

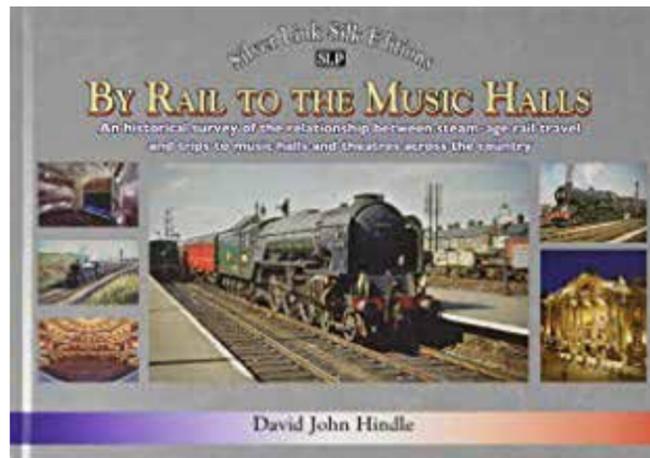
## Why Danewerk Street?

Just off Jutland Street, near Meadow Street, there is an inconspicuous road called Danewerk Street. What is the reason for this odd name? The clue may be in local nearby streets named Jutland, Holstein and Schleswig. They may date from the time of the 1864 Second Schleswig War between Denmark and Prussia with Austria in the Jutland peninsula where the duchies of Schleswig and Holstein are. The Danewerk (modern Danish Dannevirke) is a prehistoric earthwork about 30 kilometres long across the neck of Jutland separating the Danes from the Germans. In 1863, conflict broke out when Frederick VII of Denmark died without legitimate heirs. This led to a dispute about the succession of Holstein and Schleswig; the famously complex 'Schleswig-Holstein Question'. Von Bismarck, the Prussian Chancellor, intervened and war was declared on Denmark which ended in defeat for the Danes. Denmark lost Holstein, Schleswig and Lauenburg to Prussia and Austria; a matter of a great loss of national pride. It may be that those naming the streets off Meadow Street felt some sympathy with the defeated Danes. Today the Danewerk or Danewirke is a World Heritage Site with its museum in Dannewerk, Germany.

## What's on?

Lancashire Archives celebrates its 80th anniversary in 2020 with an Open Day on Sunday 1 March. 18 March sees a workshop on workhouses, led by Alan Crosby, 1.30-4pm. Details of this and other events are at [www.lancashire.gov.uk/archives](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/archives). Lancaster University's Regional Heritage Centre has a study day on Saturday, 4 April, about Dialect and regional history from the Vikings to the voices of modernity. In June on Saturday 13, the RHC studies Refugees in the North West - from the early twentieth century to the present: [www.lancaster.ac.uk/rhc](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/rhc). South Ribble Museum, Leyland, has a talk on Saturday 7 March, at 11am, by David Hunt on 800 years of Leyland church. On 14 March at 11am there's a talk by Jack Hepworth From the Courtauld's strike to the Boat People: migration, work, and local politics in late twentieth-century Lancashire. James and Sheila Melrose give an illustrated talk The rise and fall of the Central Lancashire New Town at 11am on Saturday 25 April. To celebrate International Women's Day, the Friends of Winckley Square have an interesting exhibition in the Harris about Extraordinary women of Winckley Square. It's on display in the café area

## By rail to the music halls



The Society's President David J. Hindle has a new book out: *By rail to the music halls* (Silver Link, 2020; £25).

It's a well-produced and brightly-illustrated history combining mass transport - railways - and mass entertainment - music halls and theatres. The two topics are inter-linked: the great artistes and performers, as well as lowly dance and acrobat troupes, depended on an extensive and efficient railway network. So did the many holiday makers seeking entertainment at seaside theatres. Many of the pictures are Preston-related. This bright and cheerful book has many pictures of steam trains, theatre programmes and other ephemera. The chapter about the career of Morecambe and Wise - with a touching forward by Eric Morecambe's son Gary - should appeal to popular theatre buffs and rail enthusiasts as well as reminding us all of the sheer hard work and stamina needed to 'travel the boards'. ATB

during 1-13 March. Susan Douglas is speaking about The lot of a woman in a man's world on 9 March in St Wilfrid's Parish Centre, Chapel Street (next to church) from 2.30pm to 3.45pm. There are also guided walks on Sunday 8 March, starting in Winckley Square gardens, at 10am-12noon (Edith Rigby Trail, led by Judy Beeston) and at 2pm-3.15pm (Extraordinary women of Winckley Square led by Patricia Harrison). The next Preston Historical Society talks are on 2 March (Shopping in Victorian Preston, Stephen Sartin), 6 April (Viking voices, Paul Atherton), and 11 May (The Harris pyx and Lancashire Catholicism, Dr Janet Graffius). All talks start at 7.15pm in St. George's church, off Lune Street.



