



# Newsletter

## The Archives: planning for 2013 and beyond Jacquie Crosby, Archives Service Manager

Lancashire's Archives are looking forward to change and development in 2013.



From schools' pack 'The Scribe and the Seal'

At the North West Sound Archive a review of the service has been commissioned to propose solutions which will ensure a sustainable future for the archive and its collections.

At Lancashire Archives the year has started with staff changes: **Kathryn Rooke** is leaving for the Clothworkers Company in London, **Helen Unsworth** has been appointed as archivist for Arnold KE QM School, and **Annie Starkey** has left the searchroom to join **Alex Duggan** as one of two trainee archive conservators.

We will be stepping up our campaign to promote the archive collections with new publicity material focussing on our unique selling point - 'the real thing', and celebrating 25 years of volunteering.

It was the eagerness of some of our early Friends to give something back to the record office which launched the will-flattening project in May 1988 and you can expect a wonderful celebration.

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Clearing out my mother's house after her death, we found a dust-covered cardboard box full of letters, still in their envelopes. They chronicled my Dad's WW2 service: a faded pencilled account of the sometimes mundane, sometimes dangerous, daily life of an Ordinary Seaman serving on a Royal Navy frigate from 1943 to 1945.

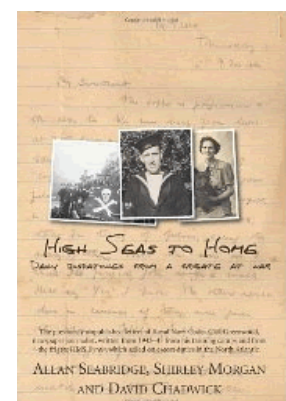
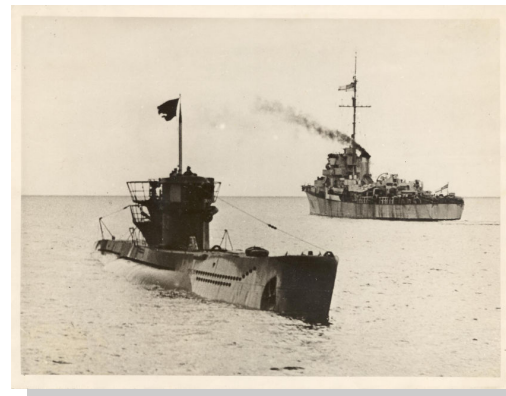
Nearly seventy years after they were written, and over forty years since they were discovered, the letters have been published – 'High Seas to Home – Daily Dispatches From a Frigate at War'.

My father, Cliff Greenwood, was a journalist in civilian life. He worked for the Blackpool Evening Gazette from the 1920s to his death in 1965. He was 40 when he joined the Navy in the autumn of 1943, serving as a coder on HMS Byron, a Captain Class frigate. His letters describe the fearful cold and danger of arctic convoys, the privations and loneliness of a man far from home and family, and give an eye-witness account of the surrender of the first German U-boats at the end of the war in Europe.

A few years after finding the letters in 1969, I had a phone call from Alan Hope, one of Cliff's shipmates, who wanted to make contact with Byron's surviving crew members. He and a friend, also a veteran, pieced together a history of the HMS Byron and other Captain Class Frigates. Some of the crew's reminiscences are included in 'High Seas to Home'. I attended one of the reunions of the ship's company and met Alan Hope and some of his shipmates, including Byron's commander. It was fascinating to hear their stories, still vivid after so many years.

The book is a valuable primary source for historians of WW2. Memoirs written years after the event can be inaccurate and subject to hindsight. Cliff's letters are an immediate account of one man's experience of war, not only the battle against U-boats, but also the companionship of his shipmates and, in port, the civilian volunteers who provided services that made life bearable. Cliff's journalistic skills make a vivid – and often amusing – record of his Navy service. The letters also provide a snapshot of the life and culture of the times – quite a different view of life to that we experience today.

