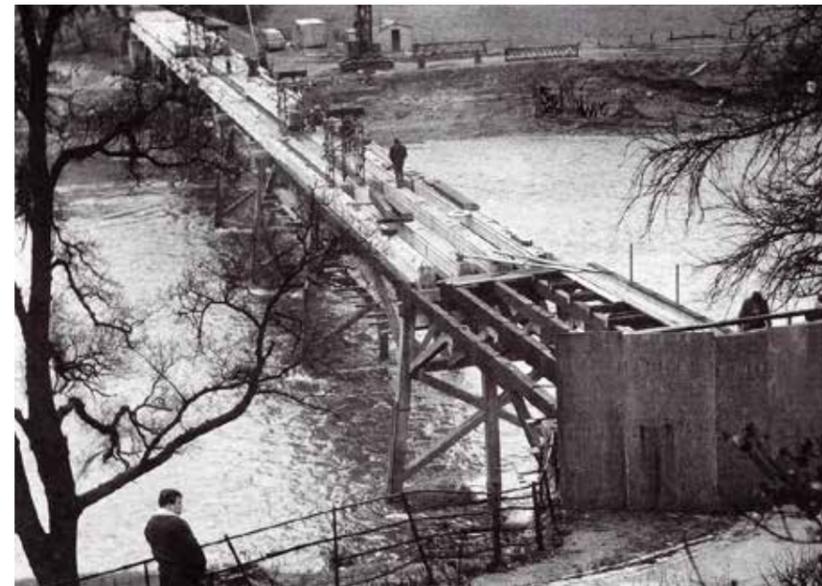


image: Preston Digital Archive