

LANCASHIRE

VOL. 46

MAY 2024

No. 2



MATCHSTICK MAN AND HIS DOG - L S LOWRY (1887 - 1976)

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

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**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.**

MEETING VENUES

**BLACKBURN &
DARWEN**

**Special Interest Group (Zoom)
Possibly First Thursday of the month from July**

BURY

**Special Interest Group (Zoom)
Second Tuesday of the month at 7.00pm**

CHORLEY

Primrose Gardens, Fleet St., Chorley PR7 2EE
Second Thursday of the month at 7.30pm

FYLDE

St. Martin's Church, Fleetwood Road South,
Carleton, Poulton-le-Fylde FY6 7NL
First Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm.

HERALDRY GROUP Special Interest Group(Zoom)

HYNDBURN Accrington Sea Cadets, Harvey Street,
Oswaldtwistle, Accrington BB5 3LT
First Wednesday of the month.
Doors open 6.45pm ready for 7pm start.

IRISH ANCESTRY GROUP

2 Straits, Oswaldtwistle BB5 3LU
Saturday Workshops 1 pm – 4.30 pm
Every 2 months as per Branch Programme,
Website and Members Forum
(or Special Interest Group (Zoom)) as advised

LANCASTER & MORECAMBE Morecambe Heritage, Unit 29 Arndale Centre,
Morecambe LA4 5DH
First and third Friday 11 am–4 pm or
Special Interest Group (Zoom)
Third Thursday of the month at 6.45pm for
7pm start.

LONDON & SOUTH Special Interest Group (Zoom)
Five meetings a year on Saturdays at 2.00pm as
advised

PENDLE & BURNLEY Special Interest Group (Zoom)
First Thursday of the month at 7pm

PRESTON Kingsfold Methodist Church, Padway,
Penwortham, Preston PR1 9EJ
Last Wednesday of the month at 7.30 pm.

RIBBLE VALLEY Special Interest Group (Zoom)
4th Thursday of the month at 6.45pm for
7.00pm start as advised

ROCHDALE St. Andrew's U.R. Church, Entwisle Road,
Rochdale OL16 2HZ
Last Wednesday of the month at 7.30 pm.

ROSSENDALE Longholme Methodist Church (opp.Bus Station)
Bacup Road, Rawtenstall BB4 7NU
First Wednesday of the month at 7.30 pm.

SOCIETY VIRTUAL GROUP (Zoom)
Second Tuesday of the month 6.30pm for 7pm start
as advised

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Front Cover Picture:

Knott End ferry port where the celebrated northern painter L S Lowry would stand to sketch the ferry and its occupants during his summer visits in the 1940s and 1950s. Sculpture created by WEG Group Ltd first year apprentices from its Welding and Engineering Training Academy

Rear Cover Picture: Happy Birthday Margaret Purcell Remembered in Society Photos

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BRANCH AND GROUP PROGRAMMES

2024

- 6 June-Pendle & Burnley – Zoom from 6.45pm – Garry Walton
- 8 June-Irish - Advice and Research
- 11 June-Society - Zoom from 6.30pm-
Life in the 14th century – Linda Sawley
- 13 June-Chorley - Chasing The Victim – Andy Alston –
The family history of the victim of Andy’s
Criminal ancestor.
- 20 Jun-Lancaster & Morecambe-Zoom from 6.45pm -
- 26 Jun-Preston - To be advised
- 26 Jun-Rochdale - Research Evening
- 4 July-Pendle & Burnley – Zoom from 6.45pm – Garry Walton
- 9 July-Society - All About Family Search – Wendy Pratt
- 11 July-Chorley - And In Flew Enza : The Spanish Flu
1918-19 – Tony Foster
- 18 July-Lancaster & Morecambe – Zoom from 6.45pm
- 27 Jul-London & South – ZOOM – How Many Children? –
Gay Evans
- 31 Jul-Preston - My DNA Journey – David Toft
- 31 Jul-Rochdale - Out Visit to Hare Hill House, Littleborough
- 1 Aug-Pendle & Burnley – Zoom from 6.45pm – Garry Walton
- 8 Aug-Chorley - Those magnificent men in their horseless
Wagons – Dr. Tom Preston
- 10 Aug-Irish - Advice and Research
- 13 Aug-Society - Angel Meadow, the most notorious slum in
Victorian Britain – Joe O’Neill
- 28 Aug-Preston - Members Own Research
- 28 Aug-Rochdale - Littleborough Old Mills – Iain Bowden
- 5 Sep-Pendle & Burnley – Zoom from 6.45pm – Garry Walton
- 10 Sep-Society - Dirty Darwen – Tony Foster
- 12 Sep-Chorley - Talk on Lancashire Social History –
Dr. Paul Salveson
- 21 Sep-London & South – Zoom – Turnpikes and Maps in
The North West – Dr Paul Hindle

- 25 Sep-Preston - The Boat People, Life on the Canal – Lindsey Barrow
- 25 Sep-Rochdale - A World of Mules and Minds – Brian Topping
- 3 Oct-Pendle & Burnley – Zoom from 6.45pm – Garry Walton
- 8 Oct-Society - To be advised
- 10 Oct-Chorley - One Name Studies in England and Ireland – Wendy Pratt
- 12 Oct-Irish - Zoom Meeting with speaker to be booked
- 30 Oct-Preston - About My Aunt Marjorie – Dr Alan Crosby
- 30 Oct-Rochdale - Rochdale Shops of Days Gone By – Iain Bowden
- 7 Nov-Pendle & Burnley – Zoom from 6.45pm – Garry Walton
- 12 Nov-Society - Nobby’s War, experiences of his British family and Italian wife, Maria – Jeremy Konsbruck
- 14 Nov-Chorley - The Parkers of Bagganley, a Chorley Family in the 15th century – Dr. Alan Crosby
- 23 Nov-London & South – Zoom – Migration throughout the UK – Debbie Bradley
- 27 Nov-Preston - Quiz Night and Jacobs Join
- 27 Nov-Rochdale - Christmas Party
- 5 Dec-Chorley - Quiz and nibbles – Bernard Cliffe
- 5 Dec-Pendle & Burnley – Zoom from 6.45pm – Garry Walton
- 6 Dec-Chorley - Quiz and Nibbles – Bernard Cliffe
- 10 Dec-Society - To be advised
- 25 Dec-Preston - No meeting. Seasons Greetings.
- 25 Dec-Rochdale - No meeting. Seasons Greetings.

