



Preston Historical Society

# NEWSLETTER

PROMOTING THE STUDY OF LOCAL HISTORY IN PRESTON AND LANCASHIRE

Volume 1 • Issue 4

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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 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**

# Beattie's Preston based artwork explored



**Stephen Sartin will be kindly stepping in to give a presentation for the December meeting. This replaces the scheduled talk on the Lidar project by David Ratledge, who unfortunately had to cancel his forthcoming appearance due to health problems.**

Stephen will be displaying various Beattie artworks of Preston scenes and exploring the architecture within those images.

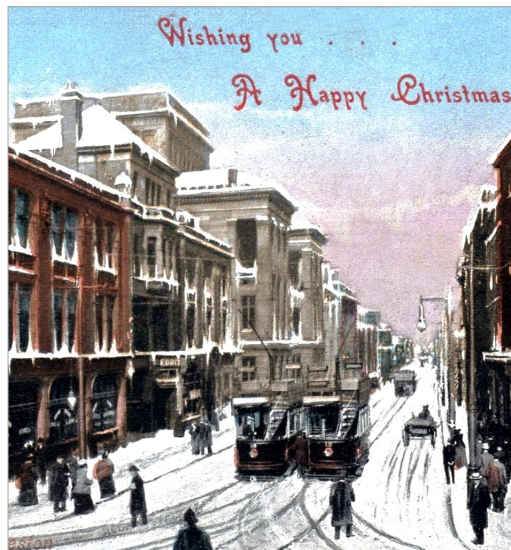
*The talk will take place in The Minster, Church Street, Preston PR1 3BU Monday 4 December at 7.15pm*

## COMING SOON

**Monday 6th  
February 2018**

**Love, Labour and  
Loss in Preston -  
Benjamin Shaw's  
Family in the 1820s  
and 1830s**

**Presented  
by  
Dr Alan Crosby**



**Wishing everyone  
a very happy Christmas  
and a prosperous New Year**

**From all at the  
Preston Historical Society**

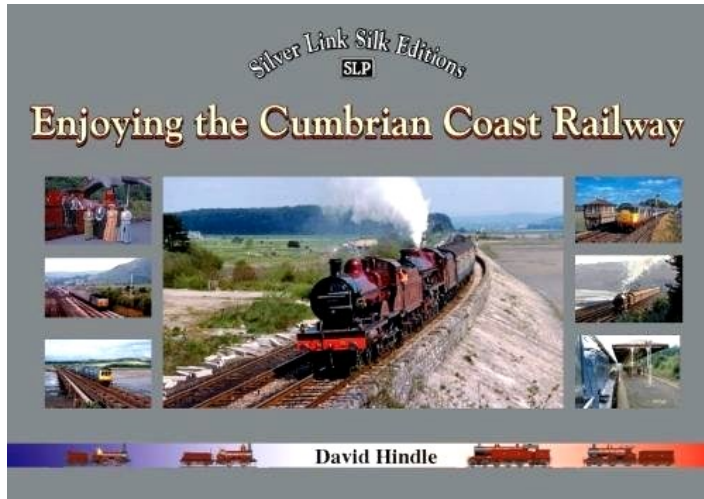


## Two new books for Christmas stocking fillers



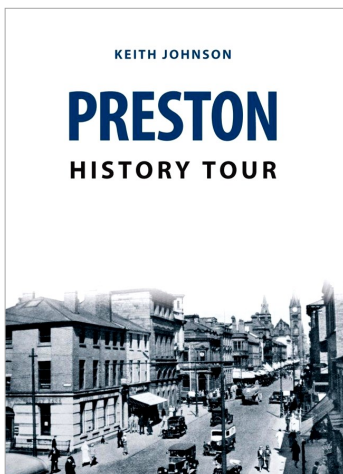
**An excellent hardback edition written by well-known author and local historian, David Hindle. This informative and at times humorous book, about the Cumbrian Coast railway, takes the reader on a wonderful journey around Wordsworth's beloved lake district; it is a book that you will find hard to put down.**

