



Welcome to our Diamond Anniversary Year

From The Archives

Three volunteers are in the process of creating an archive to save and record all documents and images the Society has collected over the years. The Committee feels it is fitting to name this archive in honour of the late Aidan Turner Bishop. We intend to have an occasional article using sources from our archive and from Lancashire Archives, which relate to the Society. It seems fitting to start.....

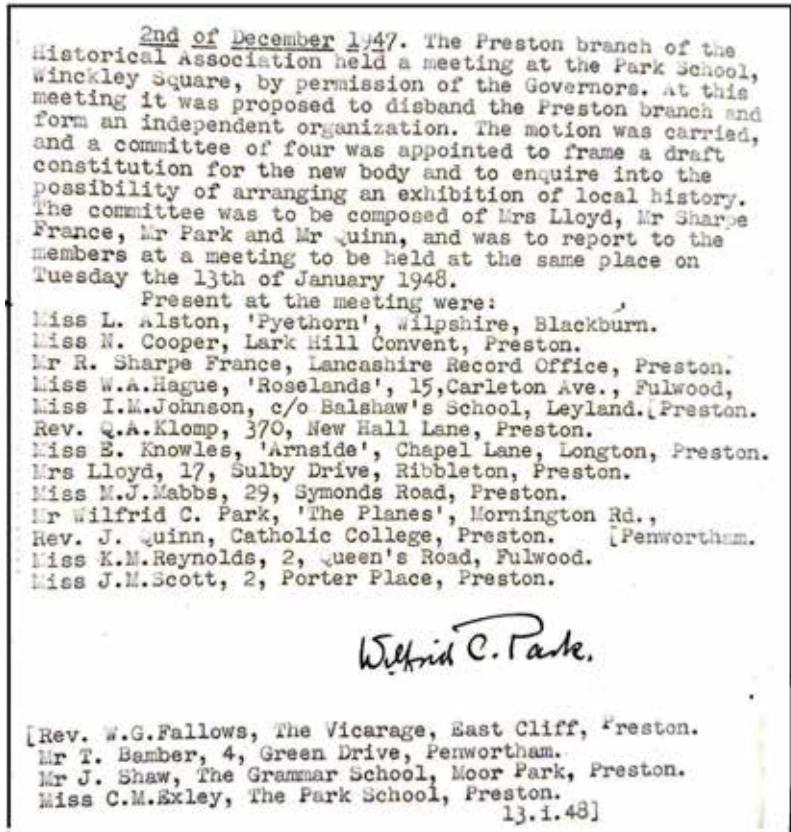
In The Beginning

On 2nd December 1947 the Preston branch of the National Historical Association was disbanded and an independent organisation was born - Preston Historical Society. A committee of

About the PHS

To celebrate our Diamond Anniversary, we are planning a programme of events in the summer. Since 1948 the aim of the Society has been to promote the study of local history in Preston and Lancashire. 75 years is quite an achievement! Let's hope it continues long enough to celebrate its sesquicentennial anniversary with our descendants. Talks are held in the Central Methodist Church, Lune St. The annual member subscription is £15.00. Visitors £5.00 per talk. There are eight talks in each season.

four was appointed to frame a draft constitution and report to members at the first meeting on 13th January 1948.



Last meeting of Preston Historical Association 2 December 1947



Thank you to our new volunteers. Already many of you are saying what a great job Peter Smith is doing adding 'On this day' to our Facebook. We have had very positive feedback. We do need more volunteers to make the PHS experience even better. If you are interested contact patricia@prestonhistoricalsociety.org or ring 07813 213 629 to chat about how you might get involved.

Contact PHS

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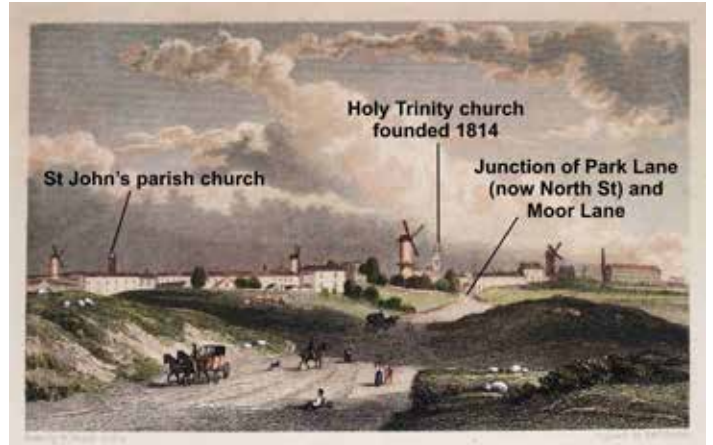


Sartin's Challenge Answered

When Stephen gave his talk in September 'Prints of Old Preston' he issued this challenge.

