

# Newsletter

May 2014

The Friends of  
Lancashire Archives

Inside this issue:

## Time & Tide: stories from Morecambe through World War I

By Vicci McCann

The Friends of Lancashire Archives has been successful in securing a grant of £12,000 through the Arts Council England 'Grants for the Arts' scheme.

FLA, with help from Heather Fox of Lancashire County Council's arts development team and Vicci McCann of Lancashire Archives, submitted an application for a creative writing project to Grants for the Arts in March.

The project, *Time & Tide* will use coroner's records held at Lancashire Archives (DDHD/CR) to inspire new pieces of writing. The records from the Lancaster and Morecambe district date from the time of World War I and will help young people connect with this period in history and with their community.

Young people will form the core of the project but there will also be a series of open workshops for anyone to attend. Workshops and events will take place at Lancashire Archives and Morecambe Library and the project will end with art

installations, exhibitions and readings along Morecambe promenade in 2015. This Friends project is taking place with support from Lancashire Archives, the Young Peoples' Service (YPS) and the library service, with partner organizations including Lancaster Litfest.

*Time & Tide* will tell the stories of people on the Morecambe home front, whose untimely demise was inextricably linked to the tragedy engulfing the world in 1914-18. It will shine a new light on the effect the war had on this well known Lancashire seaside town.

Celebrating the life of Mona Duggan	3
Membership Matters	4
Food for thought: your advice needed on tea-room	4
Mr. Langshaw's Square Piano: report on cheese and wine evening	5
St James' Church Altham	6
Summer Sortie booking form	7
Book Review: Farington Book 8	2
Introduction to title deeds: course with Alan Crosby and booking form	8-9
Favourite Things: 75 years of Lancashire Archives at AGM in September	8
Honour of Clitheroe: update and appeal for volunteers	10
Heritage Open Day September 2014	10
Contact FLA	10





## Farington – A Lancashire Cotton Mill Village, Book 8: ‘Lest We Forget’

‘Lest We Forget’ is the eighth book in the series ‘Farington – a Lancashire Cotton Mill Village’ – a series of books now much sought after. Joan was asked especially to produce this book to record the lives of the men of Farington who died during World War I.

‘Lest We Forget’. On the 100th anniversary of the start of World War I this book begins with a commemoration of the men of Farington who lost their lives in that conflict and includes all of their names, ages and regiments, etc. So many so young.

This book also includes other articles such as a peep into an 18th century gentleman’s Diary, including some fascinating (royal) gossip; an eye witness account of an 1898 fatal train crash near Leyland station; the story of the Tannery – one of the area’s earliest industries – and its elephant sized challenge; a Lancashire Sheriff’s lot was not always a happy one; the postman who caught the eye of King George V; innovation in Farington’s first self-service shop; Red Letter Days; the Round house on the moss;

Plus, who served 12,449 men in 36 hours and in 1 week used 1,500 loaves of bread, 1,000 meat pies, 230 gallons of milk and 4 cwt. of margarine?

These and many other stories can be found in Joan’s new book.

This A4 size publication has 220 pages and

includes about 200 photographs and illustrations.

ISBN number 978-955- 0402-22-9. It costs just £8.00p plus postage and packing £2.60p (where appropriate)

‘Lest We Forget’ can be obtained from Joan Langford, 7 Stanifield Lane, Farington, Lancs. PR25 4QA

Telephone: 01772 436505

Email [joanlangford@talktalk.net](mailto:joanlangford@talktalk.net).

✂

Please send me ..... Copy/copies of Farington Book 8 ‘LEST WE FORGET@ at £8.00 plus £2.60 postage and packing.

Name:  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....

Address including postcode:  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....

Please make your cheque payable to Joan Langford. Thank-you



# Mona Duggan

## Celebrating the life of a valued Friend

*Audrey Coney writes:*

Friends and colleagues of Mona Duggan were saddened to hear of her death in January this year. Mona was a well respected local historian with a special interest in the market town of Ormskirk and its surrounding area.