**'High Seas to Home' (Seabridge, Morgan and Chadwick) is published by DB Publishing ([www.dbpublishing.co.uk](http://www.dbpublishing.co.uk)), ISBN 978-1-78091-041-3.**



# CHEESE AND WINE EVENING

With a wide range of drinks and nibbles

Friday 1st March 6.30pm for 7.00 pm

at the Lancashire Archives

**Speaker: David Clayton**

**Lost Farms of Brinscall Moors**

*As featured on BBC's 'Countryfile'.*

FLA members £8.50 / Non-members £9.00

Please use booking form on page 11

or contact:

Brenda Fox, 12 Derby Rd. Garstang Preston PR3

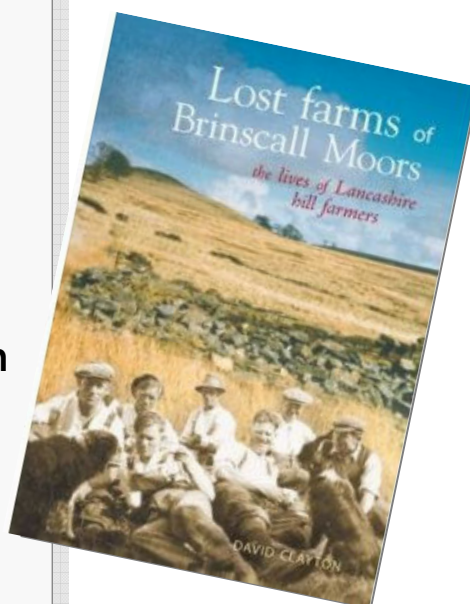
1EU Tel. 01995 604379

**Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> May**

**A Walk Around The Lost Farms of  
Brinscall with the Author**

Meet at 2 pm in the village of Brinscall (details later) and David will point out some of the many ruins of former farmhouses which have fascinated him in his 40 years of walking around the local moors.

Booking form page 11



## A Happy New Year to all of our members

Firstly, I should like to inform you, with sadness, of the death of our member Miss Margaret Hanly of Blackburn since the last issue of our newsletter.

Thank you to all our members who have been prompt in paying their subscriptions. About 80 % of you have paid to date. Please consult your chequebook and see if yours is one of the outstanding ones. It is very easy to overlook payment when the renewal notices are sent out well before payment is due. Renewal forms are to be found with our last newsletter if received by post. I sent the renewal form direct to our email readers so you should find it in your inbox.

### **Why not consider payment by Standing Order and make your life easier?**

Thank you also to the 20 additional members who have provided their email addresses

### **Can you help us reduce costs further and receive our letter by email?**

#### **GiftAid**

Recently two of our members contacted me to say they are no longer eligible for the GiftAid scheme. With changes in personal circumstances, the increase in tax allowances and the derisory return many of us are now getting on savings income it is possible that more of you no longer pay tax and should withdraw your GiftAid declaration.

The scheme works by treating your subscription (say £10) as if it were a gross payment of £12.50 from which you have deducted 20% tax (£2.50) to give payment net of tax of £10. So you have received tax relief on your subscription. If you have completed a GiftAid declaration the Friends can reclaim that £2.50 from HMRC. This increases the value of your subscription to us by 25%, which amounted to over £350 last year.

#### **BUT**

This **only** applies if you pay Income Tax or Capital Gains tax at least equal to the total tax attributed to all the annual subscriptions/donations you make to charities.

#### **Please take a moment to consider this.**

I have left the identifying initials on the envelope so if there is a G with your membership number you have signed a declaration, possibly many years ago, that you are eligible for the scheme. If you wish to withdraw this or ask any questions my email address and telephone number are on the back page.

#### **Constitution – Update**

The Constitution adopted at the last AGM has been registered with and accepted by the Charities Commission and the changes made to the previous Constitution are now in operation.

**Janet Lane**  
**Membership Secretary**

## Fowl Play - Cooking your goose in 17<sup>th</sup> Century Lancashire.

Or, 'a gander at the sourcy Goose' - Summary of Dr Alan Crosby's lecture, Friday 30th November 2012

The festive treat is the Friends' most popular event and Alan Crosby the most requested speaker so the occasion was oversubscribed. Those present were not disappointed when he launched into storytelling and analysis from his research into the Quarter Session records.