'Can anybody suggest where the artist W. Westall was sitting in 1833-34?' referring to his landscape *Preston from the North* (right).

This would always be a tall order. Let's face it, if Stephen was unsure, then what chance would the rest of us have?



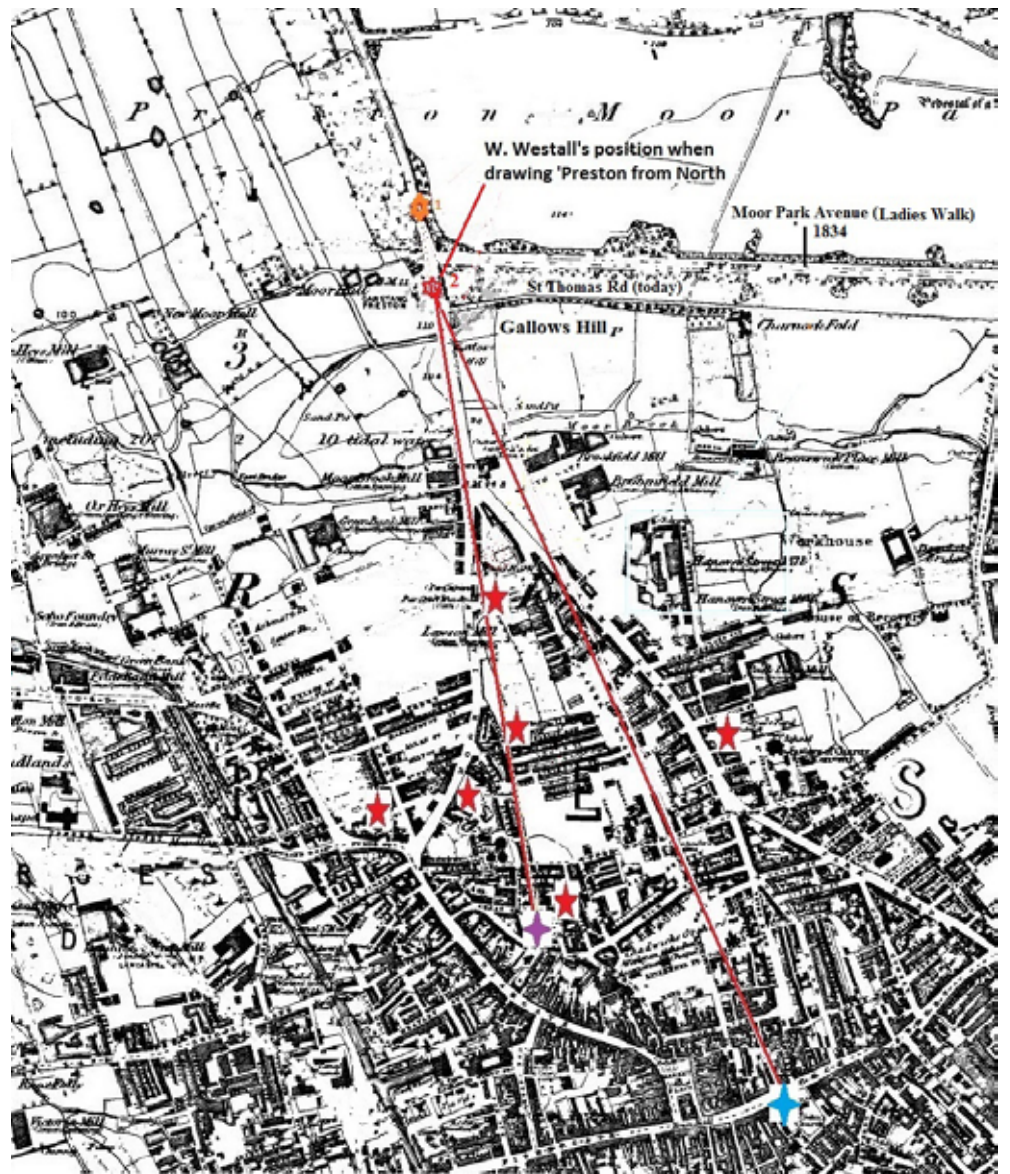
We have done our own analysis, and these are our thoughts: Stephen did give a few pointers. For instance, the only two churches seen in the view are St John's, (restored 1770, and renamed Minster Church of St John in 2003) on the left, and the now demolished Holy Trinity, (founded 1815 on Shaw Street) in the centre. The other guide is the Windmills. If those can be identified and located, then, the artist's vantage point can be calculated.

