



Preston Historical Society

# NEWSLETTER

PROMOTING THE STUDY OF LOCAL HISTORY IN PRESTON AND LANCASHIRE

Issue 28

Autumn 2024

## The Quaker Moons of Lancashire

A Story of Religious Conversion, Migration and Persecution

By Brandon Reece Taylorian

While imprisoned in the gaol at Lancaster Castle in April 1658, a currier from Garstang called John Moon claimed to experience a vision in which God gave him a shining spear with which he was to defend the Christian faith, and showed him a city in the sky where the Christ Child was enthroned beside a lion. Moon wrote down his vision and had it published soon after in the tract, 'The Revelation of Jesus Christ unto John Moone'. Just five years earlier, Moon, his father Edward and two of his brothers left the Church of England to join the newly-formed Religious Society of Friends. This decision was monumental for the Moon family of the Fylde coast as it was their first sign of religious dissent and led to several members being forced to migrate to escape persecution.

Records of the Moon family date back to the sixteenth century. They lived and worked as farmers in the hamlet of Hollowforth and later flexed their entrepreneurial ambitions by expanding their holdings in and around the village of Woodplumpton. In joining George Fox to become Quakers, the Moons were faced with fines and tithes, and harassment from the King's



George Fox marriage

authorities, seizure of property and distraint of assets, as well as imprisonment in Lancaster Castle on a number of occasions. For example, Edward Moon was imprisoned with his son John and twenty-five other Friends in 1654, while his younger sons Edward and Thomas were imprisoned in 1659. It was the impassioned dedication of the Moons to convert others to Quakerism

### About PHS

Since 1948 the aim of the Society has been to promote the study of local history in Preston and Lancashire. Talks are held in the Central Methodist Church, Lune Street. The annual member subscription is £20. Visitors pay £5 per talk. There are eight talks in each season.

that caused them to attract particularly harsh treatment from the authorities in the formative years of the movement.

Of the three Moon brothers, it was John who dedicated much of his life to developing the Quaker religion and as a result became a close friend of George Fox. Moon rose up through the ranks of Quaker leadership and became a Recorded Minister in recognition of his efforts in the late 1650s to accompany Fox on preaching tours across Dorset, Norfolk and Wales. Moon engaged in notable debates with Welsh Puritan, Vavasor Powell, Puritan, John Prosser, and Arminian Baptist, Hugh Evans. Moon became friendly enough with Fox to be one of

*Continued on page 2*

### Contact PHS

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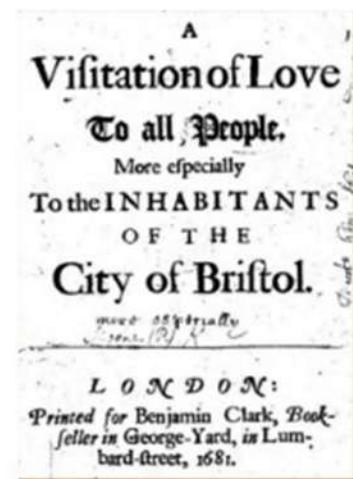
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# The Quaker Moons of Lancashire

*Continued from page 1*

the witnesses to Fox's wedding to Margaret Fell in 1669, and, in 1671, accompanied Fox and several other prominent Friends to preach in the West Indies and Barbados. To evade persecution, John's brother Thomas moved south to Bristol, where his two sons, John and Paul, set up a leatherworks business and became prominent Quakers. Paul Moon in particular is remembered for pursuing a leadership role in the movement and for following in his uncle John's footsteps by writing and publishing two tracts expressing his religion, first was 'A Visitation of Love To All People' (1681) and later 'God's Controversy' (1693). Paul not only inherited, from his uncle, a knack for making friends in high places, as indicated by his role as witness to the wedding of the founder of Pennsylvania, William Penn, and his second wife Hannah Callowhill in 1696, but also a tendency to end up in Newgate gaol, which is where he spent much of the year 1681.



**A Visitation of Love  
by Paul Moon 1681**



**God's Controversy  
by Paul Moon 1693**

*Paul Moon writings with titles*

The Quaker Moons were followed by another branch of the Moon family who became religious dissenters in the nineteenth century when, in November 1837, more than a dozen Moons were converted by Heber Kimball to what the American missionary then called the Church of Christ, but what was in 1838 renamed The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

*If you want to read how the Mormon Moons succeeded in America, go to the Members Articles section of the PHS website Members Articles | Preston Historical Society).*

If you want to learn more about the history of the Mormon church, Martin Cook is giving a talk on 14 October 2024 entitled 'The Role of Preston in the development of the world-wide Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' (see The Programme of Talks opposite)

# BOOK NEWS

## THE ONE AND ONLY INVINCIBLES: PRESTON NORTH END'S FOOTBALLING PIONEERS by Martin Atherton and Ian Rigby

This is the story of 'The Invincibles', the Preston North End team who swept all before them from 1885, only five years after adopting football as their main sport. The book is the work of two life-long North End fans, being written by PNE's official statistician, Martin Atherton, and based on the extensive records of the club's official historian, Ian Rigby. It also tells life stories of these footballing pioneers, both on and off the pitch, to show how football was a very different game back then. This fascinating book is a 'must' not only for football fans but also for anybody interested in social history.