She was born and brought up in Blackpool. On leaving school, however, Mona trained as a primary school teacher at St Katherine's college in Keswick. She later met her husband, Heaton, on a mountain in the Lake District, a chance occurrence that was to lead to a long and happy marriage. After living for some time in Maghull, where Heaton ran a successful radio and television business, the couple moved to a new home in Haskayne near Halsall. It was here, amidst the wide vistas of the Lancashire plain, that Mona wrote her books on local history.

First, however, Mona enrolled as an undergraduate with the Open University. Successful completion of studies was swiftly followed by post graduate research at the University of Lancaster. Her doctoral thesis focussed on life in Ormskirk between the mid seventeenth century and 1800. The array of documents she uncovered at record offices in Lancashire, Cheshire and The National Archives provided abundant material for an in depth study of this Lancashire market town. In charting the development of this urban area, Mona investigated subjects such as trade, religion, education and recreation, and was delighted when her research, entitled *Ormskirk: the making of a modern town*, was published by Sutton Publishing Ltd.

Mona's interest in this intriguing area continued.

Her initial publication was swiftly followed by others providing photographic records of Ormskirk and its district. A staunch Methodist, Mona was an obvious choice when the United Reformed Methodist church in Ormskirk required an author to write the history of Methodism in the town.

But Mona's expertise and historical research ranged beyond the bounds of Ormskirk. She was commissioned to write a history of nearby Scarisbrick, a rural village with aspects vastly different from those of the bustling market town she had come to love so well. She put her educational knowledge to good use with publications charting the histories of schools at Long Moor Lane in Aintree and the rural primary school at Haskayne. Her study of Haskayne's village school described how farmers' children were frequently withheld from school at harvest time and incidences of what were then potentially deadly diseases left her particularly moved. Mona's final publication, published shortly before her death, was entitled *Sugar for the House: A History of Early Sugar Refining in North West England*. Its genesis was her discovery of evidence for sugar boiling in seventeenth-century Ormskirk.

Mona was a former president of the Lancashire Local History Federation and was actively involved with the Friends of Lancashire Archives. She was also a popular part-time lecturer for the Continuing Education Department at Liverpool University. She featured often on the fixture programmes of several local history societies. Enthusiastic and out-going, she will be greatly missed and we send our condolences to her son and daughter in their sad loss.



## Membership Matters

**Janet Lane, Membership Secretary**

### Outstanding subscriptions

Subscriptions for 2013 were due on 1st January. Most of you have paid but there are a number of members in arrears. If you are one of these there will be a reminder with your printed newsletter or I shall send you an individual email, whichever applies.

Please check your records to see if you have paid as this will be your last newsletter if subscriptions remain unpaid after 30th June.

### E-newsletters

There is a steady increase in the number of members who receive the newsletter by email – now well over half the membership. This saves us a great deal of money which can further our aim of assisting Lancashire Archives.

Postage costs are increasing yet again so if you have an internet connection please opt for an e-newsletter. All you have to do is email Maggy, our editor, or me ([jclane1@btinternet.com](mailto:jclane1@btinternet.com)). Our details are on the back page.

### GiftAid

As we are now at the beginning of another financial year can I remind those of you who have made a GiftAid declaration to consider if you are still eligible. To be eligible you must pay sufficient income and capital gains tax to cover ALL donations you make to charities in the year.

### Required – Membership Secretary

I shall be stepping down as membership secretary at the Annual General Meeting and will not be standing for re-election as a Trustee. The Committee are therefore looking for a member who is prepared to take on this role.

I have found it very interesting and have got to know you by your membership details even if I do not know you by sight.

Please consider if YOU can take on this role. The committee can function with some vacancies but not without a membership secretary.

If you want to discuss the work involved please contact me.

## Time for tea, and food for thought.....

It costs Lancashire Archives about £1500 each year to provide the hot drink facility for our users. The present cost of 60p per drink covers the cost of cups and ingredients but not the machine rental. We need to ensure that we recover our costs and will, over the next few months, be looking at a range of options for providing refreshments. If we keep the machine we will have to charge at least £1 per drink. Please let me know what you think.

