

Issue 95
October 2024

The Ormskirk and District Family Historian

*The Magazine of the
Ormskirk and District
Family History Society*

The ODFHS Useful Information Page

Ormskirk and District Family History Society was inaugurated in 1980.

Registered Charity (No. 1004895). Member of the Family History Federation.

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Could You Contribute To Our Magazine?

Articles for the Ormskirk and District Family Historian are always welcome. If you'd like to send something for publication, please contact the Editor using the e-mail or postal address above. We will do our best to look after all items (and will return them on request) but we suggest that you retain any original documents.

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"Not to know what happened before we were born is to remain perpetually a child. For what is the worth of a human life unless it is woven into the life of our ancestors by the recording of history." - Cicero (106-143BC)

sent in by Jean Haikalis (1946-2017)

View From The Chair

I write this note of welcome to our Autumn magazine in the aftermath of what you might call a personal milestone; no matter what my head may believe, I can see no fewer than twelve of the birthday cards in my kitchen window, just waiting to remind me that I've just turned 40. (Even more sobering when I realise I can *just* remember my dad's 40th birthday in the early 1990s!)

Very recently, Dad and I had lunch with his eldest sister, one of his brothers, and a friend who grew up with them on Back Lane, Aughton - and so many of their childhood memories came flooding back as they talked! What census record will ever tell me that Grandad bought a Ford Zephyr 4 that he didn't like because it wasn't powerful enough, or that everyone used to fight for a piece of the skin on top of Gran's home-made rice pudding? I'm sure these little details must seem trivial to my relatives, but to me, they are precious glimpses into a world that I'll never live in.

Memories deserve to be recorded, and I'm sure that many of you can relate to that sentiment, so it's a happy coincidence that Issue 95 of our Magazine includes two fascinating articles on West Lancashire's more recent history. Last November, Nigel Daish shared memories of two Ormskirk grocers' shops with Kathryn MacDonald (our Librarian), providing enough material for a short series of articles; you can read the first instalment on page 6. Meanwhile, committee member (and retired nurse) Norma Gregson has blended her own recollections of working at Ormskirk Hospital with an overview of how things have changed at the facility over the years; turn to page 36 for her photos of the 1930s hand-painted ceramic tiles that once graced the Children's Ward.

Life "behind the scenes" at ODFHS continues to be busy; our Sharing People's History of West Lancashire project is making such good progress that (at the time of writing) our publication team is on track to have the second booklet - *Landmarks of West Lancashire* - ready for the October deadline. A huge thank you is due to

everyone who has given their time to write, edit, proof-read and evaluate both booklets; you wouldn't believe how many discussions have revolved around punctuation! We've visited local libraries for short talks and other events (pp.12 to 14). To promote both booklets - and (thanks to the technical skills of our webmaster Alan Cooper) the digital version of *Lost Buildings of West Lancashire* had been downloaded 729 times by the end of September. I hope those of you who have read it (whether in print or on screen) have enjoyed browsing the contents as much as we've enjoyed compiling them!

With my Magazine Editor's hat on, I'm always thinking ahead to the next edition; recently, one of our Executive Committee members remarked that our Summer 2025 edition (Issue 97) could be themed around the 80th anniversary of VE Day. If anyone would like to contribute any material - whether photos, written memories of your own or those passed on by parents or other relatives - you are very welcome to get in touch; I would be delighted to include them in Issue 97.

On a similar "housekeeping" note, preparing this Magazine reminded me that a quarter-page advertising space is still available on page 38; Keith Broadbent (our Membership Secretary) advises that the Society now boasts 166 members in many corners of the globe, so I hope that the small fee of £4 per issue (or £12 per year) represents good value for money. Anyone wishing to use the space is welcome to contact Colin MacDonald (our Treasurer) at treasurerodfhs@gmail.com for further details.

Issue 95 has been a pleasure to assemble; a perfect mixture of family and social history stretching from the late seventeenth century right up to the 1990s, taking you from the centre of Ormskirk all the way to a potential connection to Africa - perhaps the first time I've said that in fourteen years as Editor!

Kate Hurst
October 2024

In Conversation with Nigel Daish of Daish's Ltd, Church Street, Ormskirk

My family had two shops in Ormskirk, Garside's in Aughton Street and Daish's in Church Street, opposite where Scott's butchers is now.

Daish's Ltd. was originally owned by Mr. TATE, my family bought it directly from him in 1845. He was a grocer - the same as us - and sold general groceries, all the things you bring home and cook like bacon (but he wasn't a butcher), cheeses, cooked meat and vegetables. It was run as a counter service shop and they sold tea and coffee, everything you would expect to get from grocery people. Mr. TATE had a friend in Chorley called Mr. LYLE, they joined together and went to the docks in Liverpool and started to import sugar, you may have heard of them?

My grandfather was William DAISH; my father went into the business to join William. When Dad was a little boy they lived in Ruff Lane. I can remember William, he wore a sports coat and always looked very smart, he also had a white jacket.

I was born in December 1942, Ormskirk was a lovely town when I was growing up, you should have seen it 60 years ago. My mother used to say you have everything you could want in the town. I worked in the shop between 1963 and 1973, I used to take the van out, the garage was out the back where there were conveniences for the staff and Mr. SUMNER's garage where he did repairs.

For many years my father's brother's son, Norman, ran Daish's and my father ran Garside's. Norman had been out in Malaya fighting in the Japanese war, when he came back he got a licence to sell wines and spirits, we also had a wholesale licence and were able to sell to one or two restaurants such as High Moor and the Golf Club.

Daish's had a blind which had to be pulled down to protect the goods in the window where we used to hang up sides of bacon - now you have to keep it refrigerated. In the summer we put pepper and flour around the edge of the gammon to stop bluebottles.

On one side of the counter we sold general groceries, tinned fruit, biscuits, Epicure fruits, tinned vegetables, packets of rice. At the end of the shop were wines and spirits, beers, wines, lagers. We had a coffee machine and ground all sorts of coffee which was put it into packets. We also had Daish's tea, a firm in Liverpool put it into packets with our name on it. The shop smelt of coffee and tea. Our shop - Daish's - closed in 1973.



Daish's Ltd., Church Street, early 1970s.

Garside's in Aughton Street did a similar sort of thing, all provisions. You went to the old fashioned counter at the end of the shop to ask for what you wanted right up to the 1960s.

When you had finished shopping you went to a little box and paid there, the money went upstairs using a pulley system, then change was sent back. It wasn't like a supermarket of today, you had to go and be served.

We used to do orders and deliveries - we had delivery vans which (in those days) would deliver all around the area. Garside's had two wings and two doors. There was a sweet section where we used to sell

confectionery, toffees and such like. There were biscuits in the centre. One side was bacon and cheeses, then at the back was a warehouse where we used to whip up orders.

One end of Garside's was rented by Mr. TAYLOR, who lived in Burscough, he ran it as a chemist; there was another chemist's on the corner of Aughton Street called Timothy White's. That building is now where Iceland and Woolworth's used to be. It was knocked down and rebuilt. Woolworth's moved to Garside's in 1961 after they left Burscough Street.

