

# LANCASHIRE

VOL. 46

FEBRUARY 2024

No. 1



**The Mourning Brooch**

**From article by Jean Renwick**

**Another two photos on rear cover**

## THE LANCASHIRE FAMILY HISTORY & HERALDRY SOCIETY

Formerly Rossendale Society for Genealogy & Heraldry (Lancashire)

Inaugurated 1973. Registered Charity Number 513437

President: John Dalton

Vice-Presidents: Rodney Hampson, Terry Walsh, Tony Foster, Margaret Purcell

Visit our Website on [www.lfhhs.org.uk](http://www.lfhhs.org.uk)

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Pensioner £12 (one year) £36 (3 years), Non-pensioner £14 (one year) £42 (3 years)

Family £15 (one year) £45 (three years)

**Overseas Membership choosing the paper journal = £20 (one year), £60 (3 years)**

**Renewals are due on the 1st January. Cheques should be crossed and made payable to Lancashire Family History & Heraldry Society and sent to the Membership Secretary.**

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### MEETING VENUES

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<b>BLACKBURN &amp; DARWEN</b>	Ewood Park Working Mens' Club, 318 Bolton Road, Blackburn BB2 4HY First Thursday of the month at 7.30 pm.
<b>BURY</b>	<b>No meetings at present, but check Members Forum for information about Zoom/chats which have been set up as requested</b>
<b>CHORLEY</b>	<b>Primrose Gardens, Fleet Street, Chorley PR7 2EE</b> <b>Second Thursday of the month at 7.30pm (see Branch News for car parking)</b>
<b>FYLDE</b>	St. Martin's Church, Fleetwood Road South, Carleton, Poulton-le-Fylde FY6 7NL <b>First Wednesday</b> of the month at 7.30 pm.
<b>HERALDRY GROUP</b>	LFHHS Resource Centre, 2 Straits, Oswaldtwistle, Accrington BB5 3LU
<b>HYNDBURN</b>	<b>Accrington Sea Cadets, Harvey Street, Oswaldtwistle, Accrington BB5 3LT</b> <b>First Wednesday of the month.</b> <b>Doors open 6.45pm ready for 7pm start.</b>
<b>IRISH ANCESTRY GROUP</b>	2 Straits, Oswaldtwistle BB5 3LU Saturday Workshops 1 pm – 4.30 pm <b>Every 2 months</b> as per Branch Programme, Website and Members Forum
<b>LANCASTER &amp; MORECAMBE</b>	Morecambe Heritage, Unit 29 Arndale Centre, Morecambe LA4 5DH <b>First and third Friday 11 am – 4 pm</b>
<b>LONDON &amp; SOUTH</b>	<b>No meetings at present, but check Branch Programmes, Website and Members Forum for information of Zoom Meetings/Speakers.</b> Five meetings a year on Saturdays at 2.00pm
<b>PENDLE &amp; BURNLEY</b>	<b>No meetings at present, but check Members Forum for information about Zoom/chats which have been set up as requested</b>
<b>PRESTON</b>	Kingsfold Methodist Church, Padway, Penwortham, Preston PR1 9EJ Last Wednesday of the month at 7.30 pm.
<b>RIBBLE VALLEY</b>	<b>No meetings at present, but Zoom meetings every 4th Thursday of the month</b>
<b>ROCHDALE</b>	St. Andrew's U.R. Church, Entwisle Road, Rochdale OL16 2HZ Last Wednesday of the month at 7.30 pm.
<b>ROSSENDALE</b>	Longholme Methodist Church (opp. Bus Stn) Bacup Road, Rawtenstall BB4 7NU First Wednesday of the month at 7.30 pm.

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*Front Cover Picture:* Picture of Mourning Brooch from  
Jean Renwick article

*Rear Cover Picture:*

Pictures with Researching a Family History Novel article

*Pull Out Centre Pages:* **SOCIETY CONFERENCE & AGM  
APPLICATION FORM**

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**When sending items or articles for inclusion in the journal it is now necessary for you to give permission to print your e-mail or contact details. Thank you.**

# **YOUR SOCIETY NEEDS HELP!**

## **We have a vacancy for a Society Treasurer**

Ian White, our Treasurer,  
has stood down

It is possible for the vacancy to be filled  
***As soon as possible***

If you are interested and require more details  
please contact

**Secretary, Jayne Dixon**

E-mail: [secretary@lfhhs.org.uk](mailto:secretary@lfhhs.org.uk)

# STANDING ORDER FOR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

To: The Manager.....

Address

.....

.....

.....Post Code .....

(Please enter above the Name & Address of your Bank or Building Society)

**Please pay to ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND PLC, 97 Fishergate,  
PRESTON, PR1 2DP  
Sort Code 16-28-33.  
for the credit of LANCS FAM HIST & HERALDRY SOC  
Account No. 12578737**

**the sum of £..... Commencing on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025 and  
thereafter**

**ANNUALLY on the 1<sup>st</sup> January,**

**quoting the reference.....**

(Please enter your name and Membership No. as reference above)

**until you receive further notice from me / us in writing and debit  
my / our account**

(Please enter your bank account details below)

**Account in name(s) of**

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**No of account**

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**This instruction supersedes any/all previous Standing Order (s)  
in favour of the beneficiary named above**

**Signature/s.....**

**Date.....**

**To ensure the standing order request is in place, please  
deposit this form with your own bank. Thank you.**

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## BRANCH PROGRAMMES

### 2024

- 6 Mar Fylde - AGM
- 7 Mar Blackburn & Darwen – AGM & Future of the Branch
- 12 Mar – Virtual - Lancashire Past and Present in Song and Verse – Mark Dowding
- 14 Mar Chorley - AGM then History of Midwifery – Linda Sawley
- 27 Mar Preston - My Great Grandfather Peter Grime 1840-1913 – Bill Grime
- 27 Mar Rochdale AGM
- 9 Apr Virtual - Autosomal DNA and One Name Studies – John Titterton
- 13 Apr Irish Advice and Research
- 24 Apr Preston - To be advised
- 24 Apr Rochdale The Story of Hollingworth Lake – Iain Bowden
- 27 Apr London & South – ZOOM – Dating Old Photos – Stephen Gill
- 29 May Preston - Hollingworth Lake Finds – Iain Howarth
- 29 May Rochdale Bletchley Park – Jan Hicks
- 8 June Irish Advice and Research
- 26 Jun Preston - To be advised
- 27 Jul London & South – ZOOM – How Many Children – Gay Evans
- 31 Jul Preston - To be advised
- 10 Aug Irish Advice and Research
- 28 Aug Preston - Members Own Research
- 21 Sep London & South – ZOOM – Turnpikes and Maps in The North West – Dr Paul Hindle
- 25 Sep Preston - To be advised
- 12 Oct Irish Zoom Meeting with speaker to be booked
- 30 Oct Preston - About My Aunt Marjorie – Dr Alan Crosby

23 Nov London & South – ZOOM – Migration throughout the  
UK – Debbie Bradley  
27 Nov Preston - Quiz Night and Jacobs Join  
25 Dec Preston - No meeting. Seasons Greetings.

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## **SOCIETY VIRTUAL BRANCH TALKS BY ZOOM**

**Contact: Marian Crossley**  
**e-mail: [mariancrossley74@gmail.com](mailto:mariancrossley74@gmail.com)**  
**or [societytalks@lfhhs.org](mailto:societytalks@lfhhs.org)**  
**for more information or check our website.**

**Hopefully you will be able to join us on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6.30pm for 7pm start sometime.**

**Please note that from March onwards there will be a new Zoom Link. Check the website or Members Forum.**

### **Tuesday 12 Mar 2024 – Mark Dowding**

Lancashire Past and Present in Song and Verse. Mark will entertain us with dialect songs about the Cotton Industry.

### **Tuesday 9 Apr 2024 – John Titterton**

Autosomal DNA and One Name Studies. The results of autosomal DNA tests can work with One Name Study data to break down brick walls.

The talks still appear to be popular with everyone and the January talk from Jackie Depelle was particularly well attended. Jackie had such a wealth of knowledge and sources which she very kindly allowed us to record and gave us handouts as well.

Very pleased to say that also in January I asked people what subjects they would like us to cover (otherwise you just get my

interests). We were asked to provide something on DNA so in April John Titterton is going to talk to us about 'Autosomal DNA and One Name Studies'. I am still booking for the rest of the year so if you have a particular subject interest or even better you know a good speaker who does Zoom let me know.

Again, my appeal for speakers has resulted in a couple of members volunteering, which is brilliant. If you have a talk even if it is very short we can perhaps put a few together and do one evening. Be brave, come forward and Mike and I will hold your hand virtually!

