



Preston Historical Society

NEWSLETTER

PROMOTING THE STUDY OF LOCAL HISTORY IN PRESTON AND LANCASHIRE

Issue 19

Spring 2022

Goosnargh hermit

J. L. Carr's *Welbourn's Dictionary of Prelates, Parsons, Vergers, Wardens, Sidesmen and Preachers*, (Quince Tree Press, 2003) includes this intriguing local entry: 'JOHN HENRY SYKES, of Preston, c.1862, an unemployed hermit, was appointed to a hole at Goosnargh (Lancashire) furnished only with a pedal organ and a small tin bath and, for three years, gave every satisfaction'. Did you know that?

Sex and Sin in Seventeenth-Century Lancashire



Dr Alan Crosby's talk is based on his research using records of sexual misconduct in Lancashire during the Stuart period.

If you want to know more come to Dr Crosby's talk on Monday 7 February 2022.

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.

THEY CAME TO PRESTON

On Saturday, 30 October 2021 the Swedish climate campaigner Greta Thunberg visited Preston railway station. She was travelling to the COP26 climate conference being held in Glasgow. Rather than fly – thus incurring environmentally unfriendly flight shame flygskam – she travelled by train to Glasgow from London. Many of her fellow campaigners and activists did likewise on a Eurostar train from Amsterdam, Rotterdam and Brussels. They walked from St Pancras to Euston before boarding a specially branded COP26 Avanti West Coast Pendolino train. The train crew changed at Preston requiring a brief stop. However, Greta travelled apart from the special COP26 train on a different train, according to *RAIL*



magazine. Her train arrived in Glasgow to an enthusiastic reception about 6pm. Checking train timetables it seems that Thunberg was in Preston station at about 3.40pm. Did you see her accusing gaze on platform 3? This is a neat example of the need to carefully check local history 'facts'. Some might have assumed that she travelled with the special COP26 train but she didn't. Presumably she returned home by the same route but this is unrecorded.

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**

1921 Census now online



The National Archives' 1921 Census is now available to check online. It contains thousands of enumerators' records and completed census forms. It is available through Findmypast, a division of DC Thomson.

Taken on 19 June 1921 after being delayed by two months due to industrial unrest, the 1921 Census saw over 38,000 enumerators dispatched to every corner of England and Wales to capture the details of more than 38 million people. This included over 8.5 million households as well as all manner of public and private institutions ranging from prisons and military bases to public schools and workhouses. Offering more detail than any previous census, the 1921 Census of England and Wales not only asked individuals about their age, birthplace, occupation and residence (including the names of other household members and the number of rooms), but also their place of work, employer details, and gave 'divorced' as an option for marital status.

Now accessible for the first time, these valuable documents provide you with millions of opportunities to uncover the lives of your ancestors, the history of your home and communities and a fascinating snapshot of life in the 1920s. Falling between the two World Wars, the records paint a disparate picture of England and Wales. From the Royal household to the average working-class citizen, everyone in the country at that time is accounted for, when the nation was still reeling from the impact of the Great War, a major housing crisis, and the Spanish flu pandemic, as well as bearing the brunt of a ravaged economy and industrial turmoil.

The 1921 Census reveals the rapid social and cultural change the country was undergoing, with the changing role of women and the impact of World War I proving

particularly apparent. Because of the vast number of men who died in the war, the Census reveals there were 1,096 women for every 1,000 men recorded, with this discrepancy being the biggest for those aged between 20 and 45. This means there were over 1.7 million more women than men in England and Wales, the largest difference ever seen in a census. Over 16,000 people recorded their marital status as the newly-added 'divorced' but this figure is likely to be much higher due to the stigma surrounding divorce at the time.

