



Preston Historical Society

NEWSLETTER

PROMOTING THE STUDY OF LOCAL HISTORY IN PRESTON AND LANCASHIRE

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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 per visitor.

PHS 'phone number

Need to contact the PHS for information or to find out any last minute info? You can now call the PHS on...

07504 262497

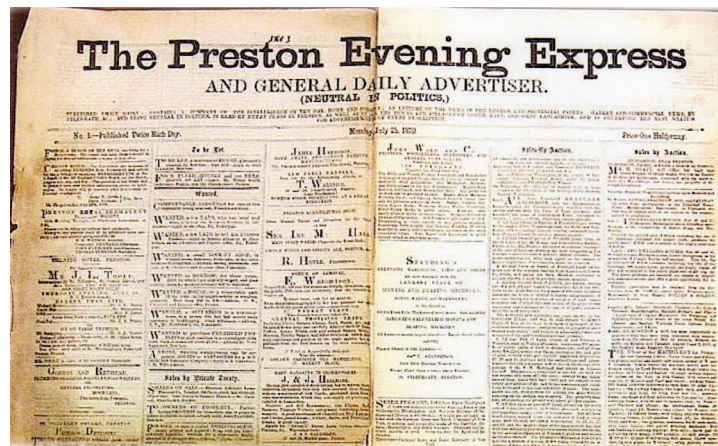
COMING SOON

**Monday 4th
December 2017**

**Victorian Preston
The paintings of
Edwin Robin
Beattie**

**Presented
by
Stephen Sartin**

Read all about it!



Andrew teaches practical journalism skills and journalism history. He began his journalistic career with a punk fanzine at school, before 20 years of writing, sub-editing and editing on newspapers and magazines, including the Preston Other Paper, Cheshire Life and the Observer.

If you are interested in Preston's nineteenth-century newspapers and the people who pioneered news in print then this will be the talk for you.

Dr Andrew Hobbs will present a talk with visuals on the newspaper moguls of the nineteenth century and the impact that they had on Preston society and its communities.

He worked with young people in Zambia for three years, producing HIV/AIDS education publications. He is a journalism historian, researching nineteenth and twentieth-century provincial journalism.

The talk will take place in The Minster, Church Street, Preston PR1 3BU Monday 6 November at 7.15pm

What will be the fate of poor old William Caxton?



Over a doorway of the former Kilner's Glass Works in Marsh Lane, there is a bust of a gentleman protruding from the wall which is an effigy of William Caxton. The property on which the sculpture is mounted is a former print works from the late nineteenth-century.

It appears likely that the building the sculpture is fixed to may well be demolished in the near future; its fate is unknown. The

PHS are in contact with Marcus Worthington property development group. We have asked them what are the current plans for the old building which they are using completing 'The Tramshed' student accommodation, nearby. We hope to hear from Marcus Worthington soon.

Part of a Preston school has become a listed structure



Lecturer Richard Brook launched a campaign to get Kennington Primary School's unusual extension listed. The classroom is made out of 35 reinforced white triangular polyester panels assembled to create a 20-sided shape. It was designed by architects Ben Stevenson and Mike Bracewell of Lancashire County Council and was the first fully structural plastic building in Britain.

Principal lecturer at Manchester School of Architecture Richard Brook said: "The classroom was part of a survey of the work of Roger Booth, Lancashire County Council's architect between 1962 and 1983.

"I had been looking at his work for a while when invited to write a piece for the Journal of the Twentieth Century Society which is soon to be published.

"Scanning every page of the Lancashire County Council architect department reports, I came across the black and white images of the classroom and was fascinated by it and couldn't understand why it wasn't

known to aficionados in the region, given that I'm well connected with heritage groups.

"I thought it must be because it had been demolished but my research revealed it was still standing and I could barely contain my excitement.

"Within a week I was photographing it and I met a man who lived across the road who said his two children had been taught in there in reception class and absolutely loved it. The children call it The Bubble."

The listing was announced by the Department of Digital, Cultural, Media and Sport on the advice of Historic England. Chief executive of Historic England Duncan Wilson said: "We are pleased to have these impressive and diverse designs join the List, as they express imaginatively the new approaches to education in the post-war period. Careful and innovative use of materials distinguish the buildings and reflect the investment at the time."

Courtesy: Blogpreston.co.uk 2017

CAN YOU HELP OUT AT MEETINGS ?