See you soon.

Mike and Marian on behalf of LFHHS Trustees

**REMEMBER, THERE IS A NEW ZOOM LINK FROM MARCH 2024**

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**FROM THE SOCIETY SECRETARY**

**The 51st Annual General Meeting is scheduled for Saturday 18 May 2024 at Rhyddings Church in Oswaldtwistle.**

The Honorary Officer roles available for election at the AGM 2024 are:

<b>Role</b>	<b>Currently in Post</b>
Chair	Sheila Court
Secretary	Jayne Dixon
Treasurer	Vacant
Membership Secretary	Sue Foster
Editor	Hazel Johnson



Please send your Nominations by email to secretary@lfhhs.org.uk or by post to Sue Foster at 18 Glencross Place, Blackpool FY4 5AD

If you wish to put forward any MOTIONS for consideration at the AGM, please send these by email to secretary@lfhhs.org.uk or by post to Sue Foster at 18 Glencross Place, Blackpool FY4 5AD

Please note that Nominations and Motions **MUST BE RECEIVED 28 DAYS BEFORE THE AGM.** So, please ensure they will be received by **FRIDAY 19 APRIL 2024.** Late receipts **WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

LFHHS Members who book for the AGM (closing date Friday, 10 May 2024 to determine catering numbers) can receive a copy of the Nominations and Motions in advance of the AGM by emailing the Secretary or by requesting a copy by post from the Membership Secretary, enclosing a stamped s.a.e. (9" x 4"). Contact details as above.

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### **FROM THE EDITOR**

So many things are changing at the moment, it is hard to keep up to date!

It is good to see that branches no longer meeting face to face have requested that Zoom/chats be set up so that members can keep in touch, and even better, members from afar are now able to join in. You are all invited to forward items for inclusion in Branch News, for the benefit of members not able to join in the chats.

Do members have any preference regarding how branch programmes and zooms are listed? I have grouped them together in this journal, but some members may rather have them separated. Let me know.

What a lovely variation of topics you have given me for inclusion in the journal. From the feedback I receive from members, they are all enjoying reading and learning from them. Do not forget to add a list of sources at the end of your articles. They are so helpful and give members a choice of further reading not included in Ancestry or Find My Past.

Several members are now thinking of writing up their family history, having got as far as they can with their trees, and are looking for inspiration! There is an article regarding the topic in this month's journal, plus many of you may have Zoomed into the talk Jean gave at our London and South branch last week, when she advised that she is now in the process of writing book number three.

Not long now to the Society Conference and Annual General Meeting. Being held at the same venue as last year, and with the same catering I understand. So little time to browse through the books and CDs etc for sale, and to catch up news with friends! See you there I hope.

Remember that friends and relatives are invited to join us for the Conference, so ask them!

Take care.

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## **MEMBERS' ARTICLES**

### **DIGITAL INHERITANCE: YOUR 'DIGITAL ESTATE'**

By Mike Coyle

In this time of digital media and the plethora of 'stuff' we hold and search for, do we consider what might happen to what we hold when we die? If we think, or know, that our family will

want to recover these assets, when we are no longer here to pass them on. How will they go about that?

A recent (Nov. 2018) YouGov Survey reported that:

'Digital inheritances' are on the rise as a YouGov survey shows a quarter of people plan to hand over their social media accounts to loved ones... 26 percent of people wanted the content of their accounts passed onto relatives after they died... only 7 percent of respondents wanted their social media accounts left online indefinitely after death, whereas 67 percent wanted them taken offline.'

What are 'Digital Assets'?

These are personally owned items, that we have a right to use, with 'value' to us, that others may wish to inherit, when we die. These may include images; documents and images of documents; research and records; music and voice recordings; film and video recordings; memberships and subscriptions; emails and websites; social media and contacts; etc. Their value to us may be irreplaceable, real monetary or simply intrinsically important.

This posting does not include the digital assets acquired by a company or business, which might include sensitive material, brands and logos; trade secrets; procedures, plans and policies and may include material that is irreplaceable.

Digital Assets as 'Inheritance'.

When we consider 'Inheritance' it is important to understand that not all we have is ours. Copyright may not be ours although we own the item, as with books and pictures. For instance, music downloaded from iTunes or Spotify is not ours, it is provided on licence and so cannot be counted amongst our Assets. Care is required in dealing with digital media and legal ownership.

## Passwords and access to Digital Media

Currently I have over 200 passwords I use reasonably regularly. They are looked after and controlled by a 'Password Manager' that required only one password to access, together with a two-stage verification, usually by text on my phone. If I want access I enter that password and an automatic text is sent to my phone to verify that it is me requesting access, and not someone else. I will need to decide whether to hand on my password with instructions, to enable my Executor to close accounts and delete personal data. The legal aspects also apply. If I hand on my password to another, legally they do not have the right to access my personal accounts and data, unless that access has been recorded, in law in a Will or Codicil, with names and conditions under which it would apply.

Some companies will allow users to nominate someone who has access to their accounts after they die. For example, Facebook 'memorialises' accounts after users die and allows a 'legacy contact' or nominated person limited access and control of the account.

## Plans for Digital inheritance

1. It is important to be somewhat careful, when putting your mind at rest about your own Digital Assets, that someone else may inherit. Planning is key:
2. Catalogue all the stuff you think someone else would benefit by or like to have.
3. Be ruthless in deciding who should have what, if getting the right things to the right people is important for you.
4. You may consider having a separate folder on your hard drive or memory stick with the name of who will inherit it in its title or description. In there you might keep all the archived stuff that is important but is not in regular use.
5. Identify the person (your Digital Media Executor) to whom you will give the authority to access your digital media AND make it clear to all, that that is your wish.

6. Make arrangements to formally hand over the details, in a sealed envelope if necessary.
7. Then make sure that everyone that needs to know or should know, knows!
8. Ensure that any updates to access requirements are passed on to your Digital Media Executor.

My plan is to convert those digital items into hard copy and produce a 'Photobook', into which I can add my tree, text and images. Perhaps the grandkids will want a copy!

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## **THE MARY LEADBEATER HOUSE**

By Chris Costigan

My family name is Leadbeater. I always thought that the family itself came from the corner where Bedfordshire/Hertfordshire/Buckinghamshire meet. I do realise that the name itself may be spelt numerous ways.

When the MP Jo Cox was murdered several years ago I was asked was she any relation having a similar surname. Doubtful I replied, I am sure my lot only come from down south, no knowledge of any going to Yorkshire (That didn't mean they didn't tho!)

Whilst recently in Southern Ireland 'family treeing', we saw a small sign saying "Quaker Burial Ground". Intrigued, off we went to have a look. Interesting. Not being able to do a 3 point or reverse, we continued, saying, well the road must go somewhere. Imagine our surprise when we found further on the road widened out and we were at a tiny crossroad – well 3-sided sort of one, in an even tinier village.

Two minutes (if that) we had traversed all 3 and on our return towards the Burial Ground we saw an interesting plaque on the side of a house stating it was:

THE MARY LEADBEATER HOUSE  
THE HOME OF MARY AND WILLIAM

MARY 1758 – 1826  
WILLIAM 1763 – 1827

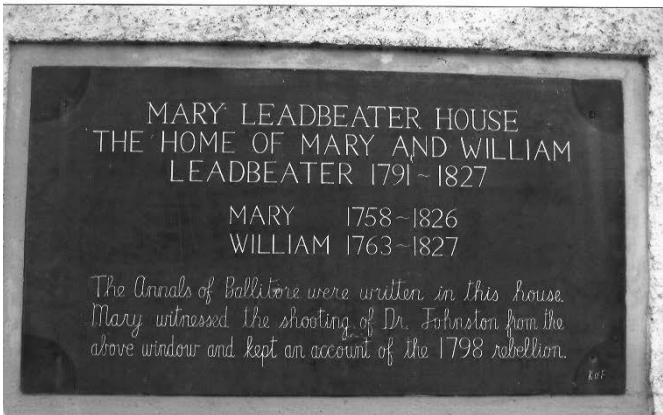
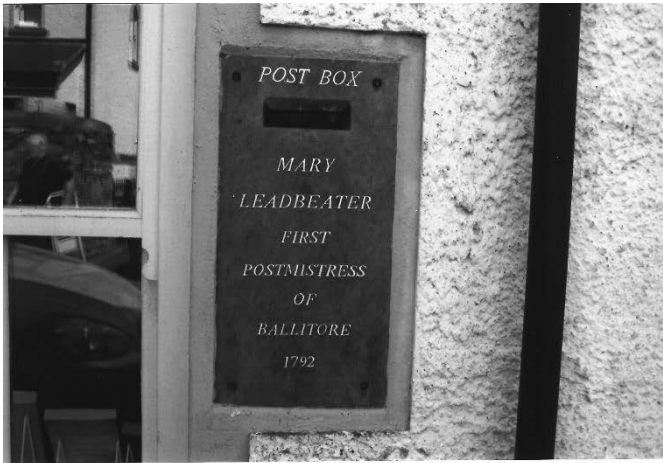
*The Annals of Ballitore were written in this house  
Mary witnessed the shooting of Dr. Johnston from the  
Above window and kept an account of the 1787 rebellion*

It would appear that William came from Yorkshire as an orphaned young man to study at Ballitore School. (This was adjacent to the Post Office where Mary lived). Having completed his education William left the village and only in 1786 did he become a Quaker himself. In time his chosen profession and religion brought him back to Ballitore to teach there. Mary and William's friendship grew after his return and they were married in 1791. Mary was a member of the Shackleton family, being the daughter of Richard Shackleton 1726 – 1792.