Mr. Daish was speaking to Kathryn MacDonald at his Westhead home in November 2023. We thank him for sharing his memories of Ormskirk town centre in times past and hope to publish more from this conversation in future magazines.

Membership Rates for 2025/26

Following agreement at the last Committee meeting, membership fees for 2025/26 will remain unchanged from 2024/25, i.e.

UK and Worldwide membership with digital magazine	£11.00
UK membership with postal magazine	£15.00
Worldwide membership with postal magazine	£20.00

Membership Renewals for 2025/26

As in previous years, membership renewals for 2025/26 will be available from 1 January 2025, with renewed memberships running until 31 March 2026. Early renewal helps our cash flow and spreads the workload on the hard-working officers.

The simplest way to renew is via the online renewal form on the membership page of the ODFHS website:

www.odfhs.website/index.php/membership

Online payments via PayPal and Parish Chest are available. Payment by bank transfer and cheque are also available. Cash payment may be made in person at a monthly meeting.

Members' Interests Directory

by Keith Broadbent, Membership Secretary

The Members' Interests Directory has been updated, and the latest version is now available in the Members' area of the ODFHS website. The following members' interests have been added to the Directory since the last update, with authority to include the member's name and interests in the magazine:

- *Ken Anderton* - ASHCROFT, RIDING
- *Geoff Brade* - DRAPER, HOLLAND, RUDCLIFFE
- *Julie Dalton* - IDDON, MEADOWS

- *Yvonne Fitch* - BRIDGE, CULSHAW, DEAKIN, EAVES, FITCH, HARTLEY, SPENCER and THOMPSON
- *Sheila Galligan* - DAWSON, O'NEILL and ORME
- *Elaine Howarth* - DOTHWAITE
- *Kathryn Hurst* - BERKLEY, HANKIN, HUSSEY, LEA and ROTHWELL
- *Mark Rawsthorn* - RAWSTHORN (and all variants)
- *Karen Preston* - FORSHAW and PRESCOTT
- *John Westhead* - ASHTON, PRESCOTT, WALMSLEY and WESTHEAD
- *Teresa Williams* - MOUNT
- *Graham Yates* - BREEZE, PHILLIPSON and YATES

In accordance with ODFHS policy, the published Directory contains only the membership number(s) of members interested in a particular surname, rather than full contact details.

Anyone wishing to contact other members about a particular surname interest should contact Keith Broadbent at membership@odfhs.email via e-mail or our postal address on page 2. Only details specifically authorised by members for release to other members will be passed on.

Obituary - Alan Prescott

It is with sadness that we announce the death of Alan Prescott (P46), who passed away on 3 May 2024. The Society extends its deepest sympathy to his family and friends.

An Award For Pam!

report by Keith Broadbent

On Wednesday 3 July 2024, our retiring Secretary, Pam Richardson, received an Award for her Outstanding Contribution to Volunteering in recognition of her work as ODFHS Secretary for over twenty-two years, at an awards ceremony in the West Lancashire Borough Council Chamber.

Pam Richardson with Councillor Julian Finch (Mayor of West Lancashire)



The event was organised by West Lancashire Council for Voluntary Service and the certificates were presented by the Mayor of West Lancashire Borough, Councillor Julian Finch. As the Mayor said in his speech - as mayor of an ancient township, he speaks with the authority of the King. So royal approval was bestowed!

*“Children of the same family, the same blood, with the same first associations, have some means of enjoyment in their power, which no subsequent connexions can supply.”
Jane Austen, Mansfield Park (Chapter 24)*

Lost Buildings Event at Burscough Library

report by Kathryn MacDonald



Norma Gregson, Kathryn MacDonald and Julie Broadbent ready and poised for action at Burscough Library on 3 July 2024!

We had a very enjoyable morning with lots of interest in *Family History and the Lost Buildings of West Lancashire*. Many people came in to collect a copy of the publication and discuss heritage, which we were only too happy to do.

Many thanks to the library staff who made us so welcome. A digital copy of the booklet is available to download via www.odfhs.website/index.php/downloads and we are delighted to say that, as of 30 September 2024, the publication has been downloaded 729 times!



Kate Hurst, Kathryn MacDonald, Elizabeth Russ from Ormskirk Library, Emma Davison and Pam Richardson at the Lost Buildings launch event on 10 June 2024



Norma Gregson talking about Aughton Moss Windmill at the Lost Buildings event at Parbold Library on 12 September 2024

Ormskirk Gingerbread Festival 2024

report and photos by Kathryn MacDonald

Despite the soggy weather, ODFHS volunteers spent Sunday 14 July 2024 at the Ormskirk Gingerbread Festival. From our gazebo on Moor Street, we had many interesting conversations and all sorts of chances to promote the Society's work.



Deputy Mayor, Anne Fennell and Deputy Mayoress, Sarah Lawton (left) visited our stall and took a keen interest in *"Family History and the Lost Buildings of West Lancashire"* and the Ormskirk gingerbread story display.

Many thanks to Keith and Julie Broadbent, Dot Broady-Hawkes, Emma Davison, Norma Gregson, Jackie James, Jan Lennon, Lynne Lomas, Kathryn and Colin MacDonald, and Dennis Walton for helping out on the day.

ODFHS Digital Library - A Brief Selection

The Digital Library on the ODFHS website contains a growing archive of photos, documents and other local material, divided between the Gallery section (accessible to all) and the Members' Area (only accessible with a password and username) at www.odfhs.website

Over the past two years, generous contributions from members and supporters, have allowed Kathryn MacDonald (Librarian) and Alan Cooper (Website Manager) to collate and organise hundreds of digital images. The following items can be found in the Library Resources section of the Members' Area:

Original Documents and Artefacts

Church

Parish Magazines for Aughton (November 1915), St. John's C of E, Burscough Bridge (January to December 1906), Halsall (July 1905, January 1910, May 1916), St. James, Lathom (1906, 1955 and 1959), Maghull Church Monthly (June 1913, December 1914, June 1918) and Ormskirk Parish Church (April 1947, February 1980).

Church Records, Services etc

St. Andrew's Church, Maghull - fund for erection of new church (1885), order of service of dedication of the bells (1918), dedication of the west end window (1919), Easter Services (unknown year), funeral of Robert WHITTAKER (1931), induction of Rev. Canon Henry FRAZER (1931) and Armistice Day Service (1945).

St. George's RC Church, Maghull - Canon DENNETT's Golden Jubilee (1945)

Ormskirk Parish Church - "*Favourite Quotations and Mottoes*" from a Sale of Work (1910), *A few notes respecting the old organ in Ormskirk Parish Church* (1881), British

Legion dedication service (1957), order of events for the opening of the Percy Bilton Swimming Pool (June 1972), order of service of Thanksgiving for the 400th Anniversary of Ormskirk School (June 2012), World War One Vigil Service programme (2014), William RIGBY's certificate from the Men's Bible Class (undated).