In the 17th Century agricultural villages were relatively closed communities. Everybody knew everybody else, and there was very little personal privacy. The term 'eaves-dropping' originated from the style and quality of most single-storey domestic dwellings of that time. So as often as not, theft remained contained within known boundaries. It became a matter of 'rounding up the usual suspects' - by local inhabitants invoking the rules of 'hue and cry' to bring the culprits to justice.

Owners guarded their valuable mobile livestock, penned up at night for fear of the fox and thieves, even to the extent of bringing the birds indoors or cloistering them within church premises.

This brought to mind the nursery rhyme 'Goosey Gander' .....

Apprehended felons who ended up in Court for stealing geese often gave the most implausible reasons for having the remains of geese in their possession. Often the recorded circumstances of the theft made humorous anecdotes.

Thefts led to the development of inter-village criminal gangs, which in turn expanded to involve nearby towns and eventually cities, as agricultural society changed and the population grew. Expanding towns and industrial centres became a magnet for cheap food and other stolen goods.

Apart from local domestic theft, a part-time casual network of people existed who were able to dispose of dead geese out of the area - plenty of willing receivers of stolen goods. Escape routes were planned, and actions allocated within teams, often to order. Organised gangs materialised, with wish lists of demands for items with a ready market, including geese.

Once targeted the most immediate solution was to kill the goose, pluck the feathers, gut the bird, and chop it into quarters ready for the pot ['hung, drawn and quartered?'] Concealment of the evidence became paramount. Even to the extent of hiding the bird or parts of it down baggy trousers or in a poke (sack) during the getaway.

By-products, the proceeds of the de-feathering - down for bedding and quill pens did not crop up in 'tales from Court records'. Subject for a further talk, perhaps?

The lecture was followed by an excellent spread of largely home produced food, including the usual Goosnargh cakes, thereby revealing the source of much of the effort in preparations, our Vice-Chairman Dr. Brenda (no-geese-are-safe) Fox! - Thank you to her and many other willing helpers for making this a successful evening.

**"A Member"**



## Cotton Spinning in Samlesbury Bottoms 1770 to 1890

Researched by **Barbara Pidcock** for a talk given at our picnic held at Mill Barn Samlesbury Bottoms on 20th June 2012, with the kind permission of the owners, Dr Christopher and Mrs Jess Mortimer.

Samlesbury Bottoms is a rural retreat with a few houses tucked in by the river Darwen which runs between steep wooded banks. The only sign of any previous activity is a disused paper mill by the bridge. But, 200 years ago it was very different.

From about 1780 to 1890 you would have found a corn mill, two cotton mills, 30 cottages housing nearly 200 adults and children.

The earliest cotton spinning mill in Lancashire was built in 1771 at Roach Bridge about two miles down river

from Samlesbury Bottoms by John Watson, a man who saw the potential in the fast flowing river cutting through steep wooded banks, and in the child labour he brought out of the London and Liverpool Workhouses, some of them as young as nine.



Evidence given at a Commission held in 1816 convened to investigate conditions in the mills, gives very vivid details of the plight of those children. Many of the children had deformed legs from having to stop the machinery using their knees, as well as other injuries caused by getting hands or fingers trapped in machinery. Two witnesses at a later enquiry testified that they reckoned the children would walk as far as 24 miles in a day, more if they stayed a distance from the mill.

In Samlesbury there had been a corn mill and drying kiln on the site of Mill Barn by the river Darwen since 1608. Around 1782 when John Sharrock, seeing the way things were moving, passed the corn mill on to another Samlesbury man, William Slater, and instead built a small cotton twisting mill down river from the corn mill. While excavating the land to create his garden Chris Mortimer found remains of a weir and watercourses and the possible site of a water-wheel which triggered the interest in this quiet corner.

William Slater was part of a consortium which built the second Samlesbury Mill, in 1784, up river from the corn mill and on the opposite side of the road, but by 1793 the consortium had dissolved and William Slater was the sole master. William Slater also acquired Sharrock's cotton twisting mill in 1809. Previous to that in 1805, Slater had borrowed £800 but after his death in 1815 his sons Robert and John were forced to hand over the leases of all the property to Messrs Copeland and Coupe in return for two promissory notes each for £2000 at 5% interest. They couldn't meet the payments and in 1819 they too were declared bankrupt, and in the same year the New Mill suffered fire damage.