Mary became the first Post Mistress of Ballitore in 1792. In 1787 she witnessed the first shot/murder of Dr. Johnston of the Rebellion whilst sitting at her desk in an upstairs room. The house is now a museum and well worth a visit if around that area.

There seems to be a small amount of confusion as the Museum states that William came from Yorkshire and Wikipedia states he was born in Ireland. I wonder which is correct and whether William was in any way related to Jo's Leadbeater/Leadbetter family and/or myself! (Mind you, I think I will go with the Museum.) The village and museum were well worth a couple of hours visit.





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## **RESEARCHING A FAMILY HISTORY NOVEL**

By Jean Renwick, author of *The Mourning Brooch* Books One & Two

(See photos on front and rear covers)

The best one could say about the brooch is that it is striking. Today we look upon mourning jewellery as macabre, especially when it incorporates a lattice of hair, but my mourning brooch has taken me places that I never imagined possible. You will



recognise the compulsion of research. Add to that a fascination to discover the real people behind the bare facts provided by certificates of birth, marriage, and death, and you will understand how I was drawn to write a novel about families descended from Elizabeth Addy, commemorated by the brooch.

I was left the brooch by my godmother, Dorothy Walker, a close friend of my mother, who lived in the village of Knowsley, near Liverpool. I was born in Prescot just after the war and although my father's job took us eventually to the West Midlands, every childhood holiday was spent at my grandparents' farm on the East Lancs Road, on the outskirts of Knowsley.

I was intrigued. Who was Mrs Addy, the woman named on the rear of the brooch, and why did my godmother own it? Research revealed Elizabeth Addy, who died aged 39 near Doncaster in 1849 leaving her farmer husband to raise two young daughters, Mary-Ann and Frannie. However, as I built a family tree working down from Elizabeth, I could not make the link to Dorothy. It took time but, thanks to a canteen of silver cutlery gifted to Dorothy's parents on their wedding in 1903, I was able to trace the path of the brooch.

In Book One of *The Mourning Brooch*, between 1849 and 1876, I reveal how the two daughters grew up and married. Mary-Ann (now Marian) Addy married John-Henry Willey, member of a well-to-do Bradford family of wool merchants, and had three surviving children including a daughter, Henrietta. Her younger sister, Frannie Addy, wed Joe Mellows, a local farmer living close to Doncaster, and had one son and five daughters surviving into adulthood. *The Mourning Brooch* Book Two runs from 1878 through 35 years as they in turn grow up, marry, and have children of their own and, as my research progressed, I was gripped by how the lives of the original two sisters took such different paths.

Scandal is a gift for a novelist and in Book One there were a couple of such events to add drama to the story. The Dead Wife's Sister Act, which forbade a man to marry his sister-in-

law, created emotional tension. Later, we encountered a divorce, hitherto not readily available. Again, it was press coverage which not only revealed the story of wife-beating but also the personalities of those involved, personalities which were threaded back into the earlier part of the story to add authenticity.

For Book Two I found newspaper reports of scandal in Southport, at the turn of the nineteenth century the elegant resort for well-to-do Lancashire folk, and the setting for a newly widowed lady with her young children. With the help of Liverpool and South West Lancashire Family History Society I was able to describe much about the resort. Eventually she takes rooms in a house run by a gentlewoman and meets other paying guests. Later, we learn of the nefarious dealings of her new husband who gets into financial difficulties after selling by mail-order quack potions which would counter, amongst many other afflictions, hair loss and firm the bust. When the Liverpool bankruptcy court takes him to the cleaners it is reported widely in the local papers and his wife's position is destroyed among her upmarket Southport friends.

As in Book Two an increasing number of characters emigrated to Philadelphia, I needed to step up my research. Unable to travel to the USA, fortunately I had the help of two local American genealogy enthusiasts. The Germantown Historical Society helped me identify places where people lived, and I paid for research by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. When John-Henry and Marian Willey move to live in America, he becomes known as a thriving wool merchant in Philadelphia, the 'Bradford' of America.

One must admire the adventurous spirit of those who left these shores to find a new life in America. Book One includes a couple of intrepid emigrants and in Book Two there is a lady who held faith for many years, waiting for the call. In 1896, five years after the man she loved moved from Bradford to Philadelphia, the daughter of a Norfolk stationmaster travelled alone across the Atlantic to marry him. But how did they meet in the first

place? From all over the country, fleeces were carried back to Bradford for processing and sale and maybe this young man visited Snettisham once a year to oversee the purchase of clipped wool and its transportation by rail. And came to know the stationmaster's daughter. The subsequent five years of transatlantic letter-writing would have made for a testing courtship. Again, I don't know the detail surrounding the facts, but it presented a lovely cameo and revealed two interesting personalities.

In total contrast, I turn to Marian's sister, Frannie Mellows. Without revealing too much, life in Doncaster was much harder and her husband, a tenant farmer, and breeder of shire horses, turns from the vagaries of agriculture to work in industry, like so many across the country at that time. Doncaster was a town of train makers and The Plant was the major employer. I don't know that Joe Mellows worked there but from the census details, he probably did. Working conditions were grim and although agricultural workers came willingly to work for better money and under cover, it was a tough job, long hours and many industrial accidents requiring support from the GNR Locomotive Sick Society. Subscription a penny a week.

A marriage certificate can tell so much, but again leave you dangling. Lily, one of Frannie's daughters, cites 69 Cadogan Square in London as her abode on her marriage certificate. I have no idea why she was there nor how she met Ted Walker, listed as under-butler at 33 St James's Square, then the London residence of the Earl of Derby, but I concluded that, like Ted, she was in service. A logical conclusion as censuses showed other of her sisters in domestic service. But nothing else linked her to Cadogan Square. What is more, she did not appear in the UK 1901 census, neither did the owner of 69 Cadogan Square: a Mr Wyndham Cook, second son of one of the three wealthiest men in Britain, Sir Francis Cook, a textile merchant.

Sir Francis held a superb art collection but had also bought Monserrate, a run-down palace near Sintra in Portugal, and spent huge sums renovating it. Why is Monserrate important?

A couple of months before the 1901 census, Sir Francis Cook died. There would have been many affairs to settle including Monserrate and, as Wyndham Cook and his wife also did not appear on the census, perhaps they were out in Portugal doing just that. And perhaps Mrs Cook's lady's maid accompanied them? Perhaps that was my Lily? Yes, all speculation, but a plausible theory and one that I have exploited to the full, adding foreign travel to the story.

I was intrigued by a passenger list which showed one of the main characters travelling to Philadelphia with his wife from Southampton First Class on the SS Philadelphia in December 1908. They had travelled from Constantinople in Turkey. I knew that this was the centre of the mohair market, with goats of Asia Minor and beyond providing the staple for this highly prized wool. With Google I reached The JB Priestley Library of the University of Bradford and discovered an astounding diary. In 1889 Bradford wool merchant Joseph Riley had travelled to Constantinople, suspecting fraud by his agent out there. He wrote a diary noting his journey by train all the way on the Orient Express! Each city he passes through is described, the landscape, the people in the fields. What could I do other than marry together the passenger list and that diary and have *my* wool merchant travel from Philadelphia to England and then by Orient Express to Turkey? Although my wool merchant travelled 20 years later than Mr Riley, I unashamedly borrowed from the diary to describe the journey. I love this sequence in the book as it is so unexpected – but based on fact, albeit bent a bit for the sake of the story.