The book has sections and chapters on: a concise history of the Furness Railway: 'Hindle Wakes' to the growth of leisure and tourism; a journey along the Furness Railway from Carnforth to Whitehaven; photo gallery of steam and diesel locomotives on the Furness Railway; memories of the Furness Railway and travel with the 'ten bob ticket'; linear and circular great bird watching walks from stations along the Cumbrian coast; 'Silverdale: change here for Leighton Moss RSPB Reserve' and Gaitbarrow 'Arnside with connections to Arnside Knott'; Roose Station for Foulney and Roa islands and railway heritage; 'Green Road: alight here for a coastal walk to Millom'; 'Millom Station for Hodbarrow RSPB Reserve; Silecroft for the ascent of Black Combe; 'Ravenglass: change here for the Ravenglass and Eskdale Steam Railway'; walking and cycling from the Ratty; 'St Bees: change for St Bee's Head RSPB Reserve'; appendix 1 - Bus connections for more walks in northern Lakeland; osprey walk at Bassenthwaite; I walk the line with a single ticket Keswick to Threlkeld please'; Keswick, Borrowdale and the circuit of Buttermere.



Join David Hindle for a fascinating trip along one of the most scenic railway routes in the British Isles. This is a book for those with an appetite for discovery and those that enjoy the Lake District, its natural wildlife and scenery.

*This book will be available in bookstores and online from 12 December 2017.*



**Keith Johnson, author and local historian who writes for the Lancashire Post 'Looking Back' series, has produced a very neat pocket book which is ideal to take with you on a history learning trip around Preston.**

On the north bank of the River Ribble lies the city of Preston, the administrative centre of Lancashire. Despite being granted city status relatively recently in 2002, it has had a long and interesting past as a historic market town. Local author, Keith Johnson, guides the reader through its streets and shows how Preston's famous landmarks and hidden gems have transformed over time. With the help of a handy location map, readers are invited on this tour to discover for themselves the changing face of Preston.

*This book is available now in bookstores and online.*

If you have a history-related story or query, then please contact Gill Lawson by email addressed to: [info@prestonhistoricalsociety.org.uk](mailto: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.

# Hidden heraldry

by Aidan Turner-Bishop

Preston and district has some obscure coats of arms on display which reveal parts of our history. The old council offices in Station Road, Walton-le-Dale, still show the arms of **Walton-le-Dale Urban District Council** which was merged into South Ribble Borough in 1974.



The Walton-le-Dale arms show a pelican from the Langton family arms. The two black crosses are from the Banastre family. The purple lion on the crest is from the De Lacy family. It holds the black and white banner of the De Hoghtons. The motto *De bon cuer* (with good heart) is a Langton family motto. The arms were awarded in 1952.

Another council's arms can be found inside the porch of the former Tiggi's Italian restaurant in Guildhall Street. This building was the offices of **Preston Rural District Council** which managed a ring of rural parishes around Preston on both sides of the Ribble until 1974.



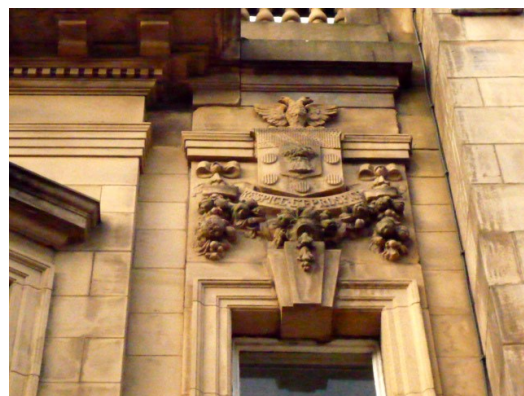
The RDC's arms neatly show the Ribble in the centre with a Roman eagle for Ribchester and a Norman castle for Penwortham. The dragon comes from the crest of the Faringtons of Worden; it is clutching a red rose of Lancashire. The punning motto *Unitate praestans* (excelling by unity) and the arms were granted in 1948.