Jacque Crosby Archives Service Manager

[Record.office@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:Record.office@lancashire.gov.uk)



Tea cup made of recycled book pages by Cecilia Levy



## Mr Langshaw's Square Piano

### Report on the talk given by Madeline Goold at the Cheese and Wine evening

Brenda Fox writes:

The evening was an outstanding success and was very well attended. What follows is a summary which can be followed up in greater depth in Madeline Goold's book and on her website

These oblong pianos were the first type of piano to be made in this country. In 2004 Madeline saw two square pianos listed for sale in a Worcester auction house, together with assorted Victoriana, and realising that one was made by John Broadwood she successfully bid £100 to acquire one. It was in a lamentable condition.

During its restoration Madeline discovered much about the piano and person who first owned it. The square piano has a compass of 5 1/2 octaves, 20 notes fewer than on a modern piano. Inside she found the unique serial number 10651. The Broadwood Archives indicated that the piano of this number was made in 1807 and is a miraculous survivor. In 1807 the square piano was their best-selling model. This one's first owner was a Mr John Langshaw, organist, of Lancaster. And it had been transported from London to Lancaster by barge.

John Langshaw is buried in the Priory Church of St Mary, Lancaster parish church. In Lancaster city library Madeline found the Langshaw papers. Unfortunately the papers are not very informative. The Langshaw family had originated from Wigan in the 17th

century, where the first John Langshaw was the organist at the parish church of All Saints, before going to London and then taking up the Lancaster appointment. Her search for records took her to the John Rylands library in Manchester, the Royal Academy of Music in London, the Bodleian library in Oxford and the Austin-Paley Archive in the Maritime museum, Lancaster. Word got around that she was researching John Langshaw and she had a call from Tim Austin, a retired nuclear physicist. He said he had heard she was searching for one of his ancestors. John Langshaw, the second, was Tim's 4 x great grandfather. Madeline explained that she now owned his ancestor's piano. Tim then lent her the family archive which included lots of drawings and pictures of the family.

John Langshaw was one of the first men to move pianos into the provinces, and teach the new owners how to play, leading an egalitarian movement to bring music to the masses. He was a man whose influence lasted well beyond his lifetime. The pianos he supplied and taught upon brought social and cultural change he could not have envisaged. John Langshaw and his square piano formed a bridge from the era when music was the preserve of the privileged few to the time 150 years later when even the poorest households had a piano in their parlour. Madeline wove the history of the piano with history generally and archives which exist in our area. This really was one of those extra-special talks and we were privileged to hear it.

<http://www.mrlangshawssquarepiano.co.uk/>



# St. James' Church, Altham



Set at the end of a long graveyard, well back from the main Blackburn to Burnley road, this church is so well hidden by the summer trees that even the observant passer-by sees only the summit of its tower, and most people would miss it altogether but for the lych gate on the road side.. In winter it becomes a little more obvious, but those who notice it rarely turn aside to seek a closer acquaintance, and very few of the inhabitants of the nearby towns guess what a neglected jewel is in their midst.

As long ago as the 12th century the people of Elvetham (now Altham) were expected to travel to the parish church at Whalley to worship. This would have involved crossing the ford over the river and in bad weather this could become treacherous. To resolve the problem it appears that a monastic cell was established on the bank of the river to give assistance to travellers and to serve as a place of worship when circumstances prevented attendance at Whalley.

In the church you will see much evidence of worship and life over past centuries.

Worship in a church before the days of electricity involved making use of as much natural light as

possible. The windows are good examples of this ranging from early leaded plain glass, early stained glass and highly decorated memorial windows to modern day projects. Walking around the church you will see evidence of re-ordering and updating at key moments in the church's history:

Stone masons' marks on pillars ensuring fair payment for work done.

Paintings and photographs showing changes to the outside of the building.

Relics from the church yard, re-instated inside the church such as the tympanum and witch stones, having survived the rampage of Henry VIII's men.

