



Preston Historical Society

NEWSLETTER

PROMOTING THE STUDY OF LOCAL HISTORY IN PRESTON AND LANCASHIRE

Issue 17

September 2021

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.

Meetings usually start at 7.15 pm on the first Monday of each month during the season.



MARGARET VIVIENNE CALVERT OBE. FEATURED IN OUR FIRST WINTER SEASON TALK.

Contact PHS

Please contact
the PHS on

07504 262497

for further information

WELCOME BACK EVERYONE!

Dear Members of Preston Historical Society,

On behalf of the committee of I sincerely hope this finds members safe and well. Needless to say we are looking forward to seeing you all again on 6 September 2021, for our inaugural winter season talk. I have seen our secretary's very interesting presentation on the history of road signs and can thoroughly recommend it.

As you will be aware it has not been possible to convene our meetings in St George's Church, Preston, until now due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. Hopefully, effective communication has been maintained with the excellent quarterly *Newsletter*, the website and Facebook, complete with a weekly absorbing quiz about the history of Preston. How many did you get right?

Finally, I would like to thank our Committee for their loyal support and continuing hard work behind the scenes. One can only hope the current situation will continue to improve and that a state of near normality will prevail. At least for the foreseeable future it's onwards and upwards for Preston Historical Society.

Every good wish.

David Hindle

President of the Preston Historical Society

Road Traffic signs through the ages



Everyday things, such as road signs, may be easily overlooked: we see but we don't read. Joe Comerford's talk will reveal the fascinating history and evolution of road signs since the days of the Romans. Preston has two

claims to fame in the national story of road signs. The city is bisected by the principal national highway, the A6, one of the dividing lines in road numbering. Roads to the east of the A6 are numbered A6***; roads to the west, as far as the Holyhead road, the A5, are numbered A5***. That's why Liverpool Road is the A59 but Longridge Road is the B6243. The Preston By-pass

motorway, opened in 1958, was the first British road to use the newly designed road signs which are so familiar today.

The designers were Jock Kinneir and his assistant Margaret Calvert who designed the widely-used Transport typeface seen on many traffic signs. She was born in the former Union of South Africa where she lived until she was 14 when she moved to London in 1950. The familiar pictogram design of the 'Children' road sign is based on a photograph of her as a young girl running. Calvert is a Lancashire family name: the Calverts owned the big mill in Walton-le-Dale and trumpeter Eddie came from Preston. Could there be a distant link with Margaret Calvert?

Don't forget

Heritage Open Days are back this year although in a limited, covid-secure, way. Preston events include a food heritage tour of Fishwick Bottoms (18 September); Winckley Square Gardens (11 and 12 September); future plans for the former Tea Bar, Lancaster Road (11 and 18 September); the story of Preston's parched peas, the Flag Market Potato Tram (many days); St Walburge's church. The tower may be open to climb for splendid views (11, 12 and 18 September); Preston Docks walk (10 September); and many other interesting places and events. Details are online at:

<https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk>

Alas, the doors of Preston Minster seem firmly closed. The Harris Museum, Art Gallery, and Library may close for years after the present exhibition, with its colourful façade banner, closes in October. Tours of the Harris's Egyptian Gallery are offered during Heritage Open Days; weeks later, the doors are locked for some time. This may be a good time to say farewell – at least temporarily – to an old friend.



The 100

Preston Bus has linked two of its routes together to create the new cross-city route 100. The 16 (Farrington Park) and the 89 (Larches via Docks) are now the 100. Why this number? It's a hundred years since Preston Corporation started its motor bus service to Lytham Road. The elderly decorative bus shelter, by the roundabout outside the former Deaf School, may be a relic of this service. Some Preston Bus vehicles are sporting a maroon-coloured centenary livery on their sides.

PRESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY PROGRAMME 2021-2022

- 6 September 2021 *Road Traffic signs through the ages*
Joe Comerford
- 4 October 2021 *Preston the Jerusalem of Teetotalism*
Dr Annemarie McAllister
- 1 November 2021 *Roman roads in Lancashire: Lidar discoveries*
David Ratledge
- 6 December 2021 *Northerners from the ice ages to the 21st century*
Brian Groom
- 7 February 2022 *Sex and Sin in 17th-century Lancashire*
Dr Alan Crosby
- 7 March 2022 *The ancient buildings of old Preston*
Stephen Sartin
- 4 April 2022 *Scandalous stories from Winckley Square*
Steve Harrison
- 9 May 2022 *The History of Freemasonry in Preston*
David Parker