Death certificates can reveal much and one of the characters, who worked in the brewing industry, was living in Chorlton-cum-Hardy when he died aged thirty-three of chronic nephritis, chronic hepatitis, cerebral apoplexy, cardiac failure. With the help of a GP friend, I was able to deduce his lifestyle and the impact on his marriage and so develop a storyline.

When you have no evidence of the day-to-day lives of people, you turn to national and local events and rely heavily on press

reports. The court reporters revealed the shameful events which led to the bankruptcy of the snake-oil salesman, but the press also covers events around which your characters live their lives. In Book Two we have the death of Queen Victoria and later the celebration of the Coronation of Edward VII; the horror of the workers killed when the Newlands Mill chimney fell in Bradford just after Christmas 1882. All these flow in and out of the lives of my characters.

For my godmother's father as under-butler, there were many occasions for him to appear in the novel as the Earl and Countess of Derby had busy lives and the press reported the minutiae of their state, social and family life. So, I could relate how close the Derby's were to the Royal Family and how they hosted them on many occasions at Knowsley (racing at Aintree) and at their London home. I was keen to understand what life was like for servants working up at Knowsley Hall and so I joined a public tour of this impressive stately home and gained permission to be shown 'below-stairs' where Ted Walker would have worked. The long corridor downstairs, stretching the length of the house, would have been as busy as Piccadilly at its Edwardian height and was known as Bedlam Row. I saw the pressing rooms, now fitted with commercial size ironing machines and the servants' hall, now used for shooting lunches. The Derby's and their household, once deemed larger than that of the King, dominated life in Knowsley and nearly everyone in the village was linked somehow to the hall. That link will grow further as the story unfolds in Book Three.

There are nearly 200 characters in Book Two of *The Mourning Brooch* of which only six are fictional. That authenticity is something which I prize greatly and, throughout, I have sought to treat these people with respect unless, as in press coverage, I discover them to be shady or downright unpleasant.

*The Mourning Brooch* Book Three will be the final part of the saga, covering 1913 to 1943, two world wars. There is a lot of research and I am fascinated by life on the home front in Britain but equally for the ex-pats in the USA. The between-the-war

years promise opportunities as one character is linked to a Russian ballet troupe. Also, in 1920 my godmother is born and grows up to enjoy Knowsley tennis club with her special friend, my mother. How both face World War Two will be based on memories – my memories of what my parents told me of life in a village close to Liverpool and its vulnerable docks. My grandfather, tenant farmer on the Derby's' estate, would lay down fresh straw in the shippens so that the crowds of people escaping the Liverpool blitz could sleep overnight in safety.

The story will end with an epilogue, wrapping up all the loose ends factually, and this way, the reader will know the outcome but those in living memory will be respected with the simple truth of what really happened to them. My books are self-published in paperback and for Kindle via Amazon as, unlike J.K. Rowling, I don't have the time at 77 to wait to be refused by over 60 publishers. I just want the story out there to be read and enjoyed.

Jean Renwick [www.jeanrenwickauthor.co.uk](http://www.jeanrenwickauthor.co.uk) - where you will find many photographs.

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## **HOW MY PARENTS MET : CHANCE AT WORK**

By Rex Watson

Many if not most couples meet at random, perhaps. The exceptions are those where a third party makes an introduction, either innocently (for example for a game of golf) or with match-making in mind. This latter includes 'arranged marriages', mainly in more distant times.

My own parents certainly come into the 'random' category as will be seen. My father Frank Watson, born in 1906, lived as a young unattached man with his family (parents, brother, sister) on March St in Stoneyholme in Burnley, working for Martins Bank. He and his brother Harold were keen tennis players, using the courts in the park in Stoneyholme. One windy

evening (Thursday 4 July 1930) after playing they were walking home, with a friend, and at the bottom of Brougham St the threesome was passing St James' Hall. The next thing my father knew was waking up in the Victoria hospital, about 24 hours later, with a very sore head. An iron cross (weighing about 15 lb) had been dislodged by the wind from the roof of the Hall, falling on him. He was in hospital recovering for about four weeks. He did see a brain specialist in Manchester, who was able to reassure him that there were unlikely to be long term effects.

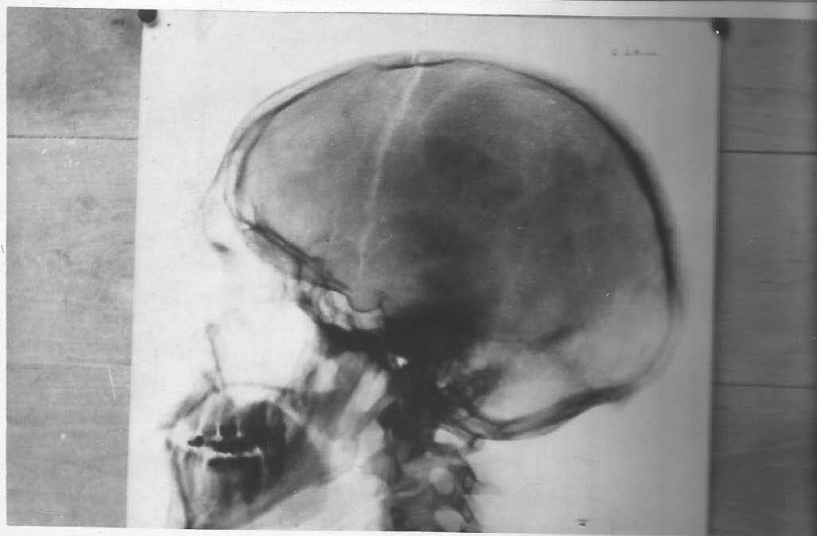
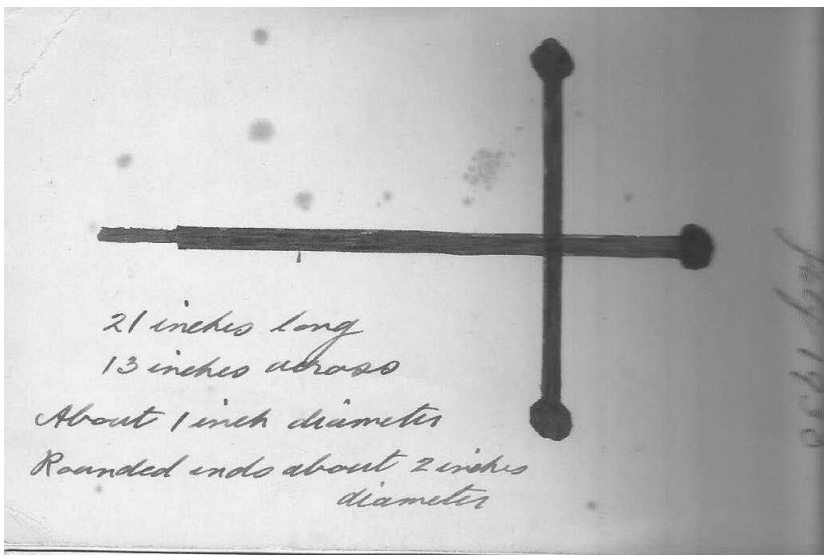
I knew about this from an early age, also when my father retired he wrote the story of his early life, as an adjunct to war diaries.

Luckily the blow was a somewhat glancing one, and my father had literally a thick skull, but it was fractured. In late August he, his parents and sister Evelyn, went to a boarding house in Cleveleys, for a week.

Staying in the house with her parents and sister was my mother to be Phyllis Ellen Yates, from Chadderton near Oldham, born 1907, and the rest is history. My father's rather laconic comment in his diary is 'I've no special recollections of that week other than that was when I met my wife.' Courting, involving Ribble bus trips between Burnley and Chadderton, 20-odd miles each way, ensued once my father was home. The couple married at the Baptist chapel in Mills Hill, Chadderton on 28 March 1932.

My father was in some senses lucky, in that indeed he suffered virtually no long-lasting effects. As his hair thinned though, there was a dent in his head to be seen!

Now if that cross had fallen on a slightly different trajectory, or a couple of seconds earlier or later, I would not be writing this today. In fact, I wouldn't be writing anything! Such are the vagaries of chance happenings.



COPY OF X RAY TAKEN LATER



## DEATHS NOTIFIED

**Lily Keirby** – Ribble Vallley Branch  
**Dorothy May Duckworth** – Ribble Valley & Blackburn

*Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of the  
above.*

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### **Lily Keirby**

From Keith Robinson  
Former Treasurer of Ribble Valley Branch

In November 2023 Lily Keirby passed on. She became a member of the Society in the 1990's with Membership Number 7501 and regularly attended the meetings of the Ribble Valley Branch. Her enthusiasm and dedication were there for all to see, she was elected to the Branch Committee and later becoming Branch Secretary as well as Branch Representative on the Executive Committee.