Preston Historical Society

# NEWSLETTER

PROMOTING THE STUDY OF LOCAL HISTORY IN PRESTON AND LANCASHIRE

Issue 12

Spring 2020

### 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

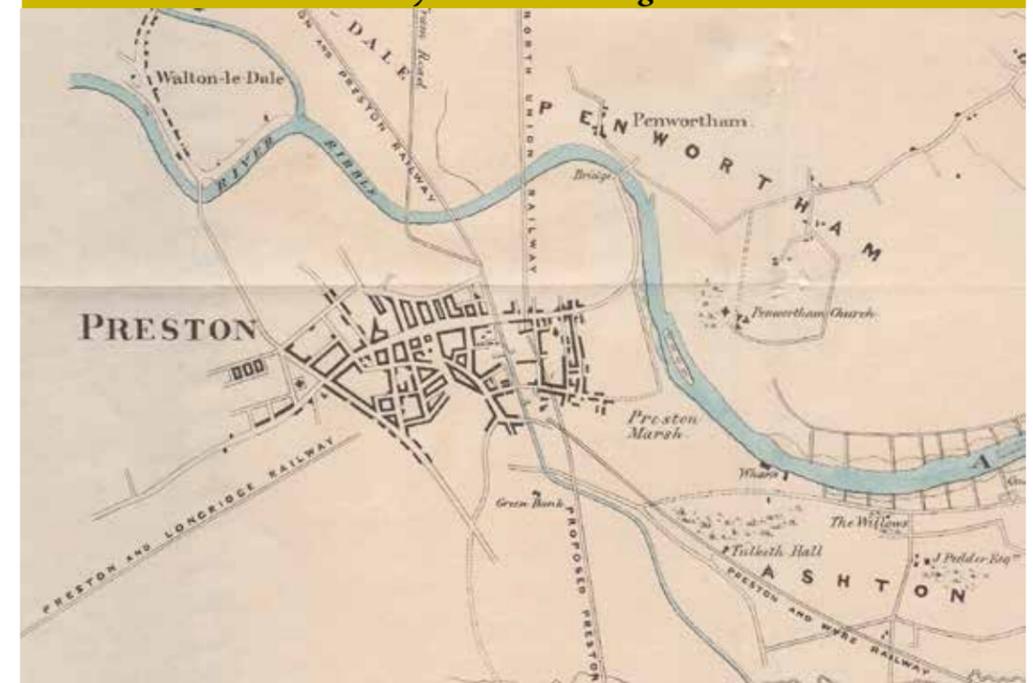
**Monday  
2 Mar 2020**

**Shopping in  
Victorian  
Preston**

**Speaker:  
Stephen Sartin**

## Ribble archive find

by David Canning



Preston Historical Society was recently given, by David Whitham, a collection of remarkable archive documents which he had discovered. They throw light on one of the early attempts to make the River Ribble more navigable to allow shipping to reach Preston. The collection contains papers which led to the formation of the Second Ribble Navigation Company in 1838.

During 1836, the first company, formed in 1803, commissioned Robert Stevenson & Son of Edinburgh to produce recommendations for "the best mode of improving the Navigation of the Ribble". He delivered his findings in a report dated 16 March, 1837. This was

a slim, hard back, 12 page document of which copies were produced only for the ten individual shareholders and for some members of the Preston Corporation who held just one of the 41 shares in the existing company. We can't be sure of the exact numbers of copies produced, but it was clearly quite a small print run. It's fortunate that David found one of these copies.

The report recommended how a main channel from Preston to the Irish Sea should be straightened and deepened through dredging. Although probably not realised in 1837, dredging would become a constant and increasingly expensive feature of Preston's status as a port over the following 140 years. The

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initial estimate for the work was £16,020 and 8 shillings. This would cover all of the necessary work from Naze Point, near Freckleton, to a quarry site one mile downstream from the quays at Preston. The Stevensons also offered to build a lighthouse but they didn't specify an exact cost for this, though they seem to have been thinking of somewhere in the region of £14,000. This isn't too much of a surprise as Robert Stevenson & Sons were most famous for building lighthouses throughout Great Britain.



One of the points of interest in the document is a fold-out map of the river. At first glance, this looks quite odd until you realise that it was produced with the south at the top of the map. If you didn't know this, you would think that Preston was on the south bank of the Ribble and the Irish Sea to the east of the city. You can see this on the illustration here.

The report was adopted and a bill prepared for submission to Parliament to create a new company with sufficient share capital to implement the plans. This was successfully passed and it received the Royal Assent on 9 May, 1838.

Today, there is little evidence of the port of Preston as it was during this period as it was largely obliterated when the docks as we now know them were built towards the end of the nineteenth century. However, for Customs purposes, the port had to have clear boundaries and these were established in 1844. To do this, stone markers called "legal quaystones" were used. All have been lost except one, the eastern

boundary marker, which can still be seen today on the pavement next to the river on Broadgate opposite the junction with Meath Road. Curiously, the year inscription below the letters "E.B" (eastern boundary) have the numbers 44 inscribed backwards.