2025

- 9 Jan-Chorley - When Emigration Goes Wrong – The story of the coal miners and their families from Chorley who went to Hanna, Wyoming only to be caught up in two devastating pit disasters – Megan Roberts
- 14 Jan-Society - To be advised
- 29 Jan-Rochdale - To be advised
- 11 Feb-Society - To be advised

- 13 Feb-Chorley - John Critchley's Story. Born and died in Hamilton Road, Chorley, whose papers were passed to the Society after he died – Anne Lowe
- 26 Feb-Rochdale - Research Evening
- 13 Mar-Chorley - AGM and Using Newspapers in your research – Pauline Chapman
-

SOCIETY VIRTUAL BRANCH TALKS BY ZOOM

Contact: Marian Crossley
e-mail: mariancrossley74@gmail.com
or 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.

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!

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

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZcrduqorjoiE9a6RtAwJBxQg8ODS9R2VXMT/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGrqDopGtSUuBCFRpwqBlj4b_TziH5Hj_pcyi3xljd5QBvHMBptFoEmlorm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83613001892?pwd=aDF2bmgya1RNcTIVRVN4R3BXdzNUUT09>

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Find your local number:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kcGy2YZBr>

ZOOM, ZOOM, ZOOM

By Mike Coyle (March 2024)

There was one happy outcome from the Covid Pandemic – the use of Zoom. It enabled isolated members to remain in contact with friends, family, and our Society. Once the pandemic was over, we were hooked on the possibilities and advantages of engaging with worldwide members, bearing in mind that half our members live outside Lancashire and half of them live overseas.

As well as maintaining contact, we were able to open up meetings to our speakers, to learning new topics. Following some very quick practice Marian Crossley has been able to launch a comprehensive series of talks on family and social history. A programme of talks is available to all members and notifications of the talks is advertised via email and via the LFHHS Forum. ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME.

Branches struggling with numbers at face to face meetings and few or no volunteers to run the Branches, were able to provide the traditional local knowledge and resources remotely. London Branch, with Helen, were the pioneers, and a little later Pendle & Burnley with Garry, and now Ribble Valley with Ron and coming up Bury Branch with me initially, and investigations are going on with Sheila and Lancaster & Morecambe.

Our plans are to widen accessibility to Zoom and to run 'Hybrid' meetings, combining zoom with live, 'Face to Face' meetings, as we did, with limited success, at the 2023 AGM. The flexibility of Zoom allows us to schedule regular and frequent meetings with one-off and short notice ones too.

We can offer training in using, hosting and running Zoom meetings, just contact me. We have hand-outs to look at and we can run practical, face to face sessions.

Zoom will not replace the valuable nature of social interaction and a cup of tea as in traditional branch meetings; however, they can offer an alternative. The future seems to be Zoom!

LFHHS BRANCHES AND 'SPECIAL INTERESTS GROUPS'

By Mike Coyle (April 2024)

Our Branches have always offered a service to their local members. During the days of Covid, when members were unable to meet 'Face to Face', the Society embarked on an ambitious project to maintain contact with our members, in the best way possible at the time. Since then we have seen the advantage of using 'Zoom', for the delivery of talks and group meetings.

Zoom has a number of advantages for us.

1. Simple to use, for the 'Meeting Host' and for members, as most of our members use digital communications on a frequent and regular basis, either by mobile phone,

tablet, or laptop, and are familiar with using software and the internet.

2. Enables members from outside the County and Worldwide to actively participate and contribute.
3. It allows 'Branches' struggling for members or members to run them an opportunity to continue providing a service for members with a common geographical interest.
4. It's relatively cheap to use.

We are keen to differentiate between '**Branches**' and '**Special Interest Groups**' (SIGs), and to explain the difference.

Branches are the usual and traditional, local, social groups, offering 'Face to Face' meetings to exchange and inform members in topics relating to Family History, Heraldry and related topics, in a traditional venue, usually of a particular day/evening each month. Branches require to be 'run' by a Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary, voted for by the local members, representing their interests.

SIGs have the same intention. However, SIGs are offered and delivered 'online' over the internet, requiring only a 'Host' to arrange, publicise, 'open' and run the meeting. The content of which can be recorded and made available to a wider audience at a later time. Members usually meet from within their homes, anywhere in the world, despite distance, weather or physical ability.

In addition to the SIGs, our monthly **Society Talks** have proved very successful, with 50+ members regularly attending. They are run on specialist topics on the second Tuesday of every month and open to all members worldwide.

Meeting details or 'Joinings' for our SIGs and Talks are circulated to all members via email and the Members Forum, and more recently they can also be found in the Members Area of the Society Website, alongside the 'Branches'.

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!

**MARGARET PURCELL
100 YEARS YOUNG
ON 21 JUNE 2024**

A LIFE DEDICATED TO IRISH FAMILY HISTORY

By Shaun O'Hara, Member 9320

Margaret Purcell was born in 1924, at Lonsdale Road, South Shore, Blackpool. Her family moved to Red Bank Road, Bispham, Blackpool around 1946. This being the address that members will know.

In 1943 Margaret went to train as a nurse at Manchester Royal Infirmary, qualifying in 1946, after which she decided that she did not wish to carry on in nursing but instead gained employment as a civil servant working at the Government offices at Warbreck, Blackpool.

Margaret had a love of history, travel, and a strong faith as a Roman Catholic, which led her to Jerusalem as a pilgrim. She enjoyed holidays in Egypt, travelling down the river Nile, visited Spain, and many other countries at a time before package holidays.