She was a pillar of strength, typing and checking for the Lancashire BMD Project, both at Clitheroe Register Office and later at Certificate Services Office at Preston Docks. It was whilst at the Preston Office, one day, that she spotted someone she knew entering the building. It was none other than one of the Northern Representatives of a London based Heir Hunters firm. After he had collected his certificates she politely asked him if he would give us a short talk there and then, about his work. How could he refuse and for the next half hour or so, he spoke about the highs and lows of his work.

Even after Ribble Valley branch closed in December 2016, Lily continued to be active in the Society, with regular visits to 'Straits' to assist visitors in their research.

A lovely lady. May she rest in peace.

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### **Dorothy Duckworth**

From Mike Coyle

Dorothy was an accomplished photographer and researcher. She worked tirelessly on the MIs of Mellor Methodist Church, and Churches at Osbaldeston and Old Langho, in addition to working on the LancashireBMD project.

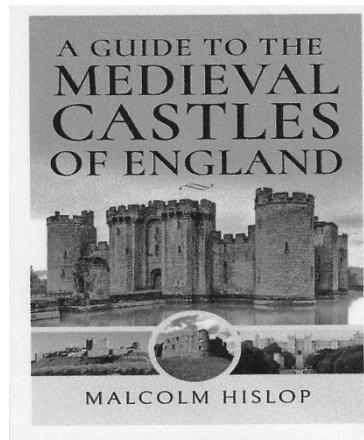
A valued member of Ribble Valley Branch.

## **BOOK REVIEWS ETC**

### **A GUIDE TO THE MEDIEVAL CASTLES OF ENGLAND**

By Malcolm Hislop

Dominating the scenery across the medieval kingdom of England, castles like cathedrals are defining landmarks in many cases even to this day, representing an important aspect of our history and heritage they demonstrate the range of defensive features and domestic buildings from Norman times to the later medieval period. The variety of types, sizes and designs bring out the salient points of building history and architectural character. The defensive and domestic purposes of these remarkable buildings



# Lancashire Family History & Heraldry Society

Registered Charity No. 513437

President: John Dalton

## LFHHS ONE DAY CONFERENCE

### AND

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

\*\*\*\*\*

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2024

9.45 am to 4.30pm

At

Rhyddings Methodist Church Hall  
Watson Street off Rhyddings Street  
Off Union Road (main road by War Memorial)  
Oswaldtwistle BB5 3EP

and by ZOOM

All members and their guests are invited to this Annual Event

Do come, meet old friends and make new ones

You will be most welcome

Founded 1973  
as the Rossendale Society for Genealogy and Heraldry  
A Member of the Federation of Family History Societies.

# Programme

- 09:15 – 09:50 Registration and Tea / Coffee
- 09:50 – 10:00 Welcome and Introduction
- 10:00 – 11:00 Speaker: (Still to be confirmed)
- 11:00 –11:20 Intermission, Tea / Coffee
- 11:20 –12:20 Speaker: Tricia Rothwell - This talk is based on the book 'A Lancashire Fusilier's First World War' by Norman Hall edited by his granddaughter Tricia Rothwell. The talk deals with his war service, his diary and the conversion of the diary into a book.
  
- 12.20 – 1:45 Buffet Lunch
- 1:45 – 2:45 Speaker: (Still to be confirmed)
- 2.45 – 3.10 Intermission, Tea /Coffee and Raffle
- 3:10 – 4:25 LFHHS Annual General Meeting and Open Forum
- 4:30 Farewell and departures

We extend a warm welcome to LFHHS members and non-members. Please signify on the Application Form

\*\*\*\*\*

There will be opportunities to chat and exchange information throughout the day. A selection of books, CDs and scans of fiche will be available for purchase or order. Do not forget – you may need your Debit or Credit Card

\*\*\*\*\*

***Motions and Nominations for Officers for the AGM must be forwarded, in writing, to the Secretary, to arrive at least 28 days before the 18 May 2024 (that is by Friday 19 April 2024)***

Any member making or requiring a copy of Nominations and Motions should email the [secretary@lfhhs.org](mailto:secretary@lfhhs.org) or send a stamped s.a.e. (9" x 4") to Sue Foster at 18 Glencross Place, Blackpool FY4 5AD

\*\*\*\*\*

**LANCASHIRE FAMILY HISTORY & HERALDRY SOCIETY**

**APPLICATION FORM  
Annual Conference and AGM**

**To be received by Friday 19 April 2024 please**

Name: .....

Address: .....

..... Post Code: .....

**e-mail address of Main Applicant** .....

1. Please reserve..... place/s at the Conference & AGM with buffet lunch  
at £18.00 per person £ .....

2. Please reserve ..... place/s at the Conference & AGM without lunch  
at £12.00 per person £ .....

3. I / we would like to be present at the AGM ONLY, please email /post the papers.

\*\*\*\*\*

I enclose a cheque for £ ..... **Payable to LFHHS or book and pay  
online through the Society's website shop at [www.lfhhs.org](http://www.lfhhs.org) or via  
Bank Transfer to LANCS FAM HIST & HERALDRY SOC Account No.  
12578737 Sort Code 16-28-33**

\*\*\*\*\*

Name/s, IN FULL, and MEMBERSHIP NUMBER or 'Guest' of those attending so  
that badges can be prepared.

Please UNDERLINE PREFERRED NAME for the badge.

1 .....

2 .....

3 .....

4 .....

5 .....

Please send completed Application Form, to be received **by Friday 19  
April 2024** to: Stephen Benson, 32 Slater Lane, Leyland, Lancashire PR25 1TN,  
with a note of any dietary requirements.

# Lancashire Family History & Heraldry Society

## LFHHS ONE DAY CONFERENCE

&

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 18<sup>h</sup> May 2024

\*\*\*\*\*

Please complete and send

TODAY

\*\*\*\*\*

We wish to attract as many members as possible to the Conference & AGM. The cost is **£18.00 per person, including a Buffet Lunch**. Please come and join us in what is usually a very happy and rewarding event.

Booking can be made through the web-site shop:  
[www.lfhhs.org](http://www.lfhhs.org)



The venue and facilities are wheelchair accessible

Conference Organiser: Stephen Benson  
Tel: 01772 422808

as in the way in which their layout and role developed over hundreds of years, from the predominantly earth and timber fortresses of the Normans to the complex stone castles of the later Middle Ages, many of which can be visited today.

Malcolm Hislop's eye for structural detail has produced a well-illustrated guide/gazetteer encompassing his own expertise as a buildings architect and author with a special interest in medieval buildings, his doctoral thesis was based around the career of the Durham master mason, John Lewin, one of the most prolific castle builders of the fourteenth century. Coming as it does with an important reflection on Carlisle with its magnificently awesome castle and cathedral, the extensive masonry works carried out over many years of my own youth by the Masons of a local contractor to the castle and cathedral must be of attraction and interest to so many of the population of Carlisle.

Published by Pen & Sword Books it is priced sensibly for a 304-page hardback book at £28.00 in the Pen & Sword History series – ISBN No. 978-139901106

Reviewed by Ian White  
Ian.white4@live.co.uk

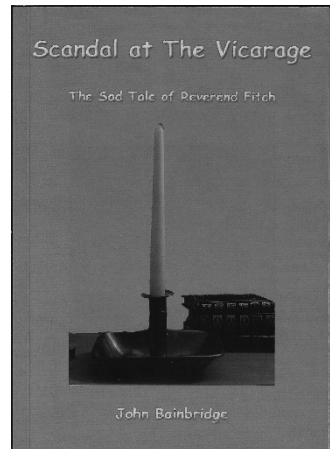
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## **SCANDAL AT THE VICARAGE**

By John Bainbridge – Member No. 9518

John Bainbridge made it clear at the beginning of the book that for those members or readers who are unfamiliar with the Burgh-by-Sands locality it is important to understand the local dialect which is known as Bruff-by-Sands and the nearby village of Beaumont is known as Beemont. The Rev. Edward Henry Fitch, vicar of St Michaels Church, Brough, in 1889 was accused of misconduct with one of his servants by another of his servants and this excellent self-published little book tells the tale of the enquiry into his alleged transgressions.