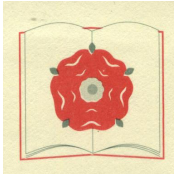
Memorial plaques relating stories of past incumbents, lords of the manor and local characters.

Tales of knights, home from adventure in foreign lands ending their days here and buried in the church yard. Their stone coffin lids now grace the church as interior window and door lintels with the carved sword and dagger decoration still visible.

Hatchments depicting the heraldic origins of notable local families, with even a heraldic pun (for the really clever ones to spot).

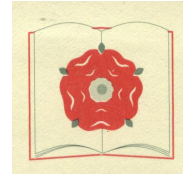
Altham has had its share of sadness too with loss of life in both wars and the Moorfield Colliery disaster which claimed the lives of many local men and boys. There are many records and memorials to this in church and on the lych gate alongside the war memorial at the top of the path.

**The FLA is organizing a trip to St James' Church on 24 June – see booking form opposite.**



Friends of Lancashire Archives

Charity Registration Number 518611



# Summer Sortie

## A visit to St. James' Church, Altham



&

## Pendle Heritage Centre

### on Tuesday 24 June 2014



#### Programme

- 11.00 Meet at St. James' Church, Burnley Road, Altham, BB5 5UN (on A678) for refreshments
- 11.30 – 12.30 Tour of the church
- 12.30 – 13.00 Short drive to Pendle Heritage Centre, Colne Road, Barrowford BB9 6JQ (on B6247)
- 13.00 – 13.45 Lunch\*
- 13.45 – 16.30 Visit Pendle Heritage Centre which is a beautiful Grade II listed complex of farm buildings, including museum, walled garden, cruck-framed barn and woodland walk.

(If time permits there may also be a walk round historic Barrowford)

Fee: Members £9 Non-members £9.50

\*There is a café at Pendle Heritage Centre or bring a packed lunch

#### Booking form for Summer Sortie

Please complete and return to: Zoë Lawson, Roselea, Mill Lane, Goosnargh, Preston, PR3 2JX

Telephone: 01772 865347 email: zoe.lawson@talktalk.net

Name(s) .....

Address .....

Postcode .....

Telephone ..... Email.....

I enclose a cheque for \_\_\_\_\_ made out to Friends of Lancashire Archives



## An introduction to Title Deeds 4th August at Lancashire Archives

The FLA is organizing a workshop - an Introduction to Title Deeds - to be run by Alan Crosby on 4 August at Lancashire Archives. Dr Crosby will give an insight into this complex area providing background information on the legal terminology surrounding title deeds before analysing

real examples from the archive collections.

This is an ideal opportunity for both local and family historians who wish to increase their knowledge research skills. For information and booking form **see opposite page**

## Some Of My Favourite Things:

### Alan Crosby on the theme of our 75th Anniversary

I suppose that most people who have researched regularly at Lancashire Archives will have come across documents which aren't just of personal historical interest but which also appeal for other reasons. They are beautiful to look at, or intrinsically distinctive, or have some special importance besides the information which they give us. For its 75<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations in 2015 Lancashire Archives is drawing up a list of 75 special treasures, nominated by staff and searchers, and I would urge all Friends to think about submitting entries – put forward the name and reference of a document that for you is a special treasure, and explain why you think it deserves to be included.

Meanwhile, after the Friends' Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 30 September I am going to be giving an illustrated talk about my own special treasures, the documents in the archive which (I confess) I would love to take home with me. I first used the LRO in the early autumn of 1985, so I'm approaching my 30<sup>th</sup>

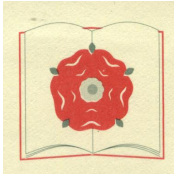
anniversary – though of course some Friends have been working there much longer. These are documents which have a particular place in my own memories – the ones that, when I first picked them up, or opened them, or collected them from the issue desk, made me exclaim (usually under my breath but not always!).