The society is looking for assistance in the kitchen following speaker's talk. This will only involve light duties of serving refreshments and/or helping to wash the pots afterwards. If you feel you can help occasionally then please see Gillian during a meeting or contact her through our email:

info@prestonhistoricalsociety.org.uk

An unsettled future for ancient Friargate Brow

The historic landmarks of Friargate, north of Ringway, are slowly diminishing and disappearing. A whole section from Great Shaw Street along the eastern side of Friargate has already been swept away and replaced with a new apartment development. This was the former site of Tommony's Yard and other old buildings. It appears that the remainder of that block, up to Walker Street will now suffer a similar fate with the land being built upon with further apartment developments.



Tommony's Yard, east side of Friargate Brow, where the new Portergate apartment development now stands.

A section of buildings on the west side of Friargate between Marsh Lane and Edward Street had been demolished a few years ago and has now been replaced with a new apartment block which is part of the 'Tramshed' student accommodation complex. From 1605 the original St. Mary's chapel used to stand on this site in the form of a thatched roof cottage and could be accessed from an underpass known as Old Chapel Yard. In later years it became a joiner's workshop and later the premises of a social club for the National Union of Railwaysmen.



West side of Friargate Brow with Old Chapel Yard. 1962

We have already lost some very important parts of ancient Friargate and it would be very sad to see even more still to disappear.

Many still lament the loss of St. Mary's Church in 1990; all that remains of the church is a small memorial which stands at the summit of the steps leading from the old Friargate entrance gates. The entrance itself and associated buildings are not protected by any

listing and just like the remainder of Friargate, are not even protected by any form of heritage conservation order. This indicates that if a developer were to purchase any part of Friargate, they could demolish and redevelop the land to whatever building they choose within the planning permission constraints.



St. Mary's entrance and associated buildings. 1986

Local historian and author, Stephen Sartin says: "When the Catholic St. Mary's was built in 1761 it was deliberately hidden away from the main public thoroughfare. It didn't succeed because it was set on fire by a mob during the notorious Preston Election of 1768. But the old historic archway to the demolished St. Mary's still survives as a visual indication of those days of religious intolerance. Interestingly, the shops at street level on either side of the arch are really the cellars of the original buildings, which have appeared with the lowering of Friargate Brow in succeeding centuries. The archway, taller architecturally than one might expect, is because it also has been progressively lowered over the centuries. On the right of the block was a long forgotten inn called the Crown & Thistle, named after the union with Scotland in 1707. The picturesque block with the old archway is a place of fundamental importance in the religious history of the city."



Currently, there is a 'Save Friargate Brow' group. It has been set up by a group of concerned people which aims to lobby Preston City Council to make Friargate Brow a conservation area to prevent further inappropriate development.

This group has a page on Facebook which can be found on the following link/address: www.facebook.com/savefriargate/

In your own words



In last month's issue of the newsletter we learned of an unusual memorial mounted on a planter in front of an office block on Lancaster Road. What we have learned is that this memorial has a tale of a very sad and regrettable ending to a life.

We received two responses, one from PHS member, Christine Stott, who informed us that Andrew Brewer was involved in setting up the Carer's Allowance benefit scheme but died in a sad ending. The other message we received was from Phyllis Steel who wrote: "I did not know Andrew Brewer but I worked with his brother Paul. Andrew worked in the offices on Lancaster Road and the memorial was donated in memory of him by his work colleagues. Andrew came

off his bicycle in Winckley St and sustained serious head injuries. After he was discharged from RPH he lived with his parents in Colenso Road, Ashton, before moving back to his own home which I think was next door to the Lovatt Arms. He died shortly after moving back home."

We thank both ladies for their very sad but informative account of this unfortunate gentleman.

Robert Taylor of Milton Keynes has written to us stating that he is attempting to locate a house in Middleforth Green. He writes: "One of my ancestors, Sarah Weaver, married Thomas Beesley at the Registry Office in Preston on June 1st 1887. Sarah is shown on the Marriage Certificate as being a Domestic Servant resident at Middleforth Green, Penwortham. Her husband, Thomas, lived at St Peter's Square in Preston."

What he seeks is anyone with information on what possible houses there might have been in and around 1887 that would warrant a domestic servant. If you have any knowledge of the area then please let us know.

Tim Lynas of Preston is searching for old pictures of 1 and 2 Cross Street. If anyone can help with this, please contact the secretary Gill Lawson to make the necessary arrangements.

**Remember: if you have a history-related story or query, then please contact Gill Lawson by email addressed to:
info@prestonhistoricalsociety.org.uk**

We will then include your submission in one of the newsletters. You can send your story or query by email or even send us a typed or handwritten letter if care to do so. We will transcribe your submission into digital format, whatever type of document you send.

Contacting the Preston Historical Society

By email: info@prestonhistoricalsociety.org.uk

By telephone: 07504 262497

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/PrestonHistoricalSociety/

Twitter: [@PrestonHistSoc](https://twitter.com/PrestonHistSoc)

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