St. Anne's RC Church, Ormskirk - newsletter for November 1944, photographs of Commonwealth War Graves for Polish soldiers.

St. John's C of E, Burscough - transcribed baptism records (1919-1960, Microsoft Excel spreadsheet).

Family Bibles and Prayer Books

Images of frontispieces and signatures of books linked to Thomas THRELFALL (dated 1887), Edward THRELFALL (dated 1928), Alice GLORE (or GORE?, dated 1892), Joan SALISBURY (dated 1934) and Annie TWIST (dated 1919).

Businesses, Shops and Trades

Receipts and letters of reference relating to:

- Thomas APPLETON (Golden Boot Warehouse, Church Street, Ormskirk)
- Robert BARNES (The Forge, Maghull)
- F.A. BALL (veterinary surgeon) and Robert BIRCHALL
- J. BALL (nurseryman, Maghull), T. ASPINWALL and R. BIRCHALL
- William BIGGS (automobile engineer) and Joseph RIMMER
- Percy BULLOCK (wine and spirit merchant) and George HEATON
- Peter FREEMAN and Son (auctioneers), Thomas and John ASPINWALL
- John FOX (hearses and funeral transport)
- GARSIDE's (chemist)
- James HUNTER (draper and tailor)
- John HANKIN (draper, Burscough)
- the Commercial Hotel and Posting House

- Mrs. PEARCE (ladies' and children's outfitter)
- POOLE's (drapers)
- Purdy's Stores
- Ribble Navigation Account relating to Robert MARTLAND and Charles Hodgson Ralph HARRISON
- Thomas SHARROCK (Legs of Man Inn) and Mr. WATKINSON
- Mary TWIST (Buck I'Th'Vine)
- Robert WAITING (tailoring specialist, Aughton Street) and Mrs. ASPINWALL

*"He that has no fools, knaves nor beggars in his family
was begot by a flash of lightning."*

Thomas Fuller (1654-1734)

Talk Reports

26 June 2024 - Honoured by a King – Cecil Maples, World War One Hero and Ormskirk Benefactor

Kathryn MacDonald introduced us to the impressive story of Cecil Edward MAPLES, a pioneering hospital administrator in the early days of the First World War, and pillar of the Ormskirk community. Her talk was based on Cecil's personal scrapbook, an extraordinary range of personal and career-based memorabilia including letters, postcards, menus, photographs (sadly, without a note of who the subjects were) and newspaper cuttings, that she had found on eBay and snapped up as an important resource for the ODFHS library.

The scrapbook told Cecil's story through his diligent compilation of memories, events and achievements, but Kathryn's own contribution included reports from

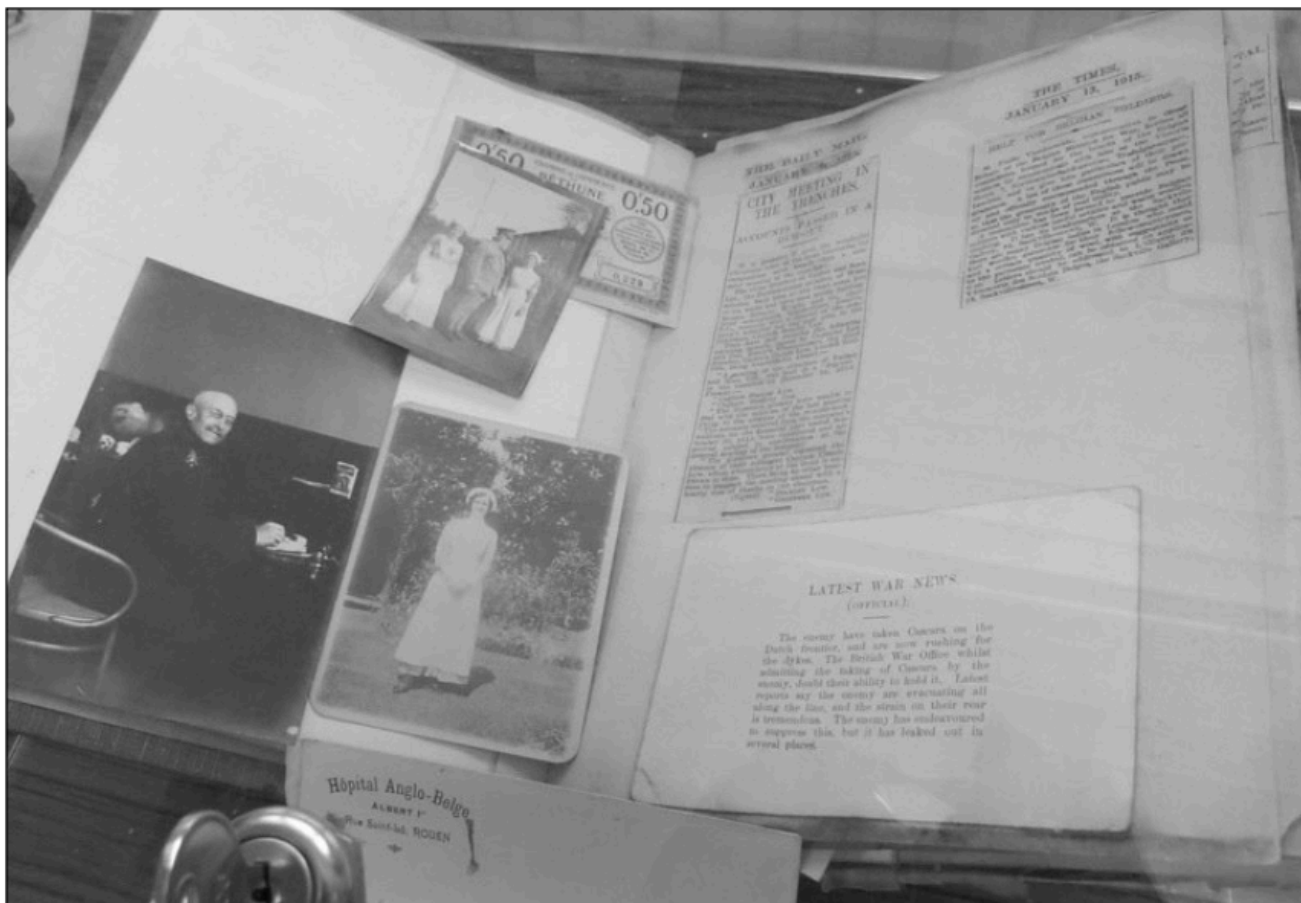
the Ormskirk Advertiser, together with on-the-ground investigation of Cecil's homes and projects, and much online research. Illustrations from Kathryn's research together with many from Cecil's scrapbook gave a vivid impression of the many people, places and events in his life.