Preston's windmills can be identified thanks to Pigott's 1830 Business Directory. All we needed was a suitable map* on which to plot these windmills and churches (see right).

Initially, it was thought that the road on the left in the immediate foreground was Moor Park Avenue (see 'Artist's position attempt 1), but after walking

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*Unfortunately there is no map from 1834, so a map from c. 1843 was modified to remove churches, and other buildings in the foreground that weren't built in 1834. Preston Moor was enclosed in 1834, when Moor Park Avenue was laid out as a 'Ladies Walk' but much was still farmland by the 1860s.



Key (Based on Pygot's Business Directory of Preston 1830)

- ★ Described as "Windmill" in Pygot's or on c.1840 O.S. Map.
- ★ 2 Artist's position, attempt 2
- ★ 1 Artist's position, attempt 1
- ★ St. John's Parish church
- ★ Holy Trinity church, Gt Shaw St., founded 1815
- /// Lines of site between artist and churches.

the site we realised that, unlike in the painting where the road immediately in front of the artist was shown going downhill, the road actually goes up to the top of Gallows Hill* (Where St Thomas' Road is today), which is where the artist must have been sitting. The nearest windmill in the centre is Thomas Carter's 'Factory Mill' just south of the junction of Moor Lane with Park Lane (now North Road), and Park Lane turns left but is hidden by trees.

So, we have an answer, but, more importantly, whilst studying this painting some interesting facts have come to light. For example, given that the first steam powered cotton mill in Preston was built in 1785, there was only one factory chimney in the picture! Compare this to Charles Dickens' description of Coketown (based on Preston) in his novel *Hard Times* written in 1854:

'Coketown lay in a shrouded haze of its own, which appeared impervious to the sun's rays.'

So, in just 20 years Preston's skyline was transformed from windmills to factory chimneys belching smoke. The number of church spires also increased from three (St Pauls founded 1823, is outside the view in the painting) to eleven (nine C of E and two Roman Catholic). What we are seeing then in this painting is a semi-rural view that would soon be lost, swallowed up by factories and the terraced houses of their workers.

** There can be no doubt that 'Gallows Hill' derives its name directly from the events of 1715-16 (Battle of Preston in the Jacobite Rising). Prior to that time, it was a simple mound; after that period it became associated with hangings and beheadings, and received the name of 'Gallows Hill: Our Churches and Chapels, Atticus (A. HEWITSON)*

Obituary Aidan Turner Bishop 1948 – 2022



It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Aidan Turner Bishop, a former Committee member and stalwart of the Society.

He was born in Manchester in 1948. Graduated at York University in 1969.

Went on to Aberystwyth University and successfully completed a post graduate course in librarianship in 1970, before taking up the post of Librarian of Social Policy at Kent University. In 1971 a complete change of scene took place when the intrepid Aidan ventured out to East Africa, to become the Acquisition Librarian at the University of Dar Es Salaam in Tanzania's Capital. There he learned some everyday useful Swahili and was known as 'el tractor' by his students (a fond nickname referring to his industrious capacity for work whilst helping them with their studies).

On returning to the UK in 1973 he took up a post at Portsmouth Polytechnic as Acquisition Librarian, and two years later he became the Social Services Librarian at Preston Polytechnic (later University of Central Lancashire) c.1975, where his professional skills, wisdom and experience served students for three decades until his well-earned retirement.