Without giving too much of the story away, the Rev Fitch had been feeling unwell and had retired to bed to discover there was no candle in his room. Hearing footsteps on the stairs he called on one of his servants to find him a candle. The servant girl returned downstairs and then back to his bedroom to place a candle on the mantelpiece and light it for him. Meanwhile the other young servant who disliked the other, crept up the stairs to spy on the two in the bedroom and immediately flew back downstairs in a mood of shock to tell the vicars wife that the Vicar and the servant girl were on the bed together.



The Vicars wife Mary had been undergoing some form of mental stress and told the girl to "go and tell the Postman." Thereby followed a series of enquiries ultimately resulting in the Vicar appearing before a Church Commission and being proven not guilty. However, the story envelopes the Vicars family misfortunes. Not three weeks after the incident, the Vicars wife died!

The case against the Rev. Fitch was held and he was subsequently acquitted by a Church Commission, but the story unfolded excellently by Mr Bainbridge is totally absorbing in terms of so much incidental Cumbrian history and I would suggest that this is a wonderful account of mischief supported by so many fascinating supplementary facts of Mr Peter James Dixon, for one, member of Carlisle's most famous family that bestowed as its legacy the city's most iconic building Dixon's Chimney and the rise and fall of Carlisle cotton.

Published by P3 Publications, 13 Beaver Road, Carlisle and priced at £10.00 - ISBN No. 978-1-7396046-3-9 – a thoroughly entertaining book, thank you John Bainbridge.



Reviewed by Ian White  
ian.white4@live.co.uk

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**Have you had a book published and would like a review in the Society journal? Simply forward a copy or give the Editor a write up about your book.**

**If you have reviewed a book, you have read and think it would interest some of our members, you may simply forward the review to Hazel Johnson, editor@lfhhs.org.uk or hazel.johnson2@btopenworld.com as usual. Thank you.**

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## **NOTES AND NEWS**

### **THE PRINTED MAPS OF LANCASHIRE**

By Ian Saunders  
Published by Lancaster University

From Mike Coyle

Following on from an excellent talk by Bill Shannon on Historical Maps and Cartography, some of the early maps can be seen at: <https://lancaster.libguides.com/maps/Lancashirehistoricmaps>

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Ian White and Jennifer Benson run regular help sessions at **Tarleton Library**. Everyone welcome.

**FIRST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH, 10.00 am to 12.00 pm**

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**PRESTON BRANCH HELP DESK AT  
LANCASHIRE ARCHIVES**

Usually Jennifer Benson, Joan Clayton, Peter Bamford and sometimes Stewart McLaughlin run regular help sessions at Lancashire Archives, Bow Lane, Preston. Everyone welcome.

**THIRD FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH, 09.30 am 12.00 pm**

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**HYNDBURN BRANCH HELP DESK AT  
OSWALDTWISTLE LIBRARY**

Muriel Smith and sometimes Eileen Bullock run regular help sessions at Oswaldtwistle Library. Everyone welcome.

**FIRST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH, 10.00 am TO 12.00 pm**  
**(IF THE FIRST MONDAY IS A BANK HOLIDAY CHANGES  
TO SECOND MONDAY)**

AND AT

**RISHTON LIBRARY**  
**SECOND THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH,**  
**10.00 am TO 12.00 pm**

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**HELPING HANDS**

Do you have a family history question or need a library/archive lookup then Helping Hands might be able to help.

**Contact:** [help@lfhhs.org.uk](mailto:help@lfhhs.org.uk)

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**OUT OF COUNTY STRAYS  
AND NEWSPAPER CUTTINGS**

Did you know that the Society still collect any Out of County

Strays or Newspaper Cuttings or Stories?

If you have or find any, please forward to

LFHHS,  
2 Straits  
Oswaldtwistle  
BB5 3LU

Many members have ancestors who have strayed away from Lancashire and been lost to their families forever.

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**SCANNED PDF COPIES OF ALL OUR OLD FICHE NOW  
AVAILABLE ON WEBSITE BY EMAIL**

Our microfiche have now been scanned and are available through our website shop.

Orders are currently being sent out as an attachment to one or more emails, depending on the size of the order.

**The prices are the same as the original microfiche, but obviously excluding postal charges.**

**In the near future it will also be available to purchase as an immediate download.**

Look on the website for the shop section showing "Scanned images of microfiche" – this leads to 5 sections divided by alphabetic first letter of location - A-D, E-H, I-L, M-Q, R-Z.

Click on <https://www.lfhhs.org/index.php?cPath=63>

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**NEW ARCHIVE RESEARCH CENTRE  
TO OPEN**

## **AT LANCASTER UNIVERSITY**

<https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/library/collections/special-collections-and-archives/>.

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### **AN EXTRA LAYER OF SECURITY TO AncestryDNA®**

A message from Ancestry:-

At Ancestry®, your privacy is a top priority, and we are committed to being good stewards of your personal information. As part of our efforts to protect your information, we offer two-step verification as an option to sign in to your Ancestry account.

Soon, to enhance the security of your account, we will begin requiring two-step verification as part of the sign-in process. You can enable this feature now in your account settings. If you need assistance, Ancestry is there to help.

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### **EXHIBITIONS AND FAIRS Society Coordinators – Steve and Jennifer Benson**

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### **THE FAMILY HISTORY SHOWS 2024**

The Family History Show will be adding a new event in the Midlands alongside the current York, London, and Online shows.

- **Midlands – Saturday 16 March 2024**

At Three Counties Showground

- **York – Saturday 22 June 2024**  
At York Racecourse
- **London – Saturday 5 October 2024**  
At Kempton Park Racecourse

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Come and see us at any of the Family History Fairs and shows.

If you would like to help and take part in any of the fairs please contact **Stephen Benson** (telephone 01772-422808 or e-mail [Stephen.t.benson@btinternet.com](mailto:Stephen.t.benson@btinternet.com))

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**New member Keith Jenkins has written :**

I joined the Society last year, and my main interest is in families with links to the canals in our areas. I have seen only 3 journals, May, August and November but have not yet spotted a canal mention!

**In 2010 Ormskirk and District Family History Society launched a Boatfamilies website:**

**[www.boatfamilies.website](http://www.boatfamilies.website)**

which contains many boatmen and families who worked on the Leeds and Liverpool as well as the Lancaster Canal, including most of those mentioned in Janet Rigby's book 'Life on the Lancaster Canal' – Ashcroft, Baines, Hampton, Needham, and Robinson to name a few.

Our areas overlap in and around Chorley, and there must be boat families based around the Leeds and Liverpool from there to the Yorkshire border which we could add to our database.

I would be pleased to hear from any descendants among members.

There is an email link on the site itself, or I can be contacted directly on pennyjenks@gmail.com

**Keith Jenkins**  
**ODFHS Boatfamilies Researcher**

(June Dowling and I are both descended from the Johnson and Fairclough clans from Tarleton, and my great great uncle Dick Cross from Shelley Road in Preston is mentioned in Janet's first book, but the Abraham Cross who was my great grandad needs some sorting out. Why do big families keep naming their children by the same names generation after generation? – Editor)

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**FAMILY HISTORY FEDERATION**

**FFHS AGM/GM**  
**Saturday 11 May 2024**

**\*New Venue\***  
**\*New Format\***

Now to be held at:  
**Wesley's Chapel & Leysian Mission**  
**49 City Road, London EC1Y 1AU**

Email Debbie Bradley at [admin@familyhistoryfederation.com](mailto:admin@familyhistoryfederation.com) for further information.

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## **BRANCH NEWS**

### **BLACKBURN & DARWEN**

Branch e-mail: [blackburn@lfhhs.org.uk](mailto:blackburn@lfhhs.org.uk)

On Thursday 7 March 2024 the Blackburn & Darwen Branch are holding their Annual General Meeting, and to discuss the future of the branch meetings.

Members, please come along and join in the discussion. How else will the Committee know your views!

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### **BURY**

Branch e-mail: [bury@lfhhs.org.uk](mailto:bury@lfhhs.org.uk)

No face-to-face meetings at present, but check Members Forum and the Website for information about zoom/chats which have been set up as requested.

Members are also invited to submit reviews for inclusion in Branch News, for the benefit of society members who may not be able to join in the chats.

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### **CHORLEY**

Secretary: Jayne Dixon  
Branch e-mail: [chorley@lfhhs.org.uk](mailto:chorley@lfhhs.org.uk)

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## CHORLEY RESEARCH CENTRE

### ROTA CHANGE

From October 2023 the Chorley Research Centre opening times changed as follows:

1st and 3rd Mondays in the month – 10am to 4pm

1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Wednesdays in the month – 10am to 4pm

1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Fridays in the month – 10am to 4pm

2nd Saturday in the month – Noon to 4pm

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### FYLDE

Secretary: Mrs. Olive Thexton, 7 Bispham Lodge, 251  
Norbreck Road, Thornton Cleveleys FY5 1PE  
Branch e-mail: fylde@lfhhs.org.uk

**We will meet in February** when we will hold another workshop in the hope that we may attract some new people to the group. Someone may have been given a Christmas gift of a subscription to Ancestry or another site and we should be able to offer them some help, what not to do, being a main thing and not to copy details from another tree without checking if this person is your “one”. Because there are so many Johns’ in my tree, I constantly get hints and I know that seldom is it any of my many Johns’. I often wonder if each of them had a nickname.

