



NEWSLETTER

The Friends of Lancashire Archives

Easter Quarter 2018

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From the Chairman

Alan Crosby

We're very pleased that work is now under way on the project to catalogue the Dalton of Thurnham archive. We are paying the costs of employing an archivist for a year while Vicci McCann undertakes the cataloguing and it's by far our largest ever funding contribution to the work of the archive service. As most of you will know, this has been made possible by the very generous bequest left to the Friends by Miss Joan Gardner, and we feel certain that she would be delighted that her legacy is being used in this way, and that it will be a permanent reminder of her support for Lancashire's archives.

We continue to weigh up other possible projects, and to consider the purchase of documents. We know full well that in an ideal world the latter would not be necessary, because the archive service could make purchases as appropriate from its own resources, but we also recognise that this is far from an ideal world – there are no public funds available and so we must try in a small way to make up the shortfall.

Clearly we cannot buy everything that comes on the market - sometimes the price is absurdly inflated, sometimes the document is not felt to be of sufficient importance, and sometimes it would not be an appropriate acquisition for Lancashire Archives. Indeed, we might well be outbid at auction – which happened recently with a beautiful medieval deed relating to Anglezarke, in which the purchase price was way beyond what we felt was realistic and affordable. We therefore have to exercise very careful restraint and only go for what seems worthwhile in a historic sense and affordable in a financial sense.

Over the past few months we've been really pleased with the success of our various events and activities, not only because they are so enjoyable and worthwhile but also because every one of them has covered its costs and made a contribution – in some cases quite a large contribution – to our funds. It's great that our members give such constant and enthusiastic support, and it's especially good when people who aren't in the Friends come and join in (and of course come and join up as well!).

It's always good when the riches and treasures of the record office are revealed to newcomers for the first time – people are amazed and fascinated, and express astonishment that they'd not known of the existence of the wonders of Bow Lane, often almost on their doorstep. Recently

there has been a lot of interest from schools in the potential for using the resources of the record office in teaching and learning, and that's especially encouraging because of course it means that young people are made aware of archives and heritage at an early age. Let's hope that this knowledge will never go away.

Summer Events

Jacquie Crosby

Our summer events advertised in this newsletter both have a strong connection to archives held at Lancashire Archives. The long-awaited visit to Parrox Hall will take place at the beginning of June. Harold Elletson owner of the Hall, and of the Elletson archive collection (DDED), will show us round his historic home. A few of his archives will be on display during the visit.

The walk round the site of the Hulton Collieries and the Pretoria Pit disaster has a direct link to the Hulton Archive which the FLA helped to buy in 2014. William Hulton (1787-1864) achieved notoriety for ordering the cavalry to charge at Peterloo in 1819. He also developed successful commercial enterprises on the estate, notably the prosperous family coal mines, which included the Pretoria Pit. Small coal mines on the northern part of the Hulton estate were exploited from early days. By the

early nineteenth century they were thriving, with seven collieries working under Hulton Park or nearby. In 1858 the Hulton Colliery Company was founded by William Hulton and a partner. The colliery accounts deposited in 1943 (DDHU 42/9-14) date from 1700-1836. Subsequent deposits of colliery records include substantial series of colliery correspondence, detailed accounts, wage books, a coal measurer's notebook and a large number of plans and sections.

There is also good documentation about working conditions, union activities, and the relations between owners and workers. Alan Davies who will lead the walk has worked on the plans and used his knowledge of mining and the local area to enhance the catalogue descriptions in DDHU.

Both archive collections are available for research at Lancashire Archives. Please ask staff for further information.

Booking instructions for guided walks are to be found at the end of this newsletter

Thanks to Friends for supporting charts purchase *Jacque Crosby*

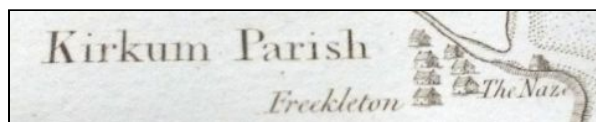


A huge thank you to the Friends of Lancashire Archives who have recently purchased for us a fine 18th century chart depicting the Lancashire coast from Formby Point to Walney Island.