There was a 35% increase in the number of people recorded in hospitals from the 1911 Census, three-quarters of whom were men. Presumably many were still

suffering from wounds received in the war. Thanks to the additional information recorded on the status of parents and children, the Census also reveals the devastating impact the war had on families with over 730,000 fatherless children being recorded against 261,000 without a mother. As a result of the number of men killed or left permanently disabled, the 1921 Census also saw many more women stepping into employment, with an increase in the number of women working as engineers, vets, barristers, architects and solicitors.

For the first time, householders could specify the names and addresses of their employer and even the materials they worked with. This was the first census to record many of the brands which are now household names, such as Boots, Cadbury, Selfridges, Schweppes, Sainsbury's, Rolls Royce and McVities.

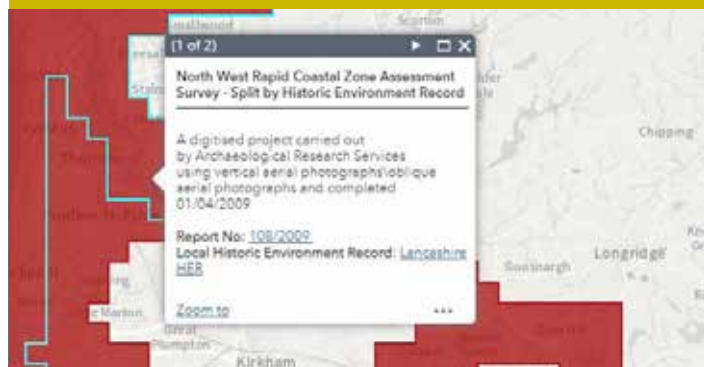
In partnership with the National Archives, the 1921 Census of England and Wales is now exclusively online at Findmypast at <https://www.findmypast.co.uk/1921-census>. Free trials are available at the Findmypast website. The National Records of Scotland will release Scottish results later in 2022. The 1921 Census is free to view via Findmypast at the Manchester Central Library, on St Peter's Square, Manchester, supported by the Manchester and Lancashire Family History Society helpdesk and the Archives+ Team, and at the National Library of Wales, in Aberystwyth. The 1931 Census for England and Wales was destroyed by fire in 1942, and no census was taken in 1941 because of the Second World War. In Dublin, then part of the independent Irish Free State, many records were burnt in a Civil War fire at the Four Courts in 1922. Some of these records are being retrieved digitally.

St Walburge's historic flags display



St Walburge's Roman Catholic church, Pedder Street, has a remarkable display of historic Great War flags along both sides of the nave. They are the flags of the combatant nations during the First World War. They were probably installed as part of commemorations of the centenary of the war in 2018. Some of them are most intriguing and unlikely ever to be seen in Preston or elsewhere. They include the Imperial German eagle war flag, the flags of Austria-Hungary, the Czar of Bulgaria, the Ottoman Empire, French Morocco (or is it Tunisia?), Egypt, and Canada's 1921 Red Ensign flag. On the northern wall you can find Greece, an unusual Bourbon-style fleur-de-lis French flag, green harp 'Eireann', 48 star USA 'Star spangled banner', and the (nowadays) rare Union Flag of the British Indian Empire: a Union Jack with the Star of India emblem in its centre. This was a flared star with the motto 'Heaven's Light our Guide'. Technically this was the flag of HM Viceroy of India; for everyday use the British Red Ensign was flown with the star in its fly. Some of the dates of the flags don't seem to coincide: the Imperial German war ensign ended in 1918 but it is displayed alongside the 1921 Canadian flag. Nonetheless it's an interesting and thoughtful display. St Walburge's is normally open to visitors and it's very much worth a look inside.