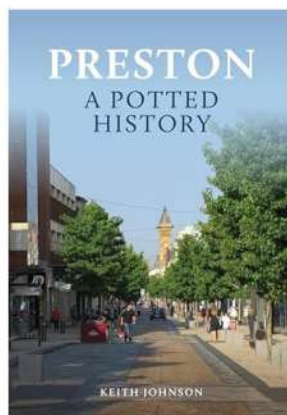


To buy this book, price £15, email Martin Atherton at: [Invinciblesbook@gmail.com](mailto:Invinciblesbook@gmail.com).

## PRESTON: A POTTED HISTORY by Keith Johnson

Preston from the Romans to Wallace & Gromit. That's what you get in this remarkable 'Potted History' of Preston. Remarkable for just how much Keith Johnson manages to pack into under 100 pages. His narrative style works well with so much material.

As ever with Keith's books, it is a lively mix of the grand sweep of history and the detail of individual lives. Those with an interest in Preston's history will already know some of what the book covers but few will fail to find something



new. Keith draws on the official records of the town [now city] and its newspaper archives and highlights how the present is built on the past and sometimes still defined by it. Many of the places described can still be found today, so we may stand where others stood before and picture ourselves at any number of points in the past.

Preston has lost many of its buildings so, it is good to see the number and range of illustrations in the book, but it may come as

a shock to learn how transitory some developments have been. Without explicitly saying so, Keith points to the failure to preserve and repurpose sound buildings instead of demolishing and starting again. This book is not just about the past, it helps us consider how the city of the future should develop.

ISBN13 9781398106123, Amberley Publishing, RRP £15.99

# PHS Summer Walks 2024 – a review

## 1. A walk around Hurst Grange Park with Pete Wilkinson – 22 May

Sadly, given the unpredictability of our British weather, the rain was so intense at the start of this event that the walk element had to be abandoned. However, Pete Wilkinson, a committee member of the Friends of Hurst Grange Park, had always intended to precede the walk with an illustrated talk in the Coach House. This concentrated not only on the history of the park and the large house built there in 1848 by William Adam Hulton, but also on the amazing work done by the Friends of Hurst Grange Park to renovate and conserve the Coach House (the only building, along with a later lodge, still standing) and the grounds. Pete also gave an account, with photographs, of the recent archaeological excavations in conjunction with Wyre Archaeology and Wigan Archaeological Society\* which located the foundations of the demolished main house.

\* see: Newsletter 250 ([wiganarchsoc.co.uk](http://wiganarchsoc.co.uk)) for details of this dig.



Hurst Grange Coach House showing reconstructed well in the foreground. With no running water, the well was the water supply for the coach house and gardens.

## 2. Red Scar memorial walk with David Hindle – 13 July

This was a reprise of one of David Hindle's popular walks. The main focus is based on Red Scar House, which was situated in what is now a beautiful wild park next to Preston Crematorium. The house, on the site of a medieval thatched cottage, was built by William Cross when he became Lord of the Manor of Grimsargh and Alston in 1803. The cottage was transformed into a mock timber and plaster Elizabethan style mansion. His son, William Assheton Cross, inherited the house in 1849. Unfortunately, it was demolished in 1943, but David painted a vivid picture of the life of the Cross family and all those who had lived in the house by reading extracts from 'A Family Manuscript'. This was written by William Assheton Cross's daughter, Katherine Ellen, who laid down her vivid memories of family life at Red Scar in a leather-bound volume. It was easy to imagine it still standing.

\*The walks PHS Preston Cemetery walk with Pete Wilkinson, and The Romans in Walton-le-Dale with David Hunt will be reported in the Winter edition of this newsletter.



David Hindle describes Red Scar House to his audience (plus dogs)

## PHS PROGRAMME OF TALKS FOR AUTUMN 2024

The new season of eight talks has an exciting programme included in the membership fee of £20. Visitors pay £5 per talk. Talks take place on the 2nd Monday of the month from September to May (excluding January)

**9 September 2024**

*Restoring Preston Basin: from coal carrier to carbon store*  
Daniel Crowther

**14 October 2024**

*The role of Preston in the development of the world-wide Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*  
Martin Cook

**11 November 2024**

*New Poor Law in Preston, with a focus on the long running dispute over the union workhouse between 1837 and 1865*  
Dr. Lewis Darwen

**9 December 2024**

*Crossing the Ribble: The Preston to Walton Summit 'Old Tram Road'*  
Nigel Hardacre