As yet, we have no programme set out for the year, but March will be our AGM and hopefully there will not be a problem filling the various committee positions. Everyone is invited to come along and as people will be needed so that we can hear any new ideas and suggestions etc.

This is our branch 40th year. I remember when I began my search, how much time was spent at the local library and Lancashire Archives in Preston as well as the Harris Library in Preston. Goodness knows how much I have spent as well as



buying certificates. Luckily I never bought an incorrect one. It is so much easier today, but not everything is available on line, that will never happen. It all takes such an amount of time to process and there is always a chance of transcription errors, too.

If you cannot attend meetings, zoom is the next best thing, sharing information is so very helpful. If you are a new member, the Resource Centres have so much to offer and there is the Members Forum and don't forget "Helping Hands".

Last year we had several new people joined with us and we hope this year that more will join in and see what further help we can give to them.

Fylde branch has a facebook page, just ask to join in and ask for an answer to a query related to our area and our website, both are open to everyone.

If you do not want to keep your printed journal, why not pass it on to someone else?

I have just found another Gazette article about a shocking fatality at Wrea Green. Richard Rawcliffe, bricklayer aged 60 of Wesham was cut to pieces by an express train going from Chester to Blackpool. He was one of a gang of four men. The Coroner gave a verdict of misadventure and blamed the lack of flag men and the importance, in future, of flagmen on the railway lines. I have not located a grave, but he was not buried at St Michael in Kirkham. No worry about wording back in the old days. I am unsure if this wording would be used in the world of today.

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**HERALDRY GROUP**  
Contact Stephen Benson

We are looking into the possibility of conducting our meetings

by Zoom for the benefit of interested members who live too far away to be able to travel for face-to-face meetings.

No programme has been arranged, but notices will appear on the Members Forum and the Society website.

**If you are interested in joining us, please let me know.**

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### **HYNDBURN**

(covering Accrington, Altham, Church, Clayton le Moors, Gt Harwood, Oswaldtwistle & Rishton)

Secretary: Eileen Bullock, 51 Hawthorn Avenue,  
Oswaldtwistle,

Accrington. Lancs BB5 3AE

Branch e-mail: [Hyndburn@lfhhs.org.uk](mailto:Hyndburn@lfhhs.org.uk)

**New Venue : Accrington Sea Cadets, Harvey Street,  
Oswaldtwistle, Accrington BB5 3LT**

**Now first Wednesday of each month.  
Doors open 6.45pm for a 7.00 start.**

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### **IRISH ANCESTRY GROUP**

Branch e-mail: [irish@lfhhs.org.uk](mailto:irish@lfhhs.org.uk)

The group continues to meet most of the year face to face at Oswaldtwistle. We have access to Find My Past and Ancestry and other less well-known websites that hopefully are helpful to our membership.

This year we are looking at a mixture of Zoom and face to face meetings so it is important that you check on the Members Forum and Website what we are doing for the meeting.

**If you intend to travel far please let us know beforehand and we will try to have someone there who 'may' have the knowledge to help you at the meeting.**

Thanks for your support over this last year, and hope to see you in 2024.

Marian Crossley

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**LANCASTER & MORECAMBE**

Morecambe Heritage Centre, Unit 29 Arndale Centre,  
Morecambe LA4 5DH

Branch e-mail: [lancaster@lfhhs.org.uk](mailto:lancaster@lfhhs.org.uk)

Tel: 07462 148067

For the time being we will be carrying on with meeting two Fridays a month, 1st and 3rd, at the current venue.

Doors open at 11.00 am. No speakers booked.

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**LONDON & SOUTH**

Branch e-mail: [london2@lfhhs.org.uk](mailto:london2@lfhhs.org.uk)

**Joint Cumbria/Lancashire/Cheshire/London & South**

All talks will be on Zoom starting at 2pm.

Jean Renwick recently gave such an excellent talk about Researching a family history novel and also supplied an article for publication in 'Lancashire' for members who were unable to join the zoom talk. See the Mourning Brooch picture on the front cover, and two more pictures on the rear cover which accompany the article.

Submitted by Helen Conchar – Member 7279

E-mail: [london2@cumbriaafhs.com](mailto:london2@cumbriaafhs.com) or [london2@lfhhs.org.uk](mailto:london2@lfhhs.org.uk)

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## PENDLE & BURNLEY ZOOM MEETINGS

Time:

Every month on the First Monday at 06:45 PM

No face-to-face meetings at present, but check Members Forum and the Website for information about zoom/chats which have been set up as requested.

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Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Monthly: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meetin...>

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8634..>

Meeting ID: 863 4065 2791

Passcode: Pendle77

One tap mobile

+442034815237,,86340652791#,,,,\*53260774#

United Kingdom

+442034815240,,86340652791#,,,,\*53260774#

United Kingdom

Dial by your location

- +44 203 481 5237 United Kingdom
- +44 203 481 5240 United Kingdom
- +44 203 901 7895 United Kingdom
- +44 131 460 1196 United Kingdom

Meeting ID: 863 4065 2791

Passcode: 53260774

Find your local number: <https://usj02web.zoom.us/j/kdB8..>

It is encouraging that although no face-to-face meetings are presently being held, there has been so much interest from members to request zoom meetings/chats. The advantage of this is that members far and wide can now join in.

Check the Members Forum and Website for further information.

Jean Ingham

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### **PRESTON**

Secretary: Stephen Benson, 32 Slater Lane, Leyland. Lancs  
PR25 1TN Tel: 01772 422808  
Branch e-mail: [preston@lfhhs.org.uk](mailto:preston@lfhhs.org.uk)

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### **RIBBLE VALLEY BRANCH ZOOM MEETINGS**

4th Thursday of the month at 6.45pm for 7pm start

Open for any members with Ribble Valley interests.

Thursday 22 February 2024 from 6.45pm

Thursday 28 March 2024 from 6.45pm

Thursday 25 April 2024 from 6.45pm

Thursday 23 May 2024 from 6.45pm

Thursday 27 June 2024 from 6.45 pm

Thursday 25 July 2024 from 6.45pm

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Monthly:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting...>

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8865...>

Meeting ID: 886 5332 7545

Passcode: Ribble2024

One tap mobile

+44 2039017895,,88653327545#,,,,\*2169235660# United Kingdom

+441314601196,,88653327545#,,,,\*2169235660# United Kingdom

Dial by your location

- +44 203 901 7895 United Kingdom
- +44 131 460 1196 United Kingdom
- +44 203 481 5237 United Kingdom
- +44 203 481 5240 United Kingdom

Meeting ID: 886 5332 7545

Passcode: 2169235660

Find your local number : <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kmE3..>

This is a reduced version of one of the topics we have been talking about in the New Ribble Valley Zoom group. If you have Ribble valley links then please free to join us. You can contact us via the Forum. You can find all the pictures used on the Members Forum.

## **Clitheroe**

Clitheroe, prior to the 1974 redrawing of the county boundaries, was right on the county boundary with Yorkshire.

Clitheroe is the largest town in Ribble Valley but cannot be regarded as a large community. In 2011 had a population of about 15,000.

Its most notable building is the Castle. It has the smallest stone keep in Britain but is on top of a significant rocky hill. It may be of Norman in origin. The Battle of Clitheroe of 1138 took place just outside the town on the banks of the River Ribble and it is not clear if the castle even existed then. The Battle was in the Anarchy period and the forces of King David 1 of Scotland, who sided with Matilda, defeated King Stephen's army. You have to consider that the Scottish boarder was located just north of Lancaster at that time.

### **Honour of Clitheroe**

Clitheroe was the administrative centre for the "Honour of Clitheroe". This is Ancient large grouping of Manors and Royal Forests. The records of the Honour are a valuable source for us family historians and are a subject all in its own.