Although Kathryn limited the areas of Cecil's life covered in her talk, with so much information available it was rich in detail. Born in 1859 and raised in Spalding, Lincolnshire, Cecil came a comfortably-off family of solicitors with an abiding interest in good causes and public projects. His father was, notably, one of the first Superintendent Registrars appointed after the 1837 Births and Deaths Registration Act. Obtaining legal qualifications, Cecil became a partner in the Liverpool practice of Gill, Archer and Maples, followed by marriage, children and the move to Aughton Springs, an impressive nine-bedroom, twenty-acre property in the Aughton countryside, which allowed Kathryn to explore his social and family life before 1914.

Despite his age of fifty-five, Cecil was motivated to do his bit during the First World War. He travelled to Rouen as a Red Cross volunteer, and took up the post of Secretary General for the King Albert I Hospital for Belgian soldiers, alongside New Zealand nurse, Beatrice Dormer MAUNDER. The hospital was officially opened by Baron de Broqueville, Belgium's Minister of War on 26 December 1914. Examples from the scrapbook testified to Cecil's work to improving services and conditions.

Constant fundraising and personal donations for uniforms, equipment, supplies, etc featured as often as the convivial atmosphere at the hospital. Local residents, nurses and other staff frequently came together for birthday parties and Christmas festivities, Anglo-French get-togethers with the many British visitors and other celebrations.

In 1916, King Albert I instructed Baron de Broqueville to present Cecil with the Order of Leopold, the highest Belgian civilian honour, although there is no evidence he met the king or members of the Belgian royal family. Following this, he returned to Ormskirk to resume his work as a Justice of the Peace.



Cecil Maples' scrapbook on display at our July meeting

In later life, Cecil had a firm but fair reputation as chair of the Ormskirk bench; his move to The Elms on Derby Street, Ormskirk, a smaller house more suited to his needs as he aged, was convenient for his work at the magistrates' court. A leading local Freemason, he also set up Cecil Lodge, in Liverpool, where he was the first Master. He supported many local causes, from bowling clubs to work on the Comrades Cenotaph, now in Coronation Park.

A keen philanthropist, Cecil made generous donations and also led fundraising work, e.g. for an extension to Hants Lane Cottage Hospital, where his role extended to daily attendance at the site to press for swift completion; sure enough, the extension opened just over a year after construction began.

Kathryn then gave particular attention to his outstanding achievement for Ormskirk, the Children's Piece. He worked to provide better services for children

with his work on the Cottage Hospital children's ward, but was determined to do even better by providing playground facilities in the fresh air. For this purpose, he funded the purchase of a field off Hants Lane, opposite the Cottage Hospital, and provided swings, a slide and a shelter, making a public promise that this, the Children's Piece, would be available to Ormskirk's children for ever.

Sadly, more than eighty years later the land he gave is no longer available for children, with the Hants Lane Clinic and housing now built there. But the commitment to Cecil's promise remains, with land representing the Children's Piece now in Coronation Park in Ormskirk.

It was fascinating to learn of the achievements of one who, as Kathryn said, is now long forgotten with no commemoration, but who in his busy life worked tirelessly to improve the lives of so many people - indeed, a life well lived.

24 July 2024 - Inns and Beerhouses of Ormskirk by Dot Broady-Hawkes

Around 50 people, including several non-member visitors, enjoyed a talk by local historian Dot Broady Hawkes that was packed with anecdotes and research about the many hostleries (and the people connected with them) in Ormskirk in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Dot's toolkit for the presentation included a detailed on-screen map of Ormskirk's town centre to guide her audience from street to street, along with many evocative photos and a huge reference file that she invited the audience to view after the talk.

The context was set with the arrival of the railway in Ormskirk in the late 1840s, when building work required demolition, compensation and rebuilding. As a result, a number of buildings became licensed premises, and the town's new shape was established. Another essential component was the growth of local breweries, vital in the days before refrigeration, when freshly brewed beer was regularly delivered to pubs. Describing Ormskirk as '*a big brewing town*', Dot told lively anecdotes full of family drama at Philip FORSHAW's Bath Springs Brewery, Ellis Warde and Webster's brewery on Southport Road, and Edward SUDBURY's

Aughton Brewery at Town End, whilst the GREENALL brothers built their small breweries behind individual pubs.

A huge amount of information about the many establishments was shared, varying from large and impressive hotels like the Kings Arms, the Talbot and the Wheatsheaf to the smaller inns and beerhouses. Beerhouses only aimed to sell beer, but inns and hotels also provided accommodation, meals and a range of other services to travellers. A picture of a teeming, bustling nineteenth century town centre filled with stagecoach arrivals and departures, railway passengers, market traders, a variety of local customers, and plenty of thirsty citizens was conveyed.

Enlivening the story was Dot's fund of information about the characters associated with the inns and beerhouses - some comical, some poignant. Recurrent themes were the frequent moves of various landlords from one pub to another and the intertwined family relationships as generations intermarried, including stories of widows left in charge of a pub being courted by sons of nearby licensees, with a view to extending control of the business profits. Off-sales were important too, with an account of the 'little window' that provided 'a little nip' for the older ladies of the town, who wouldn't have been comfortable inside a pub.

The twentieth century saw many of the premises demolished or changing strategy as times changed and demand for beer fell. Unlimited opening hours and the issue of pub tokens that could only be used to buy beer had led to widespread drunkenness, with serious social effects and criminality. Legislation to control licensing hours followed, but for the pubs and beerhouses, reduced hours meant lower takings and cut-throat competition - meaning that widespread closures were inevitable. Ormskirk's town centre changed considerably as a result, and this continued in the later twentieth century.

Dot added some of her own more recent local knowledge, reminiscences and reflections, as a long-time Ormskirk resident voicing regret at what has been lost. Photographs of the impressive or picturesque buildings swept away by modern developments enabled the audience to understand and share her feelings. When

the Wheatsheaf was being demolished (to the sadness of many), plumbers' merchant Bert JACKSON was carefully removing its 200-year old coat of arms when it slipped and broke into pieces - but now, years later, Dot is on the hunt for those pieces. She thinks she's getting closer, but any informed suggestions would be welcome.

Extensive research underpinned the talk, making good use of historical photographs, council and legal records, trade directories, the Ormskirk Advertiser archives, along with Lancashire Archives material, local maps and census records. The appreciation of an enthusiastic audience reflected the enjoyable way that the information was conveyed. Dot promised to return in the future for another talk on the many premises left unmentioned - we'll keep you posted!

28 August 2024 - Sent To The Madhouse by Louise Wade

Following her excellent talk on workhouses in 2023, ODFHS welcomed Louise Wade for a return visit. On this occasion, her focus was a survey of mental health care over the centuries, a complex subject illuminated in a thoughtful presentation, with a wide range of illustrations and careful explanations.

Louise began with examples of various approaches to mental health through time. The ancient Greek doctor Hippocrates (known as the father of medicine) theorised that imbalances of bodily substances e.g. bile and phlegm, caused mental imbalances; the Chinese thought the two complementary life forces - yin and yang - affected mental and physical equilibrium. Mediaeval Europeans believed mental illness was caused by possession by evil spirits, witches' curses, or punishments from God. Treatment was rudimentary and largely unhelpful, included physical restraints, isolation, bloodletting, blistering, and even surgery.