LIDAR archaeology database released



The Aerial Archaeological Mapping Explorer has been released by Historic England for public use. Using LIDAR (light, detection and ranging) more than a million 3-D aerial photographs can be searched. The database reveals images of archaeological sites from the prehistoric period to the Second World War. For the first time ever, Historic England has made the results of over 30 years of aerial photograph mapping projects freely available online. You can use it to explore heritage from ancient settlements to secret Cold War military installations, or to see the complex archaeological landscapes of Hadrian's Wall, Stonehenge and so much in between. www.historicengland.org.uk/research/results/aerial-archaeology-mapping-explorer

PRESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FINAL TALKS OF THE SEASON

7 February 2022

Sex and Sin in 17th-century Lancashire

Dr Alan Crosby

7 March 2022

Scandalous Stories from Winckley Square

Steve Harrison

4 April 2022

The Ancient Buildings of Old Preston

Stephen Sartin

9 May 2022

The History of Freemasonry in Preston

David Parker

What's on?

Preston Historical Society's meetings are moving to a new location. From **Monday 7 March** we will be meeting at Lune Street Methodist Church where we used to meet before switching to Preston Minster. Stephen Sartin's talk scheduled for that evening is now swapped with Steve Harrison's talk, *Scandalous Stories from Winckley Square*, originally scheduled for **4 April**. Steve Harrison's talk will now be on **Monday 7 March**, and Stephen Sartin's illustrated talk will be on *The Ancient Buildings of Old Preston* on **4 April**.

Lancaster University's Regional Heritage Centre has rescheduled Dr Alan Crosby's *Outsiders looking in: visitors' impressions of the North West 1600-1939* for Saturday 2 April. It is to be a hybrid event which can be joined via Teams.

The RHC is organising an excursion to Vindolanda, the Roman fort on Hadrian's Wall, on Wednesday 20 April. You may need to contact the RHC promptly to be added to the waiting list.

The RHC is off to Clitheroe for a breath of fresh air as Dr Fiona Edmonds leads an organised visit: this time a walk relating to the Battle of Clitheroe 1138. The date of this excursion is still to be confirmed, but they are aiming for May 2022.

The Lancashire Archaeological Society has a new series of talks (starting at 7.30pm) at St Margaret's Church Hall, Ingol, Preston PR2 3ZU. In some cases, they will be held on Zoom. Please check the website or Facebook pages.

The LAS programme is: 18 February 2022 – *Life and Death in the Early Mediaeval Period: the Bamburgh Research Project*. Graeme Young, Director of the Bamburgh Research Project (Zoom); Friday 18 March – *The Religious Landscapes of Hadrian's Wall*. Dr Eleri Cousins, Lecturer in Roman History at Lancaster University; Friday 22 April 2022 – *Archaeology, Antiquarians and Anchorites: A New Methodology for Studying Anchorism*. Dr Victoria Yuskaitis (Zoom); Friday 21 October 2022 – *Windy Harbour*. Fraser Brown, Senior Project Officer at Oxford Archaeology North; Friday 18 November – *Recent Excavations in the Wyre Area*. David Hampson, Wyre Archaeology Group.

The Harris is planning some events in 2022. They include: March/April 2022 – Tours of the Harris. A unique chance to see the building and architecture at a pivotal moment, with collections removed before capital work begins; May/June 2022 – Summer social at the Guild Hall, the Harris' home-from-home; August/September 2022 – Collections Handling Sessions. An opportunity to get up close with Harris objects not on display. To take place at a City centre venue, further details to be confirmed; November/December 2022 – Harris on Tour.

As part of the Harris' ongoing programme, curators will work with community groups to deliver activities and events throughout the city. More details and locations to be confirmed.

DO YOU REMEMBER?



A bright day in Spring, early 1960s. Demolition of terraced houses near the junction of North Road and Moor Lane is busy at work with scant regard for health and safety.

Mather Brothers' printing works in Moorbrook street, is round the bend on the left. Pugin's English Martyrs church still stands. Large areas of Preston, and indeed the industrial

North, were being 'slum cleared': the crunch of bricks, the smell of empty sooty houses and the burning of timbers on site: no worries about recycling then.

Two pubs, the *Mitre Tavern* and the *Unicorn Inn* have long since closed, with only the *Moorbrook* and the *Moor Park* clinging on. Not a single UCLan student in sight.