Aidan will be better known, however, as a champion for social justice. He campaigned for a range of good causes including the environment and litter despoliation, the preservation of the architectural merits of Preston Bus Station and better transport. He often embarked on his own research projects and was certainly a top local historian with an immense knowledge of the Northwest, especially Preston. Aidan enjoyed a good range of interests and was a proactive member, holding office as Chair of the 20th Century Society as well as the Landmark Trust, the Campaign for Better Transport - formerly Transport 2000 - and the Woodland Trust.

In recognition of his contribution to Preston Historical Society he was created an Honorary Member in 2022. A room in the Central Methodist Church, Lune Street will house the newly created Aidan Turner-Bishop PHS Archive. Member volunteers Peter Wilkinson, Dave Canning, Lesley Scoble and Di Duckworth are in the process of cataloguing this. Aidan would have been a great advisor on this project.

Sadly, there is not enough room in this newsletter to do complete justice to the life of Aidan Charles Turner Bishop, but, perhaps the final words of Society President David Hindle's eulogy can best celebrate his life:

"In conclusion, Aidan was always good company and a perfect gentleman. Aidan's kind and magnetic personality was infectious, and he deservedly gained many friends all over the country. He will be sadly missed by everyone with whom he came into contact. Aidan died peacefully at home on the 20 December 2022, he was 74. Our condolences and support go out to Marion, members of his family and many friends.

Breaking News (in 1896)

THE LANCASHIRE DAILY POST, MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1896.

[ARRIVAL OF THE TRAIN]

Exactly at 8.45 the imperial train entered the station, and was pulled up so that the Royal Saloon was exactly opposite the the main refreshment room. ... The first to alight from the train were the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, who occupied the next saloon to the Czar and Carina....and at a signal the door was opened and out stepped Czarina, looking quite radiant. She bade a hearty good morning to the suite, and looked the picture of good health. She was dressed in a navy blue travelling costume. In a moment the Czar, attired in the undress uniform of the Scots Greys, stepped onto the platform, shook hands with the Duke of Connaught and the Duchess and bowed to the rest of of the suite. The Czar and Czarina then walked the full length of the train, and had a peek at their dogs.

The Royal party at once proceeded to the refreshment room, and breakfast was at once served....

At 9.34 precisely, the Royal train quietly left the station, the visit having been most successful, and the arrangements so perfect that all concerned are entitled to hearty cogratulations.*

Czar Nicholas II was overthrown by the Bolsheviks in 1917 having been on the throne since 1894. Nicholas and Alexandra had sailed to Leith near Edinburgh in order to visit his wife's grandmother Queen Victoria at Balmoral and was travelling from there to Portsmouth to re-embark on the Imperial yacht. Not only could the authorities in Preston feel smug about the success of the visit, but the sometimes unpopular Czar must have seen it as a PR success. Despite no members of the public being allowed in the station due to the almost paranoid security, crowds thronged every vantage point along the railway line to get a glimpse of the royal party.

The Czar's visit created issues of anticipation, protocol and disappointment.

The Preston Herald was blunt:

'Great interest has been created by the announcement that the Czar of all the Russias will breakfast within the confines of our proud town on Sunday morning; but the circumstance will give rise to no rejoicing as the dejeuner is to be absolutely private.'



CZAR'S JOURNEY TO PARIS.
—
LEAVE-TAKING AT BALMORAL
—
A STRIKING SCENE.
—
BREAKFAST AT PRESTON.
—
EXTRAORDINARY POLICE PRE-
CAUTIONS.

The Mayor, Philip Park, asked if he at least should meet the Royal party.

'The Chief Constable has reported to me that their Imperial Highnesses are stopping at Preston for three-quarter hour on Sunday morning; and I should be obliged for information as whether this visit should be recognised by me as Mayor, or if it is their Imperial Majesties' desire that their privacy should be undisturbed.'

The response from Colonel Carrington at Balmoral is brutally frank:

'Sir, A. Bigge handed your telegram yesterday. I am now informed journey is to be private. I will not fail to convey your kind offer to Emperor.'

**Printed by kind permission of Lancashire Archives. Thank you to Arthur Williams OBE of the Hutton Parish Newsletter, whose query prompted this article.*