In the mid 1940s Margaret became interested in Family History, joining the Rossendale Family History Society in the mid 1970s. As she says 'she only joined it because her granddad was born there'.

The Rossendale Family History Society became the Lancashire Family History & Heraldry Society of which Margaret became a member in 1982 – membership number 216.

Next, she joined the Catholic Family History Society, meeting her lifelong friend Maureen Fitzgibbon. Both ladies then became members of the Irish Genealogical Research Society.

Margaret was an active member of all three societies, not only helping at family history fairs and society meetings, but being a committee member of the Irish branch and a member of the Fylde Branch of LFHHS; only stepping down as an active member of the IGRS, LFHHS and CFHS in 2014.

Margaret and Maureen have received many awards for service and dedication to Irish family history from the Irish Genealogical Research Society and Margaret was made an Honorary Vice President of the LFHHS in 2014.

Well over half a century given over mainly to Irish family history and research, helping many people along the way with their own research. Margaret was a character as members who knew her can testify, and she would tell you straight if you were wrong. A no nonsense lady, but a very knowledgeable Irish Family Historian. For several years she kept the Irish branch of LFHHS operating along with Rita Platt. Without their dedication it probably would have closed.

Margaret is now approaching another milestone in her life. On 21 June 2024 she will be 100 years old.

Due to her age Margaret has had to move into a care home. For anyone who knows or remembers Margaret and wishes to send greetings on her birthday, the address to send them to:

Margaret Purcell
Autumn Leaves Care Home
502 Devonshire Road
Bispham
Blackpool
FY2 0TR

**SEEING THE SAME FACTS BUT IN TWO DIFFERENT
WAYS – A fun but cautionary tale**
By Ron Chapman

Interpretation 1

A Mysterious Family History Tale : The Enigma of Elizabeth Smith

In the shadowed corridors of the Chorley Family History Resource Centre, where whispers of forgotten lives echo through time, our intrepid researcher stumbled upon a cryptic enigma – a tale woven with threads of intrigue and secrets veiled in the folds of history.

Elizabeth Smith, the second daughter of William Smith and Mary Church, emerged to this world in 1891 in the quaint port of Preston. Her lineage bore the ordinary hues of life: an Irish father, and a Bristolian mother. What clandestine currents swept Mary from her origins in Bristol to the cobbled streets of Preston? The answer, like a hidden key, lay buried in the soil of forgotten memories.

The 1911 Census, that spectral ledger of lives, revealed an

anomaly. Elizabeth, still nestled under her parents' roof, presided over a brood of four younger siblings. The youngest, a mere one year old, clung to the frayed edges of existence. But it was Mary, the matron, who cast a shadow across the hearth. At fifty-three, she defied the natural order, birthing children as if time itself bowed to her will.

Yet, dear reader, lean closer. For within this household danced a spectre – a man named Edward BOYD. A labourer, weathered by Chester's winds, he bore the weight of forty-seven years upon his shoulders. His presence whispered secrets: secrets of illicit unions, of forbidden trysts. Was he the architect of Elizabeth's clandestine lineage? A silent partner in this domestic masquerade?

Elizabeth, at twenty-three, and Edward, at forty-seven, shared more than mere walls. Their souls brushed against each other, leaving invisible imprints. Edward, the married man, stood amidst the family fold, a phantom in plain sight. Were they sinners, their love etched in shadows? And why, oh why, did Elizabeth inscribe her children's birth records the maiden name BOYD – a borrowed mantle, a veil of deception?

The 1921 Census unfurled another chapter. Elizabeth, now a matron herself, cradled her offspring – three more souls added to her brood. But her parents, like fading ink, had vanished from the script. In their place stood Edward Smith, a sixty-four-year-old labourer, born of Chester. Elizabeth, at thirty-four, and Edward, at sixty-four, defied the arithmetic of years. He had metamorphosed, shedding the name BOYD like a serpent's skin, adopting the mantle of Smith. A clandestine pact, unspoken yet binding.

Did they marry? The inkwell of history remains dry on this matter. Perhaps their union transcended earthly vows, etching promises on the parchment of their hearts. Or perhaps they danced on the precipice of legality, their love a forbidden waltz across societal norms.

And so, dear reader, we tiptoe through the corridors of time, our lanterns flickering. Did Elizabeth and Edward find solace in each other's arms? Did their tale culminate in whispered confessions or stolen glances? We may never know. But one thing is certain: Edward, that enigmatic figure, slipped into the shadows before 1939, leaving behind echoes of mystery and a lineage woven from threads of secrecy.

Let us hope, in the quietude of forgotten archives, their story found its elusive ending – a clandestine chapter etched in the annals of the curious, the seekers, and the dreamers.

Interpretation 2

A tale – a quiet rebellion against societal norms.

Elizabeth Smith and Edward Boyd shared a love that defied convention.

Edward, burdened by a past mistake, was already wed when he met Elizabeth. She, a mere eighteen, and he, a Dock Labourer aged 30. But the 1890s offered no mercy for love that dared to defy. Divorce was a privilege reserved for the privileged, and their station denied them such luxuries.

Elizabeth's understanding parents welcomed Edward into their home. Within those walls, love blossomed – a child, innocent and pure, arrived. Yet the child carried a burden – the stigma of illegitimacy. A whispered secret painted a different tale: Elizabeth's mother and father would declare themselves as the child's true parents.

They wove an intricate web of deception. Elizabeth declared upon the birth register that the parents were: Edward Smith and Elizabeth Smith, formerly Boyd. The world saw what it wished – the child of a mother, the child of a father. But love cared not for labels or legalities.

Years flowed, and the family grew – a testament to their

devotion. The birth certificates whispered half-truths, while Edward and Elizabeth held fast to their unspoken vows. They never married, yet their bond transcended mere words. Through hardships and joys, they clung to each other.

In the 1921 Census, they had their own house – a refuge for love’s quiet rebellion. Edward cast off the name that bound him. He became Edward Smith, a final act of devotion. Three more children completed their circle. To the world, they were a family – a constellation of shared dreams.