Institutional care was introduced around the seventeenth century. The earliest in England was 'Bedlam' (correctly called the Moorfields Hospital in London), named after the site's previous occupant, the Bethlehem Hospital; its ornate facade and gardens suggested order and calm, but conditions inside for the

patients were negligent and woeful, as Hogarth's drawings showed. Although protesters and campaigners achieved occasional instances of a more sympathetic approach (including occupational therapy, better nutrition and exercise), the standard treatment followed the Bedlam model.

In the 1700s, public and parliamentary feeling began to press for change, leading to legislation for inspection and regulation. Later, further legislation led to clarity about permitted use of restraints, improved patient care and record keeping, including distinctions between episodic and permanent ill health, and between mental illness and mental disability. The 1828 County Asylums Act provided for improved standardised treatment across the country; facilities in the north west included Cheadle Royal in Cheshire, Prestwich in Manchester, Calderstones near Whalley, Rainhill for Liverpool, and Chester. Demand for admissions consistently grew over time.

Louise explained how records kept by the asylums could be useful to present-day family historians, advising that local archives such as Lancashire Archives at Preston can advise on available mental health records, possibly including case books, observation diaries for individual patients, reception orders, assessments, minutes and correspondence. A good starting point is the 1914 list of mental health institutions in England.

For the second part of her talk, Louise focussed on the case history of John William Frankland. His recorded story began in the 1851 census for Malton in Yorkshire, when he was three years old and his father Marmaduke was a Unitarian minister and schoolmaster there. The family later moved to Leigh, where Marmaduke was minister at Atherton Chapel. The 1861 and 1871 censuses, together with newspaper reports, told of John's upbringing, marriage and fatherhood, as well as his occupation of waterworks inspector. All was well until the death of John's wife in 1876; this seemed to start his mental decline and vulnerability to stressful changes in his life.

Louise followed John's life using various records, starting with his first admission into Prestwich Mental Hospital in 1876. He was there for more than a year; his

discharge papers described him as '*recovered*'. Sadly, however, this proved only temporary; a series of admissions, discharges and readmissions confirming John's recurrent ill health. Over time, the records gave less room for optimism. Louise had obtained them through Lancashire Archives, and explained how to access and explore their online catalogue.

During John's periods of better health, it was possible to trace his occupations in the asylum; his education and literacy were acknowledged in the clerical jobs and bookkeeping he was assigned. Casebook records and diaries from the hospital described his appearance, habits and daily routine, differing over time according to his state of health. The occasional records of John's own remarks in conversation with the doctors or nurses gave a poignant immediacy.

Sadly, John didn't make a permanent recovery. His mother's death in 1888 unsettled him further, and he had fewer periods of good health at home, with increasingly longer spells in hospital. Censuses in 1901, 1911 and 1921 continue to show him as a patient, with no discharge records; a probate record confirmed his death on 25 September 1925 at Prestwich Mental Hospital.

Although sad, Louise's story finished on a more comforting note; her final record showed that John was buried in the same grave as his wife in Leeds - a peaceful ending to a troubled life.

Questions and discussion from the audience covered plans for building a large asylum at Lathom, which were disrupted by World War Two, and eventually abandoned; more detailed information about the asylum records; reflections on the enormous improvements brought about through the use of medication in modern-day mental health care; the inclusion and use of photographs in case records, and the account taken in asylums of a patient's religion.

This engrossing talk covered a wide range of issues, but also solid advice to any members aiming to trace ancestors in the asylum system.

Access to Lancashire Archives Collections

A programme to improve storage facilities at Lancashire Archives, Bow Lane, Preston aims to future-proof their strongrooms, safeguarding Lancashire's archive collections for future generations. Necessary building work is expected to disrupt normal service until Spring 2025, with around 10% of the collections being stored off-site. Any items affected will be labelled on the LANCAT online searchable catalogue at <https://archivecat.lancashire.gov.uk/calmview/> and staff will need ten working days' notice to produce them for visitors. The majority of records will remain accessible on the day, and visitors can continue to book a seat in the searchroom via the form on the "Opening Times and Your Visit" section of the website.

Interesting News

CAMBRIDGE PHD STUDENT INVESTIGATES FOSTER MOTHERS IN 17TH CENTURY LANCASHIRE

A study of 300-year old petitions by Cambridge University PhD student Emily Rhodes has revealed the difficulties faced by foster mothers who sought financial assistance to care for parentless children in Lancashire between 1660 and 1720. The foster mothers' vital role gave them greater powers to challenge their local Justices of the Peace than biological mothers, and many successfully argued their cases. Published in *The History of Family* journal, Emily's study "*Women as Child Carers: Arranging and Compensating Mothering in Early Modern Lancashire*" (2024) includes references to foster mothers in Bickerstaffe, Lea, Moston, Manchester, New Hutton, Pennington, Preston and other settlements and can be read at: www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/1081602X.2024.2403346#d1e107

DATABASE OF MEMORIALS AT BATH ABBEY

A searchable catalogue of almost 1500 monuments (including gravestones and wall tablets) at Bath Abbey is available to search online, free of charge. Memorials can be searched via a purpose-made People database (containing over 1900 names), or by checking plans of the Abbey floor (which allows gravestone numbers to be cross-referenced with the People database), whilst a separate section features articles on notable personalities buried at Bath Abbey. www.bathabbeymemorials.org.uk/

HOPE FOR REDCAR STEELWORKS ARCHIVES

Plans, publications and other material relating to the Redcar Steelworks have been saved, after a nine-year battle to preserve them. Teesside Archives first attempted to secure records found in filing cabinets and a former canteen in 2015, but by 2021 access was restricted and demolition work had begun. Working with Save Our Steel (a heritage group formed of councillors, ex-steel workers and academics), Teesside Archives salvaged the surviving material; further support from the Tees Valley Combined Authority will fund a new website showcasing the history of the site.

101 TREASURES OF CHETHAM'S LIBRARY

Chetham's Library in Manchester has compiled a list of their most interesting artefacts, including *Harmonia Ruralis* (James Bolton's 1735 illustrated work on British birds), a Luddite ticket from 1812 and Percival's 1773-1774 Census of Manchester. <https://library.chethams.com/collections/101-treasures-of-chethams/>

New Title from Pen & Sword Books

Tracing Your Ancestors Using DNA: A Guide For Family Historians by Graham S. Holton is due to be published by Pen & Sword Family History on 30 November 2024. Paperback edition priced at £16.99. ISBN - 9781036150136; 320 pages.

What's Coming Up?

