



Preston Historical Society

NEWSLETTER

PROMOTING THE STUDY OF LOCAL HISTORY IN PRESTON AND LANCASHIRE

Volume 1 • Issue 1

September 2017

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.

Our meetings usually start at 7.15 pm on the first Monday of each month during the season. The seasonal membership subscription is £12.50 and visitor admission to a single meeting is £3.00.

New Mobile Phone

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

You can now call the PHS on...

07504 262497

**Monday 4th
September 2017
7.15pm**

**THE LAST TRAIN
TO TOMORROW**

**Speaker:
Lady
Grenfell-Baines**

Your PHS newsletter now has a new look!

Your newsletter is now a four page, information-packed, monthly publication with up-to-date issues of historical importance and significance.

Previous issues of the newsletter were composed on a single sheet. The Preston Historical Society has listened to its members who have said that they would like to discover more about our heritage in Preston and all that is going on in our city; about the city's ancient and marvellous historic places and structures.

What is the latest news on the various historic buildings which are dotted around the city? How do you go about the installation of a blue plaque and what is the cost? What was life like for Prestonians of the old town, two hundred years ago? The answers to such questions as these and much more will be dealt with in future issues of the Preston Historical Society newsletter.

The society will be inviting members to contribute their own historic stories and anecdotes in a new section to be known as: 'IN YOUR OWN WORDS'.

This will be a great opportunity for those who have something of interest such as a significant historic tale of a friend or family member. Maybe there's something that you know about Preston's bygone times which may interest other members or perhaps an account of historic intrigue of an incident that once took place within Preston.

Whatever the story may be, would it not be wonderful to share such yarns and information with members? And who knows, it just might possibly help someone who is currently involved with some research.

Email your stories to the secretary:
info@prestonhistoricalsociety.org.uk

We start off the new season with an incredible journey of courage



A warm welcome to all and to start the new season we are delighted to be hosting a rare talk by Lady Grenfell-Baines who was born in Prague in 1929 and came to the UK as a child on the last train of Sir Nicholas Winton's Kindertransport in 1939.

Lady Grenfell Baines will share her journey to the UK, her life in France and her marriage.

Preston Historical Society Summer Events

A stroll around Grimsargh village



Members were treated to a jaunt around the village of Grimsargh, with David Hindle pointing out some of the interesting and historical features in this ancient village of Lancashire.

The weather during the evening's walk was very inclement indeed. However, the wet and the wind did not deter those who were attending the outing from enjoying the walk.

We learned from David about the village church of St. Michael, which celebrates its tricentenary, and of William Cross and his wife Ellen, from Red Scar mansion, were buried together in the chancel of the church. We also discovered a delightful little woodland which was founded by and dedicated to Nellie Carbis, a former headmistress of Grimsargh School in the 1930's. The small woodland used to be an area of rough pasture which was leased by Mrs Mallot of Grimsargh House as the school garden. Following the cessation of hostilities of WW2, the land was transformed into a delightful haven and educational resource by Miss Carbis and the school children.

The 'St. Mary's Men' walk around Fishwick



The 'St. Mary's Men' walk around Fishwick on Monday evening was thoroughly enjoyed by all those who attended. Charlie Hooper, who had recently given a talk for the Preston Historical Society on this very subject, lead an audience of

people around some of the oldest parts of Fishwick, giving an account of the life and times of those people from past times who were resident in the various streets and alleyways of the area.

The circular tour started on the site of the former Horrockses' cotton mill and then on to St. Mary's church, along with a visit to some of the oldest buildings on St. Mary's Street. We made our way around the streets of Fishwick and on to London Road, where Charlie discussed the former streets in that area. The walk was a pleasant enjoyable way to learn about some of Fishwick's wonderful history. Many thanks to Charlie for doing such a great job of keeping us all entertained for a good couple of hours.



A trip to Port Sunlight

Lord Leverhulme hailed as the 'Soap King'

For those who had not been to Port Sunlight before, this was to be a lovely treat. Even if you had visited the village in the past, there was still so much more to see and do.

One of the really great highlights of this picturesque village is the Lady Lever Art Gallery, as seen in the picture to the left. This fabulous building houses some of the most outstanding works of art and furniture from the houses where Lord and Lady Leverhulme resided. You could probably spend half a day in there and still not view all the exhibits on display. Anyone can take a tour of this historic village with an experienced, friendly and knowledgeable guide; explore some of the lesser known parts of the village and discover some of the fascinating stories from the past 130 years.

In the village, there is the United Reform Church, where Lord and Lady Leverhulme were laid to rest in tombs with bronze effigies on black marble sculptured by Sir William Goscombe John. There are also bronze figures of children at their base, as seen in the picture to the right.

You can find out more about Port Sunlight on the website at the following address: <http://portsunlightvillage.com/>



A World first, for the world's best!

Dick, Kerr Ladies' Football Team historian, Gail Newsham, has been tireless in her determination to have a commemorative blue plaque erected to honour the wonderful Preston football team which rose to great heights in its heyday.



Even two of the original team, Sheila Parker and June Gregson, were in attendance for the unveiling ceremony for the much celebrated football team.

This blue plaque, being the first to be erected under the auspices of the Preston Historical Society, is a world first for a ladies' football team and as Gail

puts it: "A world first, for the world's best!"

The blue plaque is installed on the south east side of the Alstom building in Strand Road, Preston.