# Join us for a guided visit on Thursday 11 April

## St Helen's Church, Churchtown, near Garstang



Photograph by Michael Heavey on [www.geograph.org.uk](http://www.geograph.org.uk)

Prices: FLA members £6.00 / Non-members £6.50

On Thursday 11 April the Friends will visit Churchtown, near Garstang, taking with them a packed lunch. We will meet at St Helen's Church at 10.30 am. There is a large free car park adjacent to the church.

We will be met by churchwarden Denis Livick who will tell us about the history of this ancient Grade 1 listed church, known locally as the Cathedral of the Fylde. FLA member, Brenda Fox, will talk about the Great Ejection of 1662 when almost 2000 Anglican clergymen were ejected from their parish churches for holding non-conformist views. Isaac Ambrose, vicar of Churchtown, was one such man and his name appears on the board of past vicars.

People will then be free to look around the church and Denis will be on hand to answer any questions. We will then eat our packed lunch in the parish room where members of the church will brew us cups of tea / coffee. After lunch Brenda will take us on a gentle walk around this tiny village.

Directions: follow the A6 north from Preston or south from Lancaster and turn onto the A586 at Kirkland Memorial Hall (Kirkland is the old name for Churchtown). A short distance along this road you pass the school and Horns Inn pub on your left. Turn left at the Horns Inn and at the village cross (with no cross on top) turn left. This is a cul-de-sac leading to the church.

After the walk people can, if they wish, go into Garstang two miles away, where Thursday is market day.

**Brenda Fox**

**Please use the booking form on page 11 or contact:  
Brenda Fox, 12 Derby Rd. Garstang  
Preston PR3 1EU Tel. 01995 604379**

## George Holt, Preston Borough Police Officer (c1799-1841)

One of the interesting results from the work that the volunteers are now doing on the Quarter Sessions recognizance bonds (is that Borough police constables can be identified. The Municipal Corporations Act of 1835 created Borough Police Forces and in August 1839 there was an Act for the Establishment of County and District Constables by the Authority of Justices of the Peace.

George's name appears often enough in the Quarter Sessions' bonds to encourage further looking into and a surprising amount of information has been gathered about him. The first mention of him in his capacity as a constable is in the Preston Chronicle of August 27 1831, when he appeared at the Petty Sessions Court in Preston charged with assaulting Mary Barton. He was bound over to appear at the Quarter Sessions in October where he was found not guilty. Some of the witnesses said of Holt that he "had a high character for sobriety, peaceableness and humanity" (Preston Chronicle 29 October 1831). We next find him again in the newspapers in January 1832 where he has been involved in policing the factory riots and gave a statement to the Lancaster Quarter Sessions Court. In November 1834 George is assaulted by one John Best (Preston Chronicle).

In the minutes of 10 Aug 1835 of the Improvement Commissioners for Preston, George has put himself forward as a candidate for Superintendent Constable along with 14 others but he was not successful at the election. He did however receive around £12 from money appropriated since the previous Superintendent Constable's death. In the same volume the Superintendent's report for October 1835 mentions "the great usefulness of Holt, his experience as a Police Officer and length of service, I do not think that he is sufficiently paid...it [is] very desirable for him to be at the Police Station as much as possible if it were only speedily to restore lost children to their parents".



Policeman, 1900

In July 1840 he was promoted to the rank of Inspector at 28s a week but this probably did not go a long way to defraying his expenses. In June 1839 he submits a bill for 17s 6d for expenses incurred in looking after and apprehending George Smith and James Heald for robbing Mr Bell's shop in Fishergate, Preston. Incidentally George has signed this document when he has received the money so there is an opportunity to see his signature.

George dies in February 1841 and was buried at Preston St John's on 14 February 1841. He left a widow, Anne and 6 children. His obituary describes him as having been "in the police of this borough nearly 14 years, during which period he had proved himself a most valuable public servant, and had thereby secured for himself the respect and goodwill of all classes of the inhabitants".