Autumn/Winter 2024/25

Face-To-Face Meetings

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 27 November 2024 | Annual Quiz with Raffle hosted by Colin MacDonald |
| 25 December 2024 | No meeting - but we wish you a very Happy Christmas! |
| 22 January 2025 | Manuscripts in Mediaeval Lancashire by Brian Farrimond |
| 28 February 2025 | A Slice of Gingerbread by Kathryn MacDonald |

Our in-person talks are held at the Guide HQ, Moorgate, Ormskirk, and begin at 7.30p.m.

All welcome; non-members are requested to make a £2 donation. Refreshments available.

Please see www.odfhs.website for any changes to our programme.

Zoom Meetings

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 14 November 2024 | ZOOM Family History Chat 12p.m. (GMT) |
| 4 December 2024 | The Boat Families of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal
by Kate Hurst. 2p.m. (GMT) and 7p.m. (GMT) |
| 13 February 2025 | ZOOM Family History Chat 6p.m. (GMT) |

For access details for our Zoom meetings, please contact Kate Hurst (ODFHS Chair) at chairman@odfhs.email

Robert Scarisbrick, a Local Jacobite

submitted by Jan Lennon (L39)

Robert SCARISBRICK was born at Scarisbrick Hall in 1668, a younger son of James SCARISBRICK and Frances BLUNDELL of Ince Blundell. The SCARISBRICKs were a Roman Catholic family who - at the time - were far from wealthy. They had supported the King during the Civil War and fared badly in defeat.

Robert's grandfather Edward (1608-1652) had been named among the '*delinquents and papists in arms*' who had had to supply Liverpool with timber and £10,000 in compensation for its losses during the sieges. His estates were sequestered and he died in 1652. Robert's father James was only seventeen at the time, and did not regain possession of his lands until after the Restoration.

Like many Catholic boys in his position, Robert was probably educated at St. Omer in northern France. However, his father James died in 1673, when his heir Edward (1663-1735), Robert's elder brother, was only ten years old. At the age of eighteen, Edward resigned his estates to Robert and entered the Jesuit novitiate at Watten in Holland. By this time, Robert was a Jacobite, devoted to the Stuart cause. He sailed for France on 11 December 1688, the day James II left London, so he probably crossed the Channel on the same day as the Queen and the Prince of Wales. His return date is unknown, but was probably around 1695, when he married Ann MESSENGER from Fountains Abbey, Yorkshire.

In 1696 a plot to assassinate William III was discovered and, although Robert was not arrested at the time, he had to sign a bond of good behaviour and obtain the King's Licence to stay in the country. If he thought this would be the end of his problems, he would be sadly disappointed.

The death of Princess Anne's only surviving son in July 1700 required a new Act of Settlement. All recusants were required to take new oaths, the consequences for

refusal were serious. Robert was required at the Quarter Sessions in Ormskirk on 11 April 1701, so to avoid having to refuse in public, he sought help from his friends among the local Justices and Protestant neighbours. Luckily the justices were sympathetic because of the bond, and he avoided having to sign.

Robert was also subjected to the harsh laws and penalties against recusants of the time. He was barred from government posts, he was unable to become a Justice of the Peace, he was taxed heavily, paid fines for non attendance at the established church and probably had his property searched at the first hint of trouble. However, he managed to raise a large family of nine sons and four daughters, and had a wide circle of friends among the local gentry.

He was godfather to Nicholas BLUNDELL's eldest daughter Mary, and Nicholas' wife was Godmother to Robert's daughter Frances. His sons were educated at St. Omer in France, three eventually becoming Jesuit priests, and his daughters at Gravelines; three became nuns. He did much business in local inns, including the Wheatsheaf and the Queen's Head in Ormskirk, and enjoyed horse-racing on Aughton Moss.

Queen Anne died in 1714, and was succeeded by the Hanoverian George I, which led to renewed Jacobite activity. It began in the highlands of Scotland in 1715, and a group led by Lord DERWENTWATER marched south into Lancashire where they were joined by many sympathetic locals. On 9 November they entered Preston, but surrendered on 14 November, after being surrounded by Hanoverian forces. Many managed to escape, but over one thousand were captured; some were pardoned but others, including SHUTTLEWORTH and CHORLEY, were executed.

It is unknown whether Robert was at Preston, but he spent the next two years hiding in the attic at Mossock Hall with John GREGSON and John ASHTON. They gave themselves up when an amnesty was called in 1717 and were sent to Newgate Gaol. Here they were visited by Nicholas BLUNDELL, on his return from exile on the continent.

In 1718, Robert was tried for High Treason at Lancaster Assizes, where - after being found innocent - his estates were returned to him. He died in 1737 and is buried in the Scarisbrick Chapel in Ormskirk Parish Church. There is no evidence of the family being involved in any further Jacobite activity although rumours of a high ranking supporter of Bonnie Prince Charlie being hidden on Martin Mere persisted after 1746.

Who Is Kathleen?

submitted by Audrey Trimble (B34/B35)

Kathleen was my mother's best friend. This photograph of them both was always on our mantelpiece. My mother talked about her all the time as I was growing up but I do not remember seeing her, although Mum talked of her as "auntie". Every one was called "auntie" or "uncle" in those days, but I do not think she was related to our family - the PORTER, SPENCER or DENNEHY families.

In the photograph (shown on page 31) my mother Ellen PORTER is sitting down on the chair. Kathleen is standing. My mother (born in 1906) would probably have been in her late twenties. She married Anthony DENNEHY in 1934, and died aged 52 in 1958.