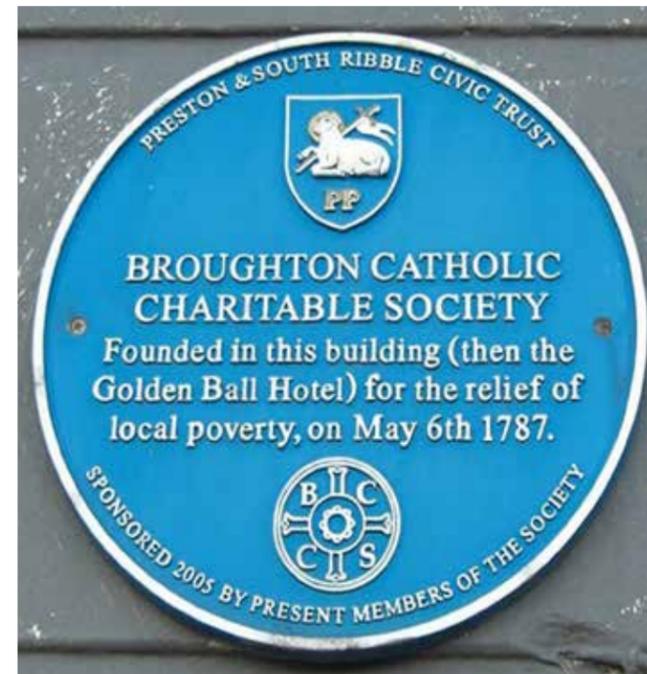


Amongst the documents given to us by David Whitham are some old newspapers from the period 1839 – 1842, mostly local, but some national. These are all copies which carried notices for annual general meetings of the Ribble Navigation Company. They give a real insight into the changes which were taking place during the period. There are advertisements for coaching companies, which would soon be in rapid decline alongside some for their rival upstart railway companies.



You can read the full report and see the entire map from David Stevenson & Son alongside some items from the newspapers on the Society's digital archive on Flickr. There is a link to the archive on the PHS website. The collection of documents will be lodged with Lancashire Archives in the near future so that they can become fully accessible to the public.

## Missing blue plaque



The former Golden Ball pub and Touch of Spice restaurant, on Woodplumpton Lane, at Broughton crossroads on the old A6, has been demolished and the site is cleared. A blue plaque, installed in 2005, commemorating the 1787 Broughton Catholic Charity Society, attached to the north wall of the demolished building, has vanished. Blue plaques aren't cheap: over two hundred pounds at least each. If anyone has any information about the whereabouts of the plaque please contact Aidan Turner-Bishop, the PHS plaques person.

## Preston Black History Group

Did you know that Preston has a Black History Group?

You can read about their events and activities on their website at [www.prestonblackhistorygroup.org.uk](http://www.prestonblackhistorygroup.org.uk)

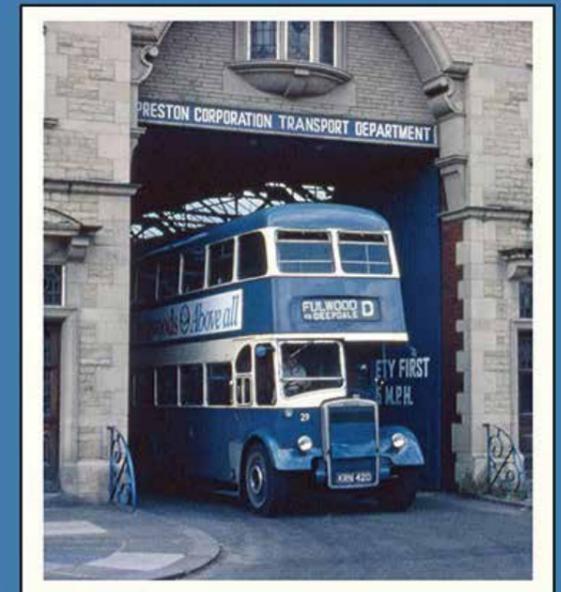
The Group meets every second Tuesday of each month at 6.30pm in the Jalgos Sports and Social Club, Rose St, Preston. Details of events are on their calendar and Facebook page.

## BOOK NEWS

Peter Byrom has recently had published Preston: the postcard collection (Amberley, 2019; £14.99). The 96 page book has picture postcard images of Preston, usually two a page, some reproduced in Amberley's usual fuzzy style. Many photographs will be familiar but some of the more recent pictures are interesting: how quickly our streets change! It would have been nice to know who sent the postcards and when.

Dr Fiona Edmonds, Director of Lancaster University's Centre for Regional History, who addressed the Society recently, has had published her impressive monograph Gaelic influence in the Northumbrian kingdom: the Golden age and the Viking Age (Boydell, 2019: £60). This 300 page scholarly book will become the authority on the period. A copy should be in every serious local historical library or archive.

## History of a Bus Garage



Mike Rhodes

Mike Rhodes will publish on 31 March Preston Deepdale - History of a bus garage (Venture, 2020: £22.50). Preston Corporation began electric tram services from the newly built Deepdale premises in the early 1904. The depot housed all the facilities for the trams including a power station, fuelled by incinerated refuse, along with workshops and car sheds. It was later converted to motor bus operation and it is in use today as the hub of the city's Rotala bus operation.