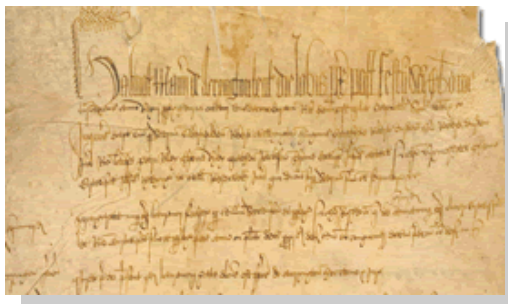
In the Preston Chronicle in February 1841 an advertisement appears asking for subscriptions to help the family, followed by a list of those who have already made a donation including the Mayor and Richard Arkwright.

**Anna Watson**  
**Senior Archivist (Collections)**



**Manorial Records and Family History  
Lancashire Archives  
Saturday 2 March 2013  
£10.00**

This day school will look at how manorial records can be used to help researchers with their family history. Manorial records contain a great deal of information about our ancestors but the records can be off-putting to use because of their format, terminology and the use of Latin in documents before 1733.



We want to ease these fears and demonstrate just how accessible these records can be and what you can learn from them. As well as hearing about the background to the Manorial Documents Register and the main types of manorial document, participants will learn about the records of the Honor of Clitheroe, and look in more detail at some specific types of manorial record and research case studies.

**Programme**

**09.30** Arrive - tea and coffee

**10.00** Introduction by David Tilsley, Collections Manager, Lancashire Archives

**10.05-11.00** **Dr Sarah Rose** from Lancaster University will talk about the Manorial Documents Register, which tells researchers where manorial documents are located, and provide an overview of the main record types.

**11-00-12.00** **Chris Spencer** will explain the importance of manorial documents to genealogy with particular reference to the records of the Honor of Clitheroe, a set of manors which make up the bulk of East Lancashire.

**12.00 Lunch** (not provided but tea and coffee will be available)

**13.00 - 15.00**

A range of speakers will provide more detailed guidance on how manorial documents can help extend your family history research by focusing on particular types of documents, case studies, and referring to their own research experiences. There will also be an exhibition of manorial records .

**15.00** Question and answer session

**15.30** Close

.....  
Please book.....places at £10 each. I enclose a cheque for £..... made payable to Lancashire County Council. Please return to Anna Watson, Senior Archivist, Lancashire Archives, Bow Lane, Preston, PR1 2RE

Name.....

Address.....  
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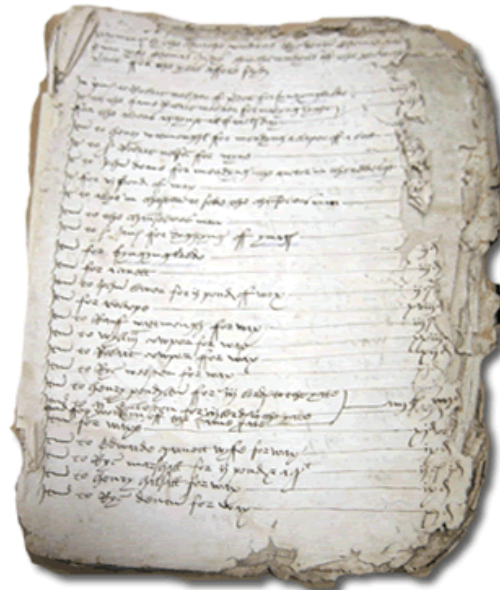
Telephone number or email .....

Signature .....

## What was lost is now found

The parish records of St Mary's church Prescott (PR3404) were placed for safekeeping in Lancashire Record Office more than 20 years ago. In addition to the registers of baptism, marriage and burial, dating back to 1538, there are lots of records relating to the early administration of the parish. These include churchwarden's accounts from the days when the wardens were not only responsible for the church fabric and the day to day functioning of the parish but also collected the church rate and implemented various statutes. The accounts record their responsibility for paying people for killing crows and other vermin including finches, hedgehogs, magpies, moles and rats, as well as payments to maimed soldiers and the poor.