The chart is from an atlas published in 1775. It was surveyed by Murdoch

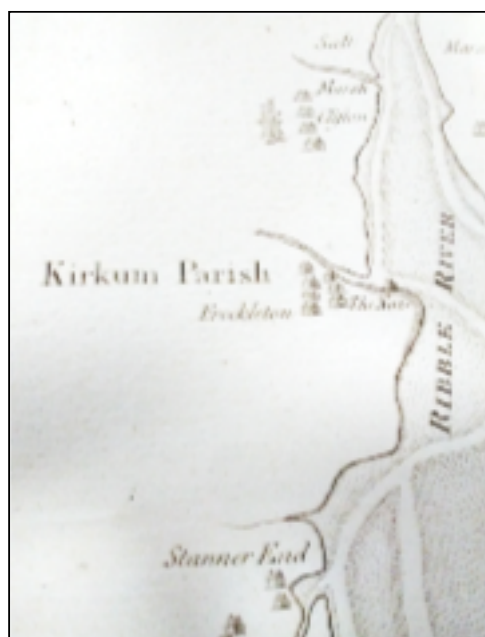


Mackenzie Senior and engraved by Thomas Bowen.



The National Archives have the whole atlas (SP112/96) but it is appropriate that we should have a copy of this page here. It is interesting to view Lancashire from the sea and these images show some of the fine detail.

The chart has been given the document reference DP/536 and can be seen in the searchroom in Bow Lane.



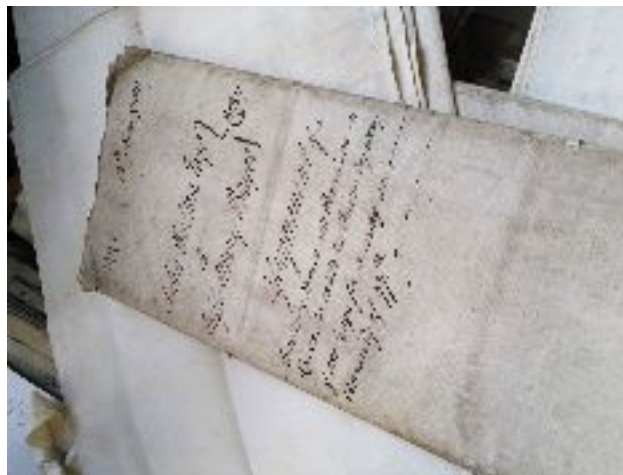
Cataloguing the Dalton of Thurnham Collection

Victoria McCann, Archivist

April is upon us and while there are a few buds appearing, inclement weather means we can't yet say that 'spring has sprung'. Cataloguing of the Dalton family of Thurnham Hall near Lancaster (DDDA) – generously funded by FLA - has however started and this will be the first of many regular updates. So far there isn't much to tell except that one thing is clear: this collection is in a bit of a mess! Most of the 82 boxes contain a jumble of records which means that it is extremely difficult to identify any original order. Therefore, to make sense of the collection, there will need to be a lot of sorting, and some answers probably won't reveal themselves until the end of the project.

Having said that, the first box contained some interesting items. First out was an envelope containing papers relating to the sale of land, in the township of Bulk, Lancaster, to the proprietors of the Lancaster Canal Navigation in the late eighteenth century. This was particularly resonant with me as I had only the weekend before walked part of that stretch of canal.

Another item of interest is a correspondence file containing papers relating to the 'Cockersands Abbey Exploration Committee', 1914-1928, which includes a copy of The First Report and Further Appeal for Funds of the Cockersand Abbey Exploration Committee; an essay on the Age of the Founding of Cockersand



Abbey by C R Golland, 1923; and copy of a poem called simply Cockersand Abbey. There is also an Air Raid Risk Policy from 1917 for a property in Finsbury Park, London.

This is just a taste of the interesting things that are beginning to be revealed. In my next update I shall regale readers with tales of the American Daltons who succeeded to the Thurnham estates in the 20th century and who must have made a striking impression on the town of Lancaster and the local provincial elite.