And then, as the world teetered on change, Edward slipped away. Elizabeth stood by his side as he passed, her love undiminished. For love, my friend, overcomes all – the barriers of time, the judgments of society. In their quiet corner of history, Elizabeth and Edward etched their story – a testament to the resilience of the human heart.

Or is there a 3rd Interpretation???

(Names have been changed to protect the innocent).
Keep searching.

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES: A USEFUL SOURCE

By Tony Foster

Have you ever considered using town council minutes for your research? Clearly, if your ancestor was a councillor or freeman of the borough, then these documents will be very useful, but what about your schoolteacher ancestor?

In the 1950s I attended Holy Trinity Primary School, Darwen, and recently came across some of my class photographs. All of these included the headmaster, Mr J Roberts. I have also seen class photos from the 1940s which included Mr Roberts.



From April 1945 Lancashire County Council became responsible for the management of the schools. Prior to this, it was the local authority's responsibility, and I have found that the town council minutes record teachers' appointments and resignations. I don't know if this was something that the Darwen Town Council were very strict with in their minutes, but in the case of Mr Roberts they were very useful.

August 1938: Appointment of Head Teacher – Trinity CE School: Resolved – That Mr John Roberts be appointed Head Teacher of Trinity CE School (Grade II) – in full-time service and exclusively in the capacity of a teacher – at a salary in accordance with the scale of salaries for teachers in Elementary Schools, the engagement to date from 1st August 1938, to be subject to the regulations of the Committee and to be determinable on either side by three months' notice.

In the school logbook he records his appointment:

"I, John Roberts, on this eighth day of August 1938 assumed

the duties and responsibilities of the post of Headmaster of this School of Holy Trinity, Darwen, Junior Mixed and Infants."

Looking through the logbook I found his retirement:

"10th July 1958: Closed the School at 4pm for the midsummer holiday, School to be resumed on Monday 18th August. I, John Roberts, in relinquishing my post here as Headmaster of this School on my retirement, terminate my services and responsibilities as Head, with its future and success my dearest concern."

John Roberts' appointment as headmaster was reported in the local newspaper which mentioned that he had been an assistant Master at Sudell Road Boys School for 17 years. This appointment also appears in the council minutes:

September 1921: Appointment of Teachers: Resolved – That the appointment of John Roberts (Trained Certificated Teacher) Sudell Road Council School be confirmed.

The local newspaper reported his death in 1960 which mentioned that he attended Darwen Grammar School and saw service in WW1 with the Royal Field Artillery. After the war he undertook teacher training at Borough Road Training College at Isleworth.

Looking again at the council minutes (25th August 1909) it was interesting to see the teachers being appointed for the 1909-10 evening school and the subjects on offer at the Technical School:

Art	Mr A G Grubb: Art Master £109 1s 10d for Session
Art	Mr H Robinson: Assistant

	£30 for Session
Mathematics	Mr J Bridge
Practical Mathematics	Mr F Ramsbottom
Building Construction	Mr J P Shorrocks
Plain & Solid Geometry	Mr A G Walker
Applied Mechanics, Heat Engines	Mr W Booth
Magnetism & Electricity	Mr F Ramsbottom
Hygiene & Physiology	Mr C R Walsh
Inorganic Chemistry (Elem)	Mr W R Raine
Inorganic Chemistry (Adv & Hons)	Mr J Foulds
Textile Chemistry	Mr J Foulds
Physiology	Mr W R Raine
Theoretical Mechanics	Mr A G Walker
Botany	Miss Westerman
Technological Weaving	Mr J Kershaw & Mr R Holden: 2/6 per hour each for Teaching and 1/- per hour each for preparation
Carpentry & Joinery	Mr J Hacking
Woodwork	Mr A F Findlay
Paper Making	Mr T Hadfield
English	Miss S E Wilmore
Latin	Mr J Norris BA
French	Miss E Eichenberger
German	Miss E Eichenberger
Cookery & Laundry	Miss M S West
Millinery & Dressmaking	Mrs Knowles
Ambulance	Dr Willett

The council minutes also recorded when a teacher sought absence of leave so they may join the army:

Jan 1915 Resolved – That leave of absence be granted during

the War to James Septimus Berryman (C), Holy Trinity School, who has enlisted.

Berryman joined the Royal Field Artillery No 891671. He survived the war and returned to teaching.

It's possible that town council minutes can help with your research but don't use them in isolation from other sources.

RECORDS OF VISITATIONS FOR BILLINGTON ASYLUM DURING THE PROPRIETORSHIP OF JAMES CHEW (1800-1807)

By Paul Sutcliffe

An analysis of the *Records of Visitations* for the beginning of the nineteenth century shows clearly how the assessments of "Dr Chew's House for the Reception of Lunatics" became more rigorous and less favourable after the death of Abraham Chew in 1800. This century would see a dramatic downsizing and eventual disappearance of the institution in 1857. This article reveals just how dramatically things changed between 1799 and 1803.

(LRO QSP 2428/4)ⁱ Inspection made on 16 October 1799 by Thomas Markland JP and Thomas Low MD.

"36 Patients, in different states of mental derangement. In their general management, clothing, food and apartments, I found nothing to disapprove." ⁱⁱ

It has not been possible to find any "*Visitation*" for 1800 so that the first available in the new century was on **8 January 1801 (LRO QSP 2444/2 and 3)**. As in 1799 B. Markland was the magistrate, on this occasion accompanied by William St Clare MD. The findings suggest again an institution where a high level of standards have been maintained.

“The treatment of the above patients and the general state of the Asylum seemed to evince humanity, judgement and due attention.”