One is an exquisite miniature monastic title deed over 800 years old, another a tatty scrap of letter from the reign of Henry VII, a third a wonderful working class autobiography of the 1820s. And there are others ... including one, a document signed by one of our greatest monarchs, which for me means something special because my cousin Wojtek from Kraków cried when he saw it.

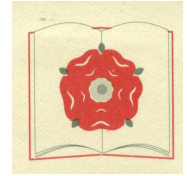
We become accustomed to the privilege of using the record office and being able to see, touch, handle and learn from priceless and unique and irreplaceable documents. Here are 'some of my favourite things'. I hope you will come on 30 September and find out about them.

Alan Crosby





Friends of Lancashire Archives  
Charity Registration Number 518611



# An Introduction to Title Deeds with Dr Alan Crosby

To be held at Lancashire Archives, Bow Lane, Preston, PR1 2RE  
on Monday 4 August  
Programme

- 1.00 – 2.15      *To have and to hold*: an extremely rapid introduction to the arcane mysteries of English land law 1150-1750
- 2.15 – 2.45      Tea and coffee
- 2.45 – 4.00      Practical examples and workshop session: looking at the documents

Fee:    **Members £10**                      **Non-members £10.50**

---

## Booking form for 'Introduction to Title Deeds'

Please complete and return to: Zoë Lawson, Roselea, Mill Lane, Goosnargh, Preston, PR3 2JX

Telephone: 01772 865347    email: zoe.lawson@talktalk.net

Name(s) .....

Address .....

Postcode .....

Telephone ..... Email.....

I enclose a cheque for \_\_\_\_\_ made out to *Friends of Lancashire Archives*



The Friends of Lancashire Archives can be contacted via our website

Use the online form at [www.flarchives.co.uk](http://www.flarchives.co.uk)

Alternatively you may direct letters to any committee member via  
Lancashire Archives  
Bow Lane, Preston, Lancashire  
PR1 2RE  
01772 533039

More than half of our Friends now choose to get their Newsletter by email.

This saves a substantial amount of print and postage costs, savings that we convert into supporting the work of the archives.

If you would like to be added to the email list, please contact us via the Friends' website [www.flarchives.co.uk](http://www.flarchives.co.uk)

## Update: Honour of Clitheroe

### David Tilsley on new equipment purchase

In February's issue, we told you about the generous donation of £4,000 to FLA by Stephen Howarth and how this is funding an exciting new project to help better preserve and make accessible the Honour of Clitheroe Collection (DDHCL).

The new humidification cabinet we mentioned has now been installed. This was hand-made to order by a local carpentry firm and has massively increased the capacity of the Conservation Department to relax, flatten and clean parchment. Some of the court rolls and books in DDHCL will soon receive treatment so that they can be better stored and be more available to researchers.

Our volunteer project to transcribe the index to the Accrington rolls and books is also underway. Nine people - some working at home, some coming into the office - are currently working through this 700 page volume, creating a spreadsheet of information which will eventually be loaded into our online catalogue alongside images of the original entries.

#### Could you help?

Please get in touch with David Tilsley, Archive Collections Manager

[david.tilsley@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:david.tilsley@lancashire.gov.uk)



The Humidification cabinet installed and working

## Heritage Open Days September 11 – 14, 2014

By Brenda Fox

Sometimes the General Record Office, Smedley Hydro, Southport, has been open for conducted tours during Heritage weekend. The FLA committee were hoping to arrange a visit this year. There are other places in the area which are also interesting, and we would visit them the same day. I have just contacted Smedley Hydro to make a group booking (mid-April) but they said they haven't yet decided whether or not to open. They said their decision will not be made until the end of July, which I think is a bit late as publicity brochures will have been printed by then. If you are interested would you please let me know then I have an idea of numbers. Expressing your interest at this stage does not bind you to go.

To express interest in visiting the General record Office at Southport, contact Brenda Fox on 01995 604523

**Did you know?** In 1877 the resident physician at the Smedley Hydropathic Hotel was **Dr. Thomas John Barnardo**, the famous philanthropist.