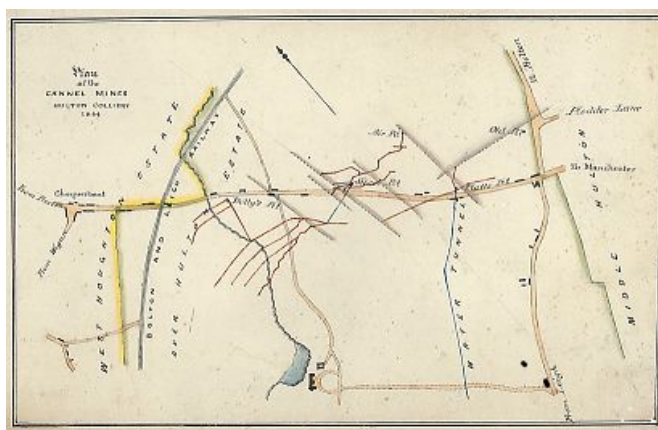
Friends of Lancashire Archives

Charity Registration Number 518611

Lancashire's largest pit disaster: a site visit to Pretoria Pit, Over Hulton

led by mining historian, Alan Davies

Saturday 4 August 2018 from 10am-12noon



This is an easy, 1.5 mile, walk round the site of the Hulton Collieries in Atherton exploring the history of mining in this area and learning about the 1910 Pretoria Pit disaster. There are 5 stopping points on the walk and Alan will talk about geology, early mining on the Hulton estate, coal processing, pitbrow women, the third worst mining accident in Britain, and fracking. Stout shoes, boots or wellies are essential.

Details of the meeting place will be provided by email or in person on receipt of payment

£10.00

Places are limited and booking is essential. If you would like to enrol please enquire by email to record.office@lancashire.gov.uk OR telephone 01772 533039 OR ask in person at Lancashire Archives, to find out if a place is available.

Once a place has been reserved payment must be made no later than Friday 27 July 2018 by BACS (see below for details) or by cheque (payable to Friends of Lancashire Archives and sent to, walk, Lancashire Archives, Bow Lane, PRESTON PR1 2RE)

For BACS payments please use the following details:

Sort Code: 16-28-33 Account number 11771886.

Please ensure that you give your surname and Pretoria as a reference.

Please note: We will hold the personal information about your booking for a period of not more than 28 days after the event. It will not be shared with any third party and will be securely destroyed by the end of that period.



Friends of Lancashire Archives

Charity Registration Number 518611

Visit to Parrox Hall, Preesall

Saturday 2 June 2018 from 2pm



£10.00

The Friends have been invited to visit this Grade II* listed 17th century building which is the home of the Elletson family and rarely open to the public. The present owner, Harold Elletson, is a descendant of the first Lord of the Manor of Preesall with Hackensall, Geoffrey the Crossbow man, who was given land by King John. Mr Elletson will show us round the house and garden; tea and biscuits will be provided.

Meet at Parrox Hall by 1.55pm. Own transport arrangements, but if you need a lift it may be possible to arrange one to and from Lancashire Archives.

Places are limited and booking is essential.

If you would like to enrol please enquire by email to record.office@lancashire.gov.uk OR telephone 01772 533039 OR ask in person at Lancashire Archives, to find out if a place is available.

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Thanks!

Alan Crosby, Chairman

Although it's not the AGM or any special occasion, I'd just like to thank our treasurer, Peter Bamford, for his outstanding efficiency and exemplary paperwork, and for all the time he has devoted to checking different types of investment accounts, monitoring interest rates, and preparing reports for the Committee on such matters as data protection. Maggy Simms does a great job of putting together this Newsletter and running our website. And Anna Watson makes a really important contribution, not only by working on volunteer projects and holding day schools, but also by organising Cafe Archive. This is a great success, and also makes a good profit for FLA funds despite the excellent value of the goodies on offer! Thanks to you all for your hard work on behalf of the Friends.

Membership Matters

Peter Bamford

Welcome to two new members who have joined us since our last newsletter was published

- Susan Dwyer of Westhoughton
- Peter Lloyd of Southport

We look forward to meeting them at one of our events.

We have been notified of the death of Christine Martin of Ilford. Our condolences go to her family and friends.

We still have a handful of members who have not yet renewed their subscription for this year. Final reminders have been sent.

We have been reviewing our data privacy policy to ensure we meet the requirements of the new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) which come into force at the end of this month. A formal statement of this privacy policy will be issued to all members either by email or post within the next week. The policy gives you the right to see the data we hold on you, to change it, or to have it removed from our database. If you do wish to have it removed, we will not be able to contact you in the future. Please let me know if you need any further details; my email address is theflatreasurer@gmail.com

As a result of the GDPR regulations we are in the process of destroying information we no longer need on past members – quite a large task.

We now have a centenarian in our membership - Albert Bedford turned 100 in the last week of April. Albert was a stalwart of the will flattening project and, together with his late wife Gwyneth, was a regular attendee at FLA events. Congratulations on reaching this milestone and many more to come.

Contact FLA

The Friends of Lancashire Archives can be contacted via our website www.flarchives.co.uk
You may direct letters to any committee member via Lancashire Archives Bow Lane, Preston,
Lancashire PR1 2RE / 01772 533039