Your chance to discover some of Preston's intriguing buildings



Step through historic doors into some of Preston's fascinating buildings

Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 September 2017

Twenty-seven places with stories to tell are opening on Saturday 9 and/or Sunday 10 September for Heritage Open Days. Explore the city centre and beyond and discover new aspects of Preston's heritage. Twelve sites are open on both Saturday and Sunday.

A few examples of the intriguing venues on offer are:

Lancashire Archives: This notable 1970s building holds millions of historic documents on 9 miles of shelving. Take a look in a strongroom at archive treasures from 900 years of Lancashire's history and find out how they are being kept safe for future generations.

Preston Cleansing Department: Discover the fascinating history of dealing with Preston's rubbish, on the site of an early 'manure depot'. Tour the former 'refuse destructor' built in the 1880s to collect, sort and burn waste. The stables for the council's horses still have their original fittings.

Winckley Square Gardens: Winckley Square Heritage Weekend is celebrating the Georgian and Regency history of the Square and recently restored Gardens. Meet some of the former residents, join a guided tour or take a look at the Winckley Square Inside Out exhibition. Games and quizzes for children.

Preston Playhouse: Join a guided tour of the theatre including backstage and technical areas and see a stage set under construction. Find out about the history of the building – formerly a Friends Meeting House. Also open Friday.

Hidden 'art nouveau' - P.C. Carpets, Everything Home: Grade 2 listed late-Victorian former friendly society with original interiors and a Baroque-style exterior. At the top is the woodpanelled manager's office and – open only for Heritage Open Day – his bathroom with beautiful 'art nouveau' tiling.

There are many more places to visit and it will be well worth reserving your weekend to attend as many of the venues that you can manage. For more information on the Heritage Open Days, go to the PHS website at the following link: <http://www.prestonhistoricalsociety.org.uk/>

**Need help with a history problem?
Let our E-team investigate for you.**

If you have any queries of an historical nature then please ask to see if our resident E-team can find an answer for you.

Email your queries to the secretary at this address:

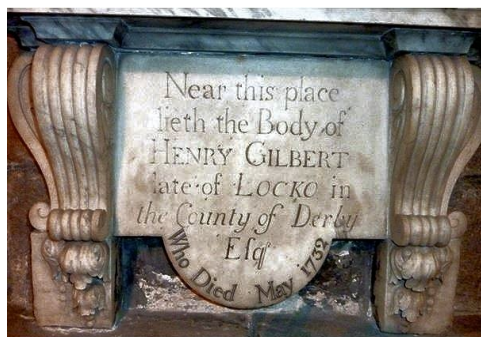
info@prestonhistoricalsociety.org.uk

In Your Own Words

Featuring your historical stories, anecdotes and information requests

One of the members of the Preston Historical Society, Trevor Kirkham, has this query for anyone who may be able to help:

Henry Gilbert of Locko was buried 3 June 1732 at St Andrew's parish church in Leyland. There is a large wall memorial to him which refers to him as 'of Locko' which perhaps suggests he was not actually a resident of Leyland.



Mrs Mary Molyneux in her diary notes that on 22 March

1717 she had one Henry Gilbert, presumably a lawyer, come to look over her brother, Edmund Mundy's, will. She referred to him as 'Coz' but what that relationship inferred is unclear. I initially thought he might be some relation of her husband, Thomas Molyneux, but now am thinking he must be a distant relative of the Mundy family.

British Parliament online perhaps shows Henry's father or grandfather was an MP for Derby. I have looked at various histories of Derbyshire and at everything I could find on Locko and Sponden, which are just minute specks on the map to the east of Derby, but cannot pin Henry down.

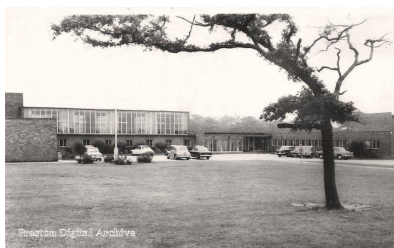
I cannot but wonder if he still had some relatively close relationship to Mary and family when he died. Besides having property in Preston Mary's family had land in Eccleston and Croston, not too far from Leyland. To find his memorial was pure chance as I was looking for something else in the church.

I hope someone can help to discover exactly who Henry was, his relationship to Mary, if any, and why his memorial should be in Leyland.

Trevor Kirkham.

For all those who attended a secondary school between 1945 and 1965

The following message is from Rheagan McAvoy, an undergraduate student who is looking for information from people of a certain age group and background:



I am a current undergraduate at the University of Oxford, originally from Blackburn. For my thesis, which is looking at the impact of secondary

education on working class family relationships in the north of England, I would like to interview a number of people. I am looking for people who identify as coming from a working class family in the north of England and who attended secondary school between 1945-1965. I am especially interested in speaking to women who attended secondary modern schools or who attended grammar schools but had siblings at secondary moderns. The interview would be no longer than one hour and would take place at the beginning of September. If you are interested please can you email me at rheagan.mcavoy@st-hildas.ox.ac.uk

I am also looking for people to fill out my online questionnaire about your experiences of high school. This is for anyone who identifies as coming from a working class family in the north of England and who attended secondary school from 1945 to 1965. If you follow this link it will take you to the questionnaire <https://oxford.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/thesis-research>

The responses to the questionnaire will be used as a source in my undergraduate thesis. Please do not identify yourself or others in the questionnaire by using your full names - just your first name or initials is fine.

Thank you so much for your time, Rheagan.

Ways in which to contact the Preston Historical Society

By email: info@prestonhistoricalsociety.org.uk

By telephone: 07504 262497

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/PrestonHistoricalSociety/

Twitter: @PrestonHistSoc