Male (incurables)	Female (incurables)
Charles Zouch	Mrs Walmsley
George Holford	Mrs Peacock
William Hodgson	Mrs Fogg
Robert Lever	Mill Elam
John Dickson	Miss Barton
Edward Law	Mrs Dundas
Thomas Woodend	Mrs Clements
John Craik (8)	Mary Rhodes
	<i>Miss Hamer (1801)</i>
	Miss Wainman
	Isabella Baxendale (11)
(curables)	(curables)
Thomas Dawkins	<i>Mrs Henshaw(1800)</i>
J. Wagner	<i>Agnes Boyer(1800)</i>
Thomas Ripley(pauper)	<i>Miss Wickstead(1800)</i>
J. Scholfield(pauper)	<i>Mrs Keaton(1800) (4)</i>
<i>Richard Woodacre (pauper)(1800)</i>	
<i>Thomas Mayor(pauper) (1800) (6)</i>	

14 males (6 considered curable) + 15 females (4 considered curable). New since 1799: 2 males + 4 females in 1800, 1 female in 1801 (newly admitted in italics)

43% males were considered curable, only 27% of females, however.

(LRO QSP 2461/6) made on 24 January 1802 by Thomas Law MD and Rev. William Bartonⁱⁱⁱ magistrate.

On this visitation there were 25 patients (possibly 26 as one

seems to have been forgotten) resident in the asylum: all were considered to be 'incurable', of whom 9 were male and 16 female (17 with the missing person).

"the following patients, none of which were improper objects for this unfortunate place of management and security."

Patient missing from the list is probably Mary Peacock.

Male	Female
Craik	Walmsley
Hodgson	Dundas
Dixon	Fogg
Lever	Rhodes
Zouch	Barton
Thomas Daikins admitted Originally in 1797	Ellam
Wagner	Hamer
Ripley	Wainman
Scholfield	Baxendale
	Wickstead
	Tiffing(new)
	Ellston
	Simpson(new)
	Boyes
	Fell(new)
	Asrigg(new)

4 new admissions all female. 8 are missing, 5 males (3 curable) and 3 females (2 curable).

Thomas Woodend (15 July 1801) and Edward Law (22 March 1801) have both died.

**(LRO QSP 2477/35) Visitation made on 11 January 1803
by Thomas Clayton JP William St Clare MD of Preston**

"Nothing could exceed the neatness and cleanliness of

this Receptacle and its apparent salubrity. The patients appeared to be treated with as much humanity, as their unhappy situation will permit, and the undersigned visitors wish to express their entire approbation."

On this occasion 32 patients were registered. 13 (8 females + 5 males) were considered 'curable'^{iv}. 19 (10 females + 9 males) were given a less favourable prognosis.

Male(curable)	Female(curable)
Cholmondeleyu(new)	Fell(new)
Charnley(new)	Eskwick
Suart(new)	Tiffing
Shepherd(new)	Wilson(new)
Baron(new)	Crane(new)
(incurable)	Sutcliffe(new)
Hodgson	Hodgson(new)
Craik	Mayor(new)
Dickson	(incurable)
Lever	Walmsley
Zouch	Dundas
Dakin	Peacock
Wagner	Fogg
Ripley	Rhodes
John Sudal(new)	Elam
	Wainman
	Baxendale
	Wickstead
	Eamer

New admissions – 6 males (5 considered to be curable) + 6 females (all considered to be curable). Discharged 1 male and 4 females.

The previous reports had in no way intimated the severe criticism of the visitation made by Thomas Low MD accompanied by a magistrate on **28 November 1803**

(QSP2493/4). The report is a clear indictment of the Asylum under James Chew's supervision. That it was authored by Thomas Low was particularly surprising as in 1799 and 1802 he had found nothing to disprove of. Returning in 1803 he named the Asylum a 'mansion of gloom and melancholy'.

The report opens with a direct comment on Chew's perceived negligence in being absent during the visitation.

"As a medical visitor to this Asylum, Dr Low considers it his duty to the magistrates and society at large to observe that the constant or at least very present attendance of Dr Chew is to be recommended for the due regulation and management of the unfortunate beings therein confined."

In the context of the later damning inspection it would appear that Low is accusing Chew of being negligent in his responsibilities and duties as the main proprietor and medically qualified supervisor of Billington. In a series of proposals, which Low claims are plain common sense, the implications are obviously that Chew, although a qualified physician, has not been diligent enough in the maintaining of acceptable standards.

These are:

- (1) The more vigilant separation of female and male patients:
"for the most obvious reasons, the different sexes should be kept apart as much as possible!!!"
- (2) Cleanliness:
"it is impossible to contemplate the situation of the miserable maniacs confined to lonely cells enveloped in filth and accumulations of human effluvia without commiserating their unhappy fate."

"the efficiency of immersion in a warm bath

frequently, where the patient should be held by one assistant, while he is thoroughly washed by another.”

- (3) Heating and ventilation of rooms:
“The keeping of through the winter, large fires; at the same time leaving open the casements of the windows, to encourage a circulation of air, so as to dissipate the moisture of the room required by their situation, and the daily walking they require.”
- (4) Fumigation of rooms
- (5) Frequent change of bed and body linen.

These first five ‘points of attention’ were naturally things which Chew did not need to be told and must have been particularly annoying for a trained physician. Veiled criticisms concerning overcrowding and inadequate facilities had already been made in statements with reference to the separation of the sexes and ‘the low building to the north west of Dr Chew’s house’ where the maniacs were confined, but it is evident in Low’s remarks about Chew’s servants (assistants) that for the large number of patients, at this time numbering 29, the amount of service personnel was deemed to be in no way adequate.

The criticism in this case seems to contain a level of sarcasm. It may well be that the family concern relied too much on the skills of individual family members and did not employ enough extra staff.

“If Dr Chew’s present charges for medicine, board and attendance, will not allow him to hire servants to perform these offices, let the friends of his patients or the Townships who place them under his care, make an additional allowance rather than the sick should exhibit the most sickly countenance, shock every one’s senses who approach them with the most loathsome abhorrence.”

This 'shock and shame' approach must surely have hit hard. One wonders, however, why it suddenly became so necessary to reveal these ugly truths. Was the asylum really better in 1801, 1802 and January 1803 when there were similar large numbers of patients. Was there also perhaps some more personal motivation on Dr Low's part to reveal Chew's failures at this time?

The final paragraph continues to comment with disdain on the general supervision of the asylum, arguing that because of 'privation of intellect' 'the poor sufferer' is dependent for his good health on the environment which is created for him.