### **Some of the manors were**

Slaidburn, Accrington Old Hold, Accrington New Hold, Colne, Ightenhill (Briercliffe, Burnley, Habergham Eaves, Little Marsden, Padiham and Heyhouses), Chatburn, Worston, Pendleton, Rochdale, Tottington, Penwortham, Downham and Wipentake of Blackburn (Clitheroe, Chipping, Clivager, Read, Simonstone and Blackburn)

### **Some of the Forests were**

Forest of Bowland, Forest of Blackburnshire (Forest of Trawden, Forest of Pendle, Forest of Rosendale, Forest of Accrington and Hoddlesden)

## **Industry and Trade**

Clitheroe is a market town serving a wider Agricultural community. According to Pigot's Directory of 1830 a market is held every Tuesday and every alternate Tuesday a cattle market is held. This is the site of the original market, but street names indicate two other possible market locations

Present day Clitheroe has several manufacturing companies including Dugdale Nutrition, Hanson Cement, Johnson Matthey and Tarmac.

However, during World War II, the jet engine was developed by the Rover Company. Rover and Rolls-Royce met engineers from the different companies at Clitheroe's Swan & Royal Hotel. The residential area 'Whittle Close' in the town is named after Frank Whittle, being built over the site of the former jet engine test beds.

Further back in the 1870's nearly one-third of the inhabitants were employed in extensive paper-works and four cotton factories and a bobbin turnery. In addition, lime was made at Bellmanpark Lime Kilns for the manufacture of Lime for lime mortar, lime wash and to sweeten acid soils. These kilns are now a listed monument.

In the 1600's and before the chief trade was quarrying and the burning limestone to make Lime.

## **Religion**

The town has three Anglican Churches

St James, Founded 1838

St. Mary Magdalene, Founded before 1122 Earliest Records 1570



St. Paul's, Founded 1866

It also has one Baptist, One Congregational and One Independent

Six Methodist Churches

One Roman Catholic, St. Michael & St. John, Founded 1797

## **Education**

Clitheroe Royal Grammar School was founded in 1554 by King Phillip of Spain and Queen Mary of England.

## **Pendle Hill**

Also, from Pigot's directory of 1830.

A spa, contiguous to the town, is held in high estimation for its medicinal virtues, and a great object of curiosity is Pendle hill, rising more than 1,800 feet above the level of the sea, from which can be descried vessels riding upon the ocean; and on a clear day, from its summit, York minster may be recognized: it is also remarkable for the great damage sustained by the town and neighbouring country by the discharge of a great body of water from the mountain, on the 18th of August, in 1669; which is described as a mighty torrent, rushing out near the top of the hill.

Robert Townley on the 27<sup>th</sup> April in 1661 used a barometer on the slopes of Pendle Hill to show that air pressure varied with height.

Richard Fox had a vision whilst ascending Pendle Hill that led him to form the Quaker movement.

The name Pendle Hill is derived three different Languages and can be translated as hill, hill, hill! Pen (hill) (Cumbric), Hyll (hill) (Old English) and Hill (hill).

From Ron Chapman

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## **ROCHDALE**

Secretary: Mrs. Rosemary Fitton, 13 Bowlers Walk, Rochdale.  
Lancs OL12 6EN  
Tel: 01706 – 356135  
Branch e-mail: rochdale@lfhhs.org.uk

We were pleasantly surprised to receive an unexpected talk in September from Brian Topping who spoke to us about his life as a Customs Officer at Heathrow Airport during the 1970s and 80s. We heard some entertaining stories of situations Brian had come across whilst dealing with passengers travelling through the airport and of his involvement in apprehending and investigating smugglers. For those who missed Brian's fascinating talk, we hope he will visit us again to continue with more of his interesting tales of life as a customs officer.

We welcomed Dilys Pearson to our October meeting with a talk on the Whittle family bakery in Littleborough. Henry Whittle born 1856 worked as a fulling miller, he was determined that his children would not follow him into mill life so encouraged his wife Jane to bake pies selling them to local homes. By 1893 their sales were so good that they opened a bakery shop on the corner of Whiteless Road. Dilys explained how Henry's business grew, expanding into a family firm with the help of his children and later grandchildren, becoming one of Littleborough's largest employers by 1854 with a workforce of 400. Whittles bakery was well known by everyone in Littleborough with many local families having some connection to the workforce. The family firm was sold in 1954 to Allied Bakeries but the bakery continued to thrive for many years before production was eventually moved to other sites, the bakery finally closed in the early 1990's. A detailed history and photographs of the bakery and the Whittle family are held by Littleborough Historical Society in their archives.

Thank you to all those who were able to come along to our Christmas party in November and for all the lovely donations for the evenings buffet and hamper prize. A big thank you to Lynne for entertaining us once again with a selection of

Christmas quizzes, keeping our brains active. We hope you all enjoyed the evening.

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## **ROSSENDALE**

Branch e-mail: rossendale@lfhhs.org.uk

We have had steady attendance at our meetings, possibly encouraged by a variety of topics.

John Dalton

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## **MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

Abbreviations:

c.Bury = Bury area

e.20C = early 20th century

m.18C = mid 18th century

c.1650 = about 1650

e.1763 = earliest ancestral link

l.19C = late 19th century

N.B. The 19th Century ran from 1801 to 1900. Unless otherwise specified, all locality names are in the pre- 1974 County of Lancashire. All other references are to pre- 1974 Counties.

Because of data protection some members have decided they only want limited contact details published. Anyone wishing to contact a member with no information published, should please liaise with our Surname Interests Co-ordinator Jennifer Benson by phone or e-mail: surnames@lfhhs.org.uk

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**Mrs M C Storey** (1007)  
LAWRENSON LAN Poulton-le-Fylde

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**Mrs C E MacRae** (2600)  
PARKER YKS Gisburn, Farmer 1823

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**Dr C R Rademacher** (9050)  
10642 Madison Street NE, Blaine, MN55434-2708 USA  
e-mail: Cheryl327@comcast.net

HANSON	LAN	Milnrow, Rochdale, Woollen Mill	1700-1940
JONES	LAN	Milnrow, Rochdale, Woollen Mill	1700-1900
TAIT	LAN	Milnrow, Rochdale, Woollen Mill	1700-1880

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**Mr P. Martin** (10643)  
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MARTIN	LAN	Great Harwood	1850-1970
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**Mr J. Bullock** (10742)  
KENNEDY

---

**Ms P. Velandar** (11211)  
HAMMERTON LAN Burnley

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**Ms M. Weatherall** (11261)  
SHAW LAN Nelson, Blacksmith 1890+

---

**Mr M. Aspden** (11361)  
ASPDEN

---

**Ms A. Lang** (11394)

BENTLEY            LAN    Church

**Mr S. Houlahan** (11416)

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HOULAHAN            LAN    Oswaldtwistle,  
Fireman at Paper Mill            1870+**Ms C. Hooper** (11420)

PENDLETON            LAN    Widnes                            1780-1840

**Mr P. Lauchs** (11437)

E-mail: Philip.lauchs@bigpond.com

BLINKHORN            LAN    Preston, Labourer            1790-1850

BREARLEY            LAN    Rochdale, Whitesmith       1700-1800

ECCLESTON            LAN    Preston, Liquor Merchant    1790-1850

TAYLOR                LAN    Rochdale,  
Liquor Merchant                    1750-1820

## Lancashire Family History &amp; Heraldry

Conference and AGM 2024

On

SATURDAY 18 MAY 2024

Pull out centre pages are the Booking form.

09.45am to 4.30pm

At

Rhyddings Methodist Church Hall

Watson Street off Rhyddings Street

Off Union Road (main road by War Memorial)

Oswaldtwistle  
BB5 3EP

And by ZOOM

All members and their guests are invited to this annual event.

PLEASE NOTE THE CORRECT SOCIETY SPELLING IF  
PAYING ON LINE DIRECT INTO OUR BANK ACCOUNT

**LANCS FAM HIST & HERALDRY SOC**

**ACCOUNT NUMBER 12578737**  
**ACCOUNT SORT CODE 16-28-33**

TWO SPEAKERS STILL TO BE ADVISED  
ON MEMBERS FORUM  
AND THE SOCIETY WEBSITE

WHEN THEY HAVE FINALLY BEEN CONFIRMED.

THE LANCASHIRE FAMILY HISTORY AND HERALDRY SOCIETY  
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For opening times see [www.cfhrc.com/bookings.html](http://www.cfhrc.com/bookings.html)

**PLEASE NOTE:**

Changes of address and non-receipt of journals should be reported to **Membership Secretary**, 18 Glencross Place, Blackpool FY4 5AD. If you are aware of the death of any member kindly advise **Sue Foster** who will ensure that future magazines are not sent out. Thank you.

Knowsley Hall c1910



Edward VII 13 July 1905, Knowsley Hall