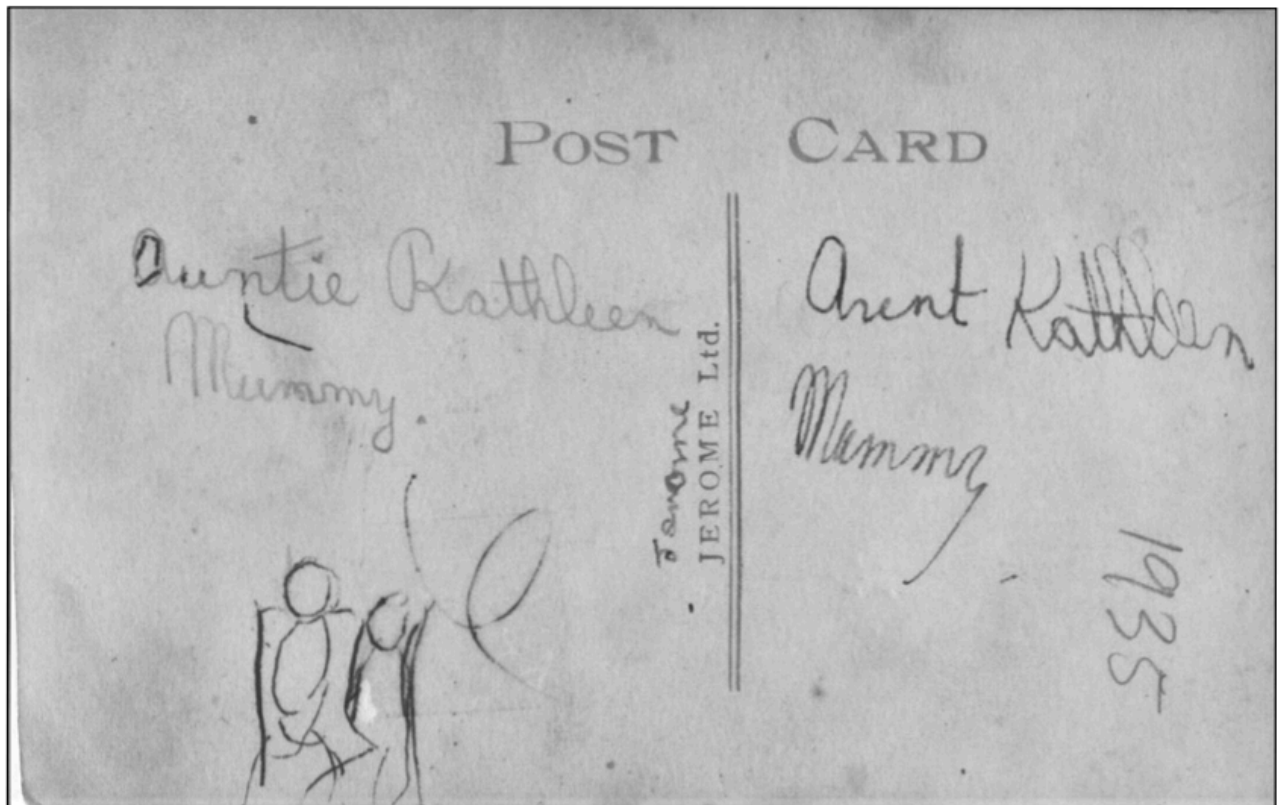
I realise that this is almost an impossible request but there may be someone in our society that recognises Kathleen from the photograph.

Kathleen probably lived in the Ford, Litherland or Ormskirk areas, and I would love to know who she was, as she meant so very much to my mother.



Detail of Kathleen's face - do any of our members recognise her?

Kathleen (standing) and Ellen PORTER (seated)



The reverse of the "Auntie Kathleen" postcard

Who Was Amasis Kitty?

by Sarah Lee

There are some days when research is tedious in the extreme. I was looking in the Kendal and Appleby Quarter Sessions records held at Kendal Archives for mentions of a local family. After four hours I had found nothing and I had read endless entries concerning petty squabbles, bridge repairs and the like.

On the point of giving up, I read the following '*Amasis KITTY Naturalisation*'; it was late in the afternoon and I was the last researcher in the archives, so I showed it to the archivist, who was equally surprised. He too had never seen such an entry, but informed me that he thought that all historic naturalisations had needed an individual Act of Parliament.

The eighteen lines stated that Amasis was of Brough under Stainmoor [*sic*], and that he had brought along a certificate signed by the Minister of Asby and two further statements from other '*creditable*' witnesses, confirming that he had taken the relevant oaths.

It further stated that Amasis was seeking naturalisation under an act '*for naturalizing foreign Protestants*'. The final line states '*And the said Amasis KITTY is hereby naturalized accordingly*'. Dated Easter 1710.

I could but wonder who Amasis KITTY was, and how he came to be living at Brough under Stainmore in 1710? Even today Brough under Stainmore is an out-of-the-way place. So I decided to research him.

Naturally, I looked at the Parliamentary Archives first; despite following the precise instructions and reading their guides I found nothing, so I wrote to them asking for their help. I received a swift reply from one of their archivists:

'I can confirm we do not hold an Act of Parliament for the naturalisation of Amasis Kitty. What's more, his name does not appear in the House of Lords Journal which I would have expected had an Act of Parliament been passed.....I noted that no Private Acts were passed naturalising individuals between 1709 and 1711. This appears to be because of the following Act of Parliament 'Public Act, 7 Anne, c.5. Put simply it appears that the legislation around naturalisations was loosened in this period and rather than obtaining an Act of Parliament, individuals simply had to adhere to the conditions set out and take the oaths of allegiance and supremacy in court. This was recorded in quarter session books like the account you found'.

So this was very informative but disappointing, as I had discovered only that he was Protestant - nothing more about Amasis KITTY the man. I therefore checked the online indices of the major family history websites and the regional archives. Luckily I found several references which I think refer to 'my' Amasis KITTY; they provide tantalising glimpses of an interesting life.

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 1699 12 April | Amasis KITTY married Letitia COCKETT at St. James, Piccadilly. (Image on Ancestry) |
| 1699 9 November | Baptism of Joseph, son of Amasis and Letitia KITTY, also at St. James, Piccadilly. (Image on Ancestry) |
| 1705 16 September | Baptism of ' <i>Martinna the daughter of Amasis KITTY a poor wandering person in Melling</i> '. St. Thomas' Church, Melling, near Skelmersdale, Lancashire. (Image on Ancestry.) |
| 1709 2 August | Baptism of ' <i>Alexander son to Amasis KITTYAM, Ethiopian</i> ' in Shap, Westmorland (now Cumbria). (Image on Family Search.) |

Shap is nearly 90 miles north of Melling. Presumably '*Ethiopian*' means that he was of African heritage?

Easter 1710 Amasis is settled at Brough under Stainmore, Westmorland.
He applies successfully to be naturalised. The distance from Shap
to Brough under Stainmore is about twenty miles.
(Cumbria Archives at Kendal.)

In 1719 an Amasis KITTY married Elizabeth CURTIS at St. Nicholas Church,
Newcastle. Is this him marrying again? Seven years later, in 1726 Amasis KITTY,
widower and musician, married Martha BURGER, back down in London, at St.
Giles in the Fields. (Transcriptions on FindMyPast).

In 1735 Robert KITTY, son of Joseph KITTY (a schoolmaster) of St. Giles in the
Fields was apprenticed to James ELLIS of the Turners' Company; was he Amasis's
grandson? (London Apprenticeship Abstracts on Ancestry)

So, pulling the tiny bits of information together, it seems probable that Amasis
KITTY was a fairly young man in 1699 when he first married. He was of African
heritage, a Protestant, a musician and probably itinerant for at least part of his life.
He fathered at least three children in three different counties. He may have married
twice more.

I am hoping that there are more records to be found; if he was largely itinerant they
could be anywhere in the country. Amongst my numerous questions I would love to
know where he was buried and what happened to his wives/wife and children? If
anyone can add any pieces to this puzzle, please let me know.