Prescot has the earliest surviving churchwardens' accounts in Lancashire, dating back to 1523. These early accounts, which give a vivid insight into church and parish life, covering almost 90 years up to 1607, have their own interesting history. Although published by the Record Society of Lancashire and Cheshire, they were missing when the later accounts were deposited at Record Office in 1967, and the Revd Tom Steele was unable to track them down 25 years later when he deposited the church registers and other archives.



the

However. I am delighted to report that they have recently come to light and in November 2012, were handed to me to be preserved with the rest of the parish collection. They are in poor condition and are now being painstakingly repaired by Zoe Stewart, our archive conservator.

**Jacquie Crosby**  
Archives Service Manager and Diocesan Archivist

Lancashire Archives

### Chair

Nigel Neil [nigelrjneil@googlemail.com](mailto:nigelrjneil@googlemail.com) 07968 621530

### Membership Secretary

Janet Lane [jclane1@btinternet.com](mailto:jclane1@btinternet.com) 01253 725323

### Events

Brenda Fox 12 Derby Road Garstang PR3 1EU 01995 604379

### Newsletter

Maggy Simms [msimms@ntlworld.com](mailto:msimms@ntlworld.com) 01254 208128

All committee members can be contacted in writing c/o Lancashire Archives, Bow Lane, Preston PR1 2RE

**St Helen's Churchtown Booking Form**  
**Thursday 11 April 2013**  
**Prices: FLA members £6.00 / Non-members £6.50**

Please return to Brenda Fox, 12 Derby Rd., Garstang, Preston PR3 1EU  
 Tel. 01995 604379

Name.....  
 Address.....  
 Postcode.....  
 Tel:.....Email:.....

I enclose a cheque for ..... Made payable to the Friends of Lancashire Archives.

**Cheese and Wine Evening Booking Form**  
**Friday 1st March 2013**  
**FLA members £8.50 / Non-members £9.00**

Please return to Brenda Fox, 12 Derby Rd., Garstang, Preston PR3 1EU  
 Tel. 01995 604379

Name.....  
 Address.....  
 Postcode.....  
 Tel:.....Email:.....

I enclose a cheque for ..... Made payable to the Friends of Lancashire Archives.

**Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> May**

**A Walk Around The Lost Farms of Brinscall**

David's book on the farms was featured on BBC tv's Countryfile. We will meet at 2 pm in the village of Brinscall (details later) and David will point out some of the many ruins of former farmhouses which have fascinated him in his 40 years of walking around the local moors.

The cost will be £6 for members and £6.50 for non-members

**Directions:** *Brinscall is five miles north-east from Chorley and can be reached*

***EITHER*** *by the M65 to Junction 3 and then southwards along the A674 towards Chorley.*

***OR*** *by the M61 to Junction 8 and then northwards along the A674 towards Blackburn.*

.....

Please complete and return to:

Flo Wood, 5 Dalegarth Avenue, Heaton, Bolton, BL1 5DW, and enclose a s-a-e for further details of our meeting point.  
 For queries phone 01204 845 708, or send an e-mail to kfswood2@btinternet.com

Names \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Post Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone/Mobile number \_\_\_\_\_  
 I prefer contact by: Phone  Mobile  e-mail   
 I enclose a cheque for \_\_\_\_\_ made out to Friends of Lancashire Archives

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- It gets to you quicker than by post
- Your valuable shelf space is saved as you can save your own copy electronically

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### Handy hints for Home Printing

- **Think before you print!** Printer ink is the most expensive liquid on the planet, dearer than the best champagne or the costliest perfume. So do you really need a printed copy?
- **You can choose to print in black and white rather than full colour.** This might cut down the number of times you need to dash out for toner replacements. Do this by choosing 'file > print > properties' - everyone's set-up is a little different but you'll find there is an option to print in black and white or greyscale.
- **You can choose to print one page** that you want to show, share or keep, rather than the whole newsletter. Do this by choosing 'file > print' then alter the choice to 'current page only', then press 'print'.



*Do **YOU** have an article you'd like to contribute to the 'Friends' Newsletter? If so we'd love to hear from you. It's easiest to send in copy by email but hard copy is also welcome.*

*Authors retain intellectual ownership of anything we publish. We may have to edit content we print due to size limits.*

*If you want to submit an article or ask more about the Newsletter's contents, please contact Maggy Simms on [msimms@ntlworld.com](mailto:msimms@ntlworld.com)*

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