**Fulwood Urban District Council** which merged into Preston in 1974, had interesting arms, dating from 1958, of two royal stags' heads above a gold oak tree, symbolising Fulwood's ancient hunting forest.

The oak tree is uprooted to show that much of the forest had been felled. The gold border is from the Gernet family who were the Master Foresters. The lion and rose were in the badge of the Loyal (North Lancashire) Regiment stationed at Fulwood barracks. Its motto, from Sir Anthony Browne, was *Fortiter et fideliter* (bravely and faithfully). There is a copy of the Fulwood UDC arms inside Christ Church, Victoria Road. It was presented after the Council was abolished in 1974.



On Fishergate, high on the top storey of the RBS Bank next to the Skipton Building Society, there's a fine stone carving of the shield of **Williams Deacons Bank Ltd**.



It has a double-headed eagle above a shield showing a wheatsheaf (golden on a blue background). This has a striped band across the top (red and gold) which comes from the arms of Manchester. The motto *Respice et prospice* (look to the past and to the future) was also used by councils such as Trowbridge and Ealing. Williams Deacons Bank Ltd (1836-1970) was founded in Manchester as the Manchester and Salford Bank. It was bought out by the Royal Bank of Scotland in 1930 although it continued to trade under its old name in England. The wheatsheaf may come from the arms of Salford, symbolising that city's being part of the Earldom of Chester which used the wheatsheaf as one of its emblems. Wheatsheaves are still used on many Cheshire arms.

Aidan Turner-Bishop

# Edith Rigby: the later years by Peter Gilroy Wil-



## Edith Rigby 1872-1950

(Note the year of death difference to what is indicated on the blue plaque)

Lots of people will have seen this blue plaque on the front of 28 Winckley Square and also been aware of Edith's suffragette activities whilst she resided here with her husband Dr Charles Rigby.

There are few photographs of Edith and little known of her after she left "Marigold Cottage". In 1926 her husband had died ( he was 15 years older than Edith) whilst she was visiting their proposed new home in Llanrhos, North Wales. Her adopted son Arthur (Sandy) had recently got married which left Edith free to follow the teachings of Rudolf Steiner. He was an Austrian philosopher, social reformer and follower of esotericism!

She moved into "Erdmut" St Anne's Gardens, Llanrhos at the end of 1926; her unmarried younger sister, Alice, moved into the adjoining semi, "Mount Grace". Here Edith and Alice lived out their days doing all the things they wanted and meeting lots of interesting people. One family that did visit on a regular basis was the Higginson's. Eleanor Beatrice Higginson was a fellow suffragette and, along with her daughter Edith and her son Richard, they were captured promenading along Llandudno Pier in 1936; a rare photograph.



As can be seen from the 2017 photograph below, little has changed since the 1936 photograph!



In later life Edith developed Parkinson's disease but it didn't stop her doing anything, including early morning sea bathing.

By 1950 she was becoming very frail and had a fall, which resulted in a broken thigh. This and other long standing kidney problems resulted in her death on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1950. She died in her own bed with her sister Alice in attendance.

At her own request she was cremated at Birkenhead Crematorium

and her ashes were scattered on her husband's grave in Preston Cemetery. (See above photograph)

Pete Gilroy Wilkinson

## Contacting the Preston Historical Society

By email: [info@prestonhistoricalsociety.org.uk](mailto:info@prestonhistoricalsociety.org.uk)

By telephone: 07504 262497

Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/PrestonHistoricalSociety/](http://www.facebook.com/PrestonHistoricalSociety/)

Twitter: @PrestonHistSoc

Website: [www.prestonhistoricalsociety.org.uk](http://www.prestonhistoricalsociety.org.uk)