"The unfortunate maniac is not therefore to undergo another privation from our neglect, not to have his thread of life cut short by our mismanagement".

At the time of this report there were 28 patients in Billington, 9 males and 12 females were considered 'incurable'. Among the 'curables' were 6 females and 1 male. Cholmondeley seems to be missing so possibly 29 (10 male incurables). Elizabeth Fogg may also have been overlooked as she was a long-term patient and died in Billington Asylum in 1830.

Male(incurable)	Female(incurable)
Craik	Walmesley
Hodgson	Dundas
Dixon	Peacock
Lever	Rhodes
Zouch	Ellam
Dakin	Wainman
Wagner	Baxendale
Ripley (pauper)	Harmer
Charnley	Wickstead
Cholmondeley(not on Original list)	Tiffen
Curable	Fell
John Cunliffe (new 1803)	Wilson

	curable
	Eskwick
	Crane
	Gordon(1803)
	Richards(1803)
	Jackson(1803)
	Whitaker(1803)

Males: discharged 4 admitted 1. (2 males had their favourable prognosis from previous report reversed). Females: discharged 3 admitted 4. (3 females had previous favourable prognosis reversed).

Dr James Chew gave up the supervision of Billington in 1807, and although the running and operation of the institution remained in Chew hands with his sister, Jane Chew, and her husband, William Hesmondhalgh until 1837, it would seem that the institution itself never really recovered and was unable to sustain the reputation and success of their father Abraham Chew (1747-1800). This was due to stricter controls on the management of Lunatic Asylums, the unsuitability of the buildings for large numbers of patients and, last but not least, the competition of other privately run institutions as well as the new building of County Asylums such as the nearby Lancaster County Asylum.

ⁱ references in brackets relate to the documents held in the Lancashire Archives.

ⁱⁱ No list of patients is available for this date.

ⁱⁱⁱ William Barton was possibly the brother-in-law of James Chew, or his uncle.

^{iv} The original prognosis offered was often erroneous. Robert Colmoneley admitted in 1802 never left the Asylum and died there in 1856.

DEATHS NOTIFIED

Fred Moor - Fylde Branch
John Henry Cookson – Fylde Branch
Sue Nelson – Lancaster & Morecambe

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

BOOK REVIEWS ETC

Have you had a book published and would like a review in the Society journal? Simply 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 the Editor.

BRITISH HISTORICAL STATISTICS

By B. R. Mitchell

Book of the week from Ron Chapman, Chorley Resource Centre

Step into the world of numbers and narratives with B. R. Mitchell's magnum opus, *British Historical Statistics*, a monumental work published by Cambridge University Press in 1988. This colossal compendium, spanning a staggering 885 pages, is not your average coffee table book. It's a treasure trove for the dedicated family historian, a key to unlock the mysteries of the past.

While it may not add a single ancestor to your family tree, it will breathe life into the world they inhabited. It's a time machine, transporting you back to the days of your forebears, filling in the gaps in their stories. But be warned, this journey requires a keen eye, a curious mind, and a willingness to delve deep into vast amounts of data. It's not for the faint-hearted.

From population dynamics to agricultural trends, from the textile industry to transport, from trade patterns to price fluctuations, this book covers an expansive range of topics. It invites you to ask questions, to seek answers.

Why did a farming ancestor living near Norwich lose two young children in 1895? Could a poor wheat harvest that year have played a part?

As you navigate through this ocean of information, you'll stumble upon intriguing facts leading to thought-provoking questions.

Compare the impact of WW1 and WW2 on the cost of living. Why did household expenditure increase by 2.4 times during WW1, but only 1.6 times during WW2?

Discover how war influenced birth rates. The post-war years of 1920 and 1947 saw significant increases in births, as did the swinging sixties. But what about 1876, when the birth rate peaked, outstripping even the baby boom years by a massive amount? (76%) What made 1876 so special?

Chart the emigration patterns from Ireland to the USA, Canada, Australia, or Great Britain. While the data inconveniently omits the Potato Famine years, it reveals that the majority of emigrants headed for the USA.

Explore the changing work patterns over the years. The average working week for **all** workers fell from 65 hours in 1865 to 38 hours by 1973. But for **manual** workers, the drop was from 107 hours in 1920 to 89 hours in 1980. What

accounts for this disparity?

Examine the balance of trade, a topic that once dominated the news but is seldom mentioned today. Trace its trajectory from the credit of £10m in the first half of the 19th century to the deficit of -£3,317m in 1974, a year marked by a stock market crash, currency crisis, high inflation, industrial strife, and a three-day week.

All this and more awaits you within the pages of British Historical Statistics. So, roll up your sleeves, dive in, and let your imagination run wild as you unearth the stories hidden in the numbers.

**ROYAL AIR FORCE BOMBER COMMAND LOSSES OF THE
SECOND WORLD WAR
VOLUME 5, 1944 BY W R CHORLEY**

576 pages in small print with 12 appendices.

Another Book of the Week from Ron Chapman, from the collection of Family History Books held at Chorley.

In 1944 "Eisenhower gave orders to tactical bombing operations against key railway centres in the occupied countries. Harris; the advocate of area bombing complied. In the first two months ... the main force visits to Germany were almost non-existent."

This book is an excellent source for those who are searching for lost RAF aircraft and men in 1944. (Volumes 1 to 4 deal with the other years.) The book lists many hundreds of aircraft lost and their crew. A typical entry reads thus:

15-16 March 1944
420 Sqn Halifax III LN418 PT- Op: Stuttgart

Sgt W D McAdam RCAF inj

Sgt C Clements
Sgt W E Briggs RCAF + (indicates died)
Sgt N E Ranson RCAF
Sgt E H Pollock RCAF
Sgt R E White
Sgt C M Campbell RCAF

T/o (Take-off) Tholthorpe. Outbound, hit by flak which killed the navigator and wounded the pilot in both legs. The starboard inner was wrecked, height was lost. Despite much pain from his injuries, Sgt McAdam RCAF decided to continue the sortie. On the return flight, by which time the Halifax was down to less than 5000 feet, flak again engaged the bomber, but with assistance from Sgt Ranson RCAF who had assumed the duties of navigator. Sgt McAdam regained the south coast and landed 0310 at Friston airfield, Sussex. Only then did he reveal to his crew that he had been wounded.