Sarah Lee

E-mail: genealogycumbria@gmail.com

Ormskirk and District Hospital

A Moment In Time

by Norma Gregson

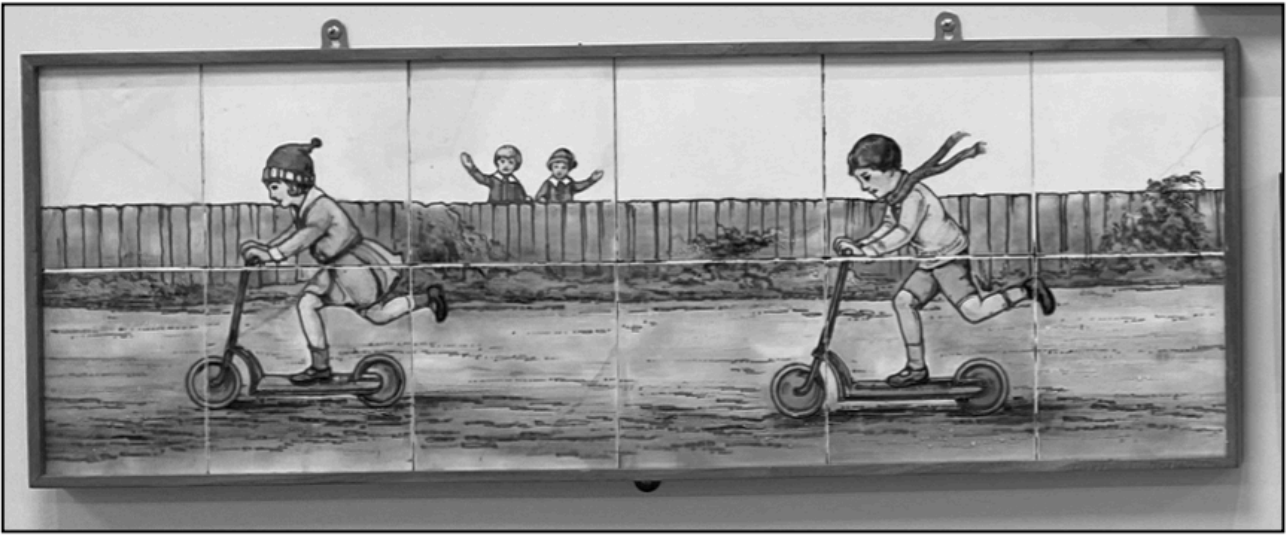
It is thirty years since a big leap forward brought our local Hospital into a modern world, from a separated site to a building where all departments are under one roof, where patients can be moved around without facing the weather outside.



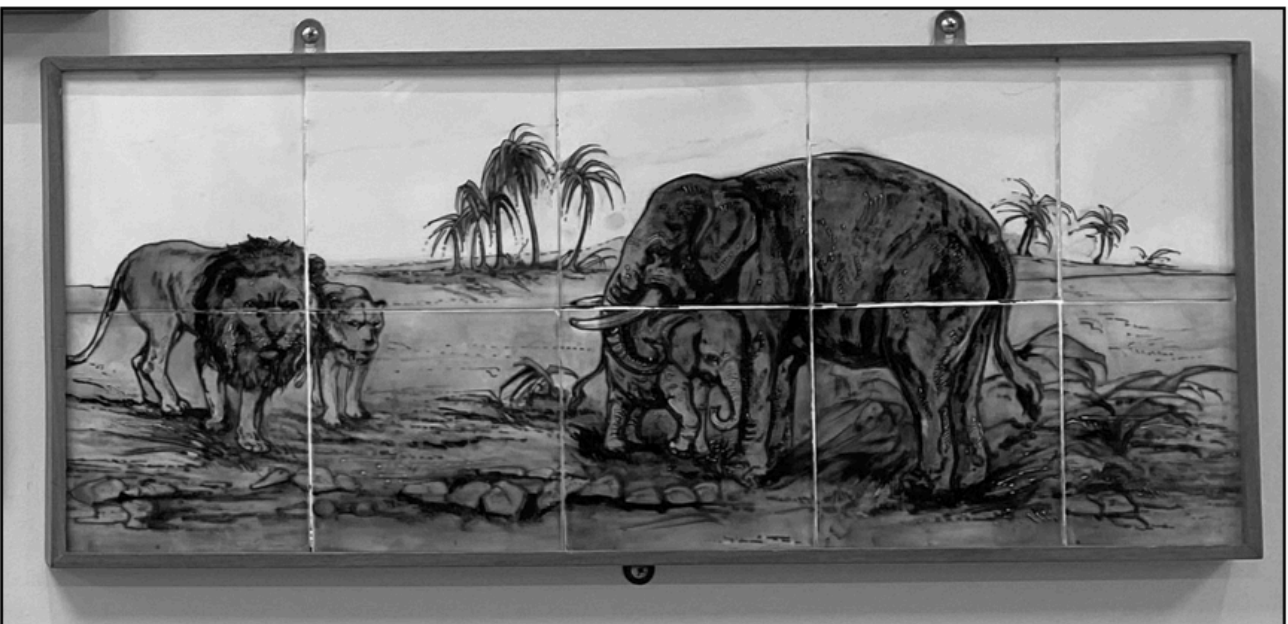
“The Huts” – Wards 1-6: Orthopaedics, Medical, Gynaecology, Geriatric Males

Other specialities had their own separate wards around the hospital site: Surgery, Elderly, Children, Maternity, Psychiatry, Theatres, Casualty etc.

Not only had the structure of the building been important but also the organisation of all staff. To ensure that Ormskirk Hospital’s high standard of patient care was upheld within the nursing organisation, staff training both before and following the move was very important. In Orthopaedics the greater involvement of all specialities - nurses, physiotherapists, and occupational therapists - was an increased benefit to the patients within the ward environment.



*Decorative tiles on display inside Ormskirk Hospital. The plaque reads:
"The above tiles were manufactured around 1930 and originally installed
in the Children's Ward. They are hand painted and have been restored
by Jackfield Conservation Studio of Ironbridge, Shropshire.*



Previous wards were male or female, due to the open plan setting for beds. Within the new hospital each ward would accommodate both men and women, as they were divided into separate small wards. Therefore Nursing staff had the benefit of extending their experience to caring for the individual needs of both. Communication between all Hospital staff became more productive on behalf of the patient.

In 1996/7 a year-long “Nursing Leadership Project” by the Royal College of Nursing for six hospitals in England included Ormskirk Hospital, and this became a great benefit for all staff and patients.



The West Lancashire Health Services Management was established on 1 April 1993 and marked the creation of the Trust with an “Open Day” for the general public, with guided tours around the wards and other departments.

It is now over 30 years since that moment in 1993 when the Ormskirk and District General Hospital started out on its new journey. It is good to look at the more recent past and into the future; whether as a patient, a member of the Community, or a relative of someone who has been involved with our Hospital and its Community staff. It continues to thrive and move forwards, change is ongoing.

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- The Siege of Lathom
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FAMILY HISTORY KATE HURST

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Society Facilities

Research Library

Located in the Scout Hall, Wigan Road, Ormskirk, a short walk from the bus and railway stations, and local car parks. The Research Library is open by appointment; please contact Kathryn MacDonald at librarianodfhs@gmail.com if you would like to arrange a visit.

Ormskirk Library Help Desk

Our Help Desk at Ormskirk Library, Burscough Street, Ormskirk runs from 10.30am to around 11.30a.m. on the first Monday of each month (except UK Bank Holidays).

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