**10 February 2025**

*Religion in Tudor Lancashire 1520-1620*  
Alan Crosby

**10 March 2025**

*19th Century Lancashire work songs and broadside ballads.*  
Jennifer Reid

**14 April 2025**

*Your History on Your Doorstep: Exploring Lancashire Archives & Local History*  
Alex Miller

**12 May 2025**

*Chimney Pots and Chamber Pots: Working-class Housing in 19th Century Lancashire*  
Geoff Timmins

Talks start at 7.15 to 8.30 but the doors open from 6.30 so that members and visitors can meet friends at the Olive Grove Coffee shop, Central Methodist Church, Lune Street, Preston, PR1 2NL. Membership enquiries to [patricia@prestonhistoricalsociety.org.uk](mailto:patricia@prestonhistoricalsociety.org.uk)

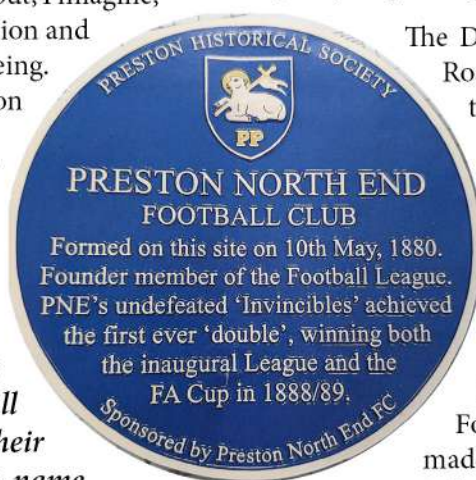
## Blue Plaque News

Preston Historical Society is at the forefront when it comes to educating the public about Preston's great historic events, buildings, and people of renown. One way to achieve this is through the installation of blue plaques, and the Society administers the scheme for commissioning blue plaques in the city. Since the last edition of our newsletter, two new blue plaques have been unveiled in Preston:

### The Founding of Preston North End

There can hardly be a Prestonian who doesn't know about Preston North End's glorious early years but, I imagine, not many will be aware of the exact location and date when PNE officially came into being. The following extract from The Preston Herald of 12 May 1880 tells us that:

*"A general meeting of the members of North End Cricket & Football Club was held at the Deepdale Hotel on Monday last (10th May), with Mr. Sudell occupying the chair. It was resolved that the club should join the Lancashire Association Football Union, and henceforth play under their rules. It was also resolved that the name of the club should be altered to Preston Athletic Society & North End Cricket & Football Club." [North End had been holding athletic meetings at the Deepdale ground since moving there in 1875]*



Pat Harrison (PHS) left, Ian Rigby 3rd from R, Michael Barrett (PNE) 2nd from Right

The Deepdale Hotel, situated at 164 Deepdale Road, on the corner of Porter Street, is now the premises of Barbers Solicitors and Co, and it was here on Friday 10 May, 2024 (exactly 144 years to the day) that a blue plaque was unveiled to commemorate this momentous (to Prestonians) event. This unveiling was a collaboration between PHS, building owner, Arif Barber, and Preston North End's Community and Education Trust.

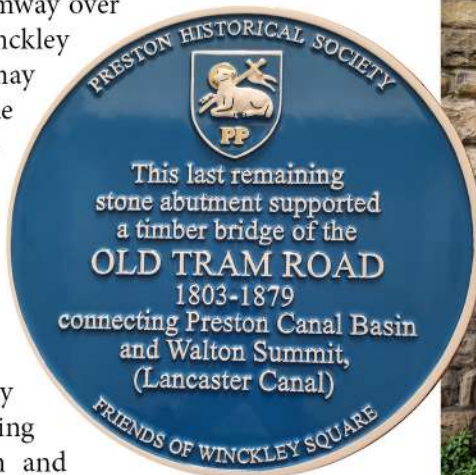
Following the unveiling, those present made their way to Deepdale to celebrate the event in the time-honoured way with speeches, and refreshments, and, also an extremely interesting talk by two of PNE's most eminent experts, PNE statistician, Martin Atherton, and PNE historian, Ian Rigby\*.

\* See the review of their book on the history of PNE.

### The Tramway Bridge in Garden Street

On Sunday 21 July Mayor, Phil Crowe, unveiled a blue plaque to commemorate the last Preston abutment of the bridge that carried the Old Tramway over Garden Street near Winckley Square. Some of you may remember the blue plaque that was there many years ago which we believe was either stolen or removed by workmen and not replaced when they were repairing the abutment.

Preston Historical Society is responsible for endorsing blue plaques in Preston and South Ribble. Funds were raised with contributions from Lancaster Canal Trust, Inland Waterways, Friends of Winckley Square, Friends of Tram



Bridge, Preston Historical Society and individual donations. All organisations were represented at the unveiling.



From left to right are: Nigel Hardacre, Steve Harrison, the Mayor, Mayress, Maggie Crowe, and Glenn Cookson.