COAL MINING IN LUNESDALE

By Phillip J Hudson

Another hidden treasure from the library at Chorley Research Centre

(Bob Dobson, Landy Publishing advises the late Phil Hudson was a friend. He was editor and publisher of a magazine on industrial archaeology, and had connections with Lancaster university and towards the end of his life he settled in Settle.)

When coal mining in Lancashire comes to mind, it's often the bustling minefields around Wigan that steal the spotlight. But venture beyond the familiar, and you'll discover a lesser-known gem: the Lune Valley. Here, amidst rolling hills and meandering rivers, lies a rich tapestry of clues waiting to be unravelled. Phillip Hudson, our intrepid explorer, embarked on a quest to reveal the secrets buried beneath Lancashire's soil. His journey involved countless hours of field walking, meticulous searches for historical documents, and more than a dash of curiosity.

Roman Echoes and Coal Veins: A Surprising Connection

Two ancient Roman lime kilns are located in the lower reaches of this tranquil valley. Their presence hints at a forgotten chapter – the Romans, it seems, were no strangers to coal extraction to fuel their kilns. The sheer abundance of coal workings scattered across the landscape tells a tale of industry spanning centuries. While not on the grand scale of Wigan, Lancashire’s coal legacy runs deep. Hudson’s meticulous research traces mining back to the 16th century, a time when the world was vastly different, yet the earth yielded its black gold. However not all of these pits belong in the distant past as the last to close was just outside Ingleton and it closed in 1936.

Mining, Unveiled: A Multifaceted Endeavour

Picture this: bell pits, vertical shafts plunging into the seam, their working chambers curving like the graceful silhouette of a bell. Radial tunnels snake through the earth, extracting coal. But that’s not all. Hudson introduces us to a lexicon of mining methods: Adits, Soughs, Levels, Shafts, and Opencast – the methods of Lancashire’s subterranean trade.

Chapters Carved in Coal Dust: A Geographical Odyssey

Hudson’s narrative has eleven chapters and over 300 pages and each chapter has copious footnotes. His story covers everything from geography, geology to history. Hudson divides up the area into six districts and delves into background of each pit. The maps and photographs make the districts come alive, tracing veins of coal and memories etched in stone.

A Final Chapter: Family Ties

For the genealogists and family historians, there’s a special treat. The last chapter delves into the coal mining families. Lancashire’s coal mines may have closed, but their echoes linger – a testament to the indomitable human spirit and the veins of coal that run through our collective memory.

So, next time you wander Lancashire’s hills, remember:

beneath the green, the past lies buried, waiting for curious souls to unearth its hidden treasures.

This book is just one of the large collection that we have in the library at Chorley Research Centre, Astley Hall Farmhouse. The book compliments the incredible Frank Hough Mining Database that we have at the centre. Come and explore our resources. Contact us at cfhrc@chapman47.plus.com

NOTES AND NEWS

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

PRESTON BRANCH HELP DESK AT LANCASHIRE ARCHIVES

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

THIRD FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH, 09.30 am to 12.00 pm

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

BARROWFORD LIBRARY

Barry Dickinson holds regular bookable Family History one to one surgery sessions at Barrowford Library.

MOST MONDAYS AND THURSDAYS from 2pm

Please book on the LCC website or phone/call in to see the local librarian.

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

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.

**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>

**NEW ARCHIVE RESEARCH CENTRE
TO OPEN
AT LANCASTER UNIVERSITY**

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

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

BARROWFORD LIBRARY

Saturday 1 June 2024
80th Anniversary of the D-Day Landings
To include a drop in surgery on Family History
And war veterans

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.

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

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)

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

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

THE LIDDIARD'S THROUGH TIME AND DISTANCE
20 – 22 SEPTEMBER 2024
ALDBOURNE, WILTSHIRE

3rd family gathering to be held in UK

For more information, please see website
<https://liddiardfamilyhistorysociety.com/wp/events-2/>

or Facebook: <https://fb.me/e/5fc5a8dZ3>

or email: info@liddiardfamilyhistorysociety.com

BRANCH/SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP NEWS

BLACKBURN & DARWEN Special Interest Group ZOOM Chats

**Check Members Forum and Website for more
information
First chat probably July**

BURY Special Interest Group ZOOM Chats Usually Second Tuesday of the month at 7pm

The zoom session in April attracted 9 members, including 3 from across the pond in Canada, Massachusetts and California. Once again, it brought folk together with interests in the Bury area of Lancashire. As it happened there were common surnames, lively chat, and a master class in Manorial Records and Manorial Court Records from Ron Chapman.

We have a recording of the session. Copy and paste the link into your Browser. Don't forget to use the 'Passcode' following the link at:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/sDpPG324PbnfYyGz81mChg4yraOjq0D5eh_NGghom8mvnOmZcvHdulghhkhdMpsu.vDAhidGSXWgBDCxU

Passcode: s!\$b1D8i

**The next zoom session will take place on Wednesday 22
May at 7pm.**

**If you are interested, put the date in your diary.
All members are welcome.**

CHORLEY

Secretary: Jayne Dixon
Branch e-mail: chorley@lfhhs.org.uk

CHORLEY RESEARCH CENTRE

ROTA CHANGE

Chorley Research Centre opening times are now 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

FYLDE

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

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.

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

**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.**

IRISH ANCESTRY GROUP

Branch e-mail: 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 soon.

Marian Crossley

LANCASTER & MORECAMBE

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

First and third Friday 11 am–4 pm
and

Special Interest Group ZOOM Chats Third Thursday of the month at 7pm

Lancaster & Morecambe branch, like others, are experimenting with a series of Zoom chats for those with an interest in that area. The joining instructions are given below. The meetings will start at 7pm, but the Zoom session will start at 6.45pm, just to allow a bit of a Chat. There will be no particular agenda, they are likely to develop over later sessions. The aim is to enable members worldwide to be able to ask questions and share knowledge and information about Lancaster & Morecambe families and social history. The first session was conducted by Ron Chapman and Sheila Court, Branch Secretary. Anyone interested is welcome.

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

Monthly:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZIuceusqD8iHtL6QQFTygjPOXNMh5WotZym/ics?>

IcsToken=98tyKuGurT0oHtKRuB2BrpwAA4_oa-jwpilHgrdxyi7UJRRKZQnGGdpsH7oqJ9Fe

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86362464846?pwd=U3Z1ck9NNUpnQy85Q1ZlamZyK2VvUT09>

Meeting ID: 863 6246 4846

Passcode: 647091

One tap mobile

+442034815240,,86362464846#,,,,*647091#United

Kingdom
+442039017895..86362464846#,,,,*647091#United
Kingdom

Dial by your location

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

Meeting ID: 863 6246 4846

Passcode: 647091

Find your local number:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kcBqcLIW3q>

LONDON & SOUTH
Special Interest Group ZOOM Chats
Five Saturdays in the year at 2pm
Joint Cumbria/Lancashire/Cheshire/London & South

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8266...>

Meeting ID: 826 6367 7214

Passcode: 779416

One tap mobile

+442034815240,,82663677214#,,,,*779416#

United Kingdom

+442039017895,,82663677214#,,,,*779416#

United Kingdom

Dial by your location

- +44 203 481 5240 United Kingdom
- +44 203 901 7895 United Kingdom

- +44 131 460 1196 United Kingdom
- +44 203 481 5237 United Kingdom

Find your local number:

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

Submitted by Helen Conchar – Member 7279

E-mail: london2@lfhhs.org.uk

PENDLE & BURNLEY
Special Interest Group ZOOM Chats

First Thursday of the month at 06:45 PM

Check Members Forum and the Website for information about zoom/chats which have been set up as requested.

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

Monthly: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86340652791>

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86340652791>

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.

PRESTON

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

RIBBLE VALLEY

Special Interest Group ZOOM Chats

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

Open for any members with Ribble Valley interests.

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

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- +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..>

Our first Special Interest Group Zoom chat attracted a reasonable turnout of 14 people. The session was truly enjoyable, with our member Frank Sharp delivering an informative and well-researched talk. His topic centred on the picturesque village of Downham, situated near Clitheroe where his paternal family were raised and his grandparents worked for the Assheton family.

The village's principal family, the Assheton's, can trace their ancestry back to Anglo-Saxon times. Interestingly, the Chetham Library earliest records related to the Assheton lineage.

ROCHDALE

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The New Year started with a research evening for members. Thank you to Lynne for bringing along her laptop so members could access Ancestry or do 'look ups' on the internet. Our library collection was also available during the evening for members or visitors to browse through. Most of our resources held in our library can be borrowed by members between meetings for a small deposit. Please speak to a committee member if you wish to borrow something. During the year we usually hold a couple of research evenings, these give members the chance to share information or help others who are stuck or who may need a little help with their research.

Middleton's Golden Cluster was the subject of our excellent talk in February given by local historian Leon Macleod. The town of Middleton has a long and fascinating history, home to a number of important and historical architectural buildings. Four of these, known as the Golden Cluster, are St. Leonards Parish Church, Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Long Street Methodist Church and Ye Olde Boars Head. Leon was able to explain the history of each of these buildings; he spoke of their historical importance to the town and of the many outstanding people connected with them, one being the well known architect Edgar Wood. For those interested in Middleton's rich history, St. Leonards Church is open on Friday afternoons between 1pm and 4pm from the end of April until September. Leon will be on hand to give guided tours of the building and share his local knowledge with visitors.

Thank you to all those who attended our AGM in March. Jim, this year has decided to step down from the post of librarian. We thank Jim for all his hard work over the past 6 years, he has done an excellent job of keeping the branch library in order.

There were no nominations on the evening for the post of branch librarian. If anyone is interested in taking on this role or either of the other vacant positions of vice-chairman or projects co-ordinator, please let me know. Thank you.

We look forward in May to welcoming Jan Hicks with her talk on Bletchley Park.

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

FROM THE EDITOR

So much information about the difference between Branches and Groups this time. Joining instructions for the Zoom chats which are available for any members have been listed in full under the Branch & Group news, but will not be repeated in future journals unless thought necessary.

For the same reason I have enlarged the font size for the front inner cover which has encroached onto the first page, pushing the Contents page to page 2.

Many thanks to members who were thoughtful enough to bring a donation to the raffle prizes at the Conference and AGM. We ended up with 17 raffle prizes! Much appreciated.

The book stalls, new books, old books, LPRS volumes greatly reduced and as always a box of books and paperbacks for a donation were well visited as well.

THE LANCASHIRE FAMILY HISTORY AND HERALDRY SOCIETY
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Treasurer: Vacant

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For opening times see 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.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY MARGARET PURCELL 100 YEARS OLD ON 21 JUNE 2024



Prize winners Maureen Fitzgibbon and Margaret Purcell, IGRS Valued Service Certificate 2020

1983 AGM Alston Hall



Back Row L to R: Eric Frankcom, Treasurer
George Pelling Chairman
Jack Robinson, Pendle Group
John Dalton, Blackburn Group
Front Row L to R: Rodney Hampson, Secretary
Elizabeth Hampson, formerly Holgate, Pendle Group
Dorothy Frankcom, Bury Group
Margaret Purcell, Blackpool Group.

AGM Alston Hall May 1983



I can't name everyone in this picture. Those I can are from back L. XX, Chris Ward, Eric Frankcom, George Pelling, Rodney Hampson, John Dalton, XX, Gladys Whittaker, XX, Christine Holgate, XX, Bob Able, Margaret Purcell, Laura Hall, Pauline McLoughlin, Leonie Robinson, Elizabeth Holgate, XX

**If undelivered please return to:
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