

**August 2015**

## Welcome to the Community Heritage Newsletter

**Our Newsletter is now published quarterly.** We hope you will enjoy reading about the local history and heritage activities we have been involved in since the last edition.

### 'Bringing Your Heritage to Life'

#### **Burnley Blue Plaque School Project**

May 19th and 20th saw Fiona McIntyre and Alison Hey deliver sessions to support the News Academy Heritage Lottery project. Before the sessions, held at Burnley Library, children from Cherry Fold and Worsthorne Primary Schools had been working with Lucie Higham from the News Academy on how to be a reporter and write articles. Following on from this, the children were given the task of finding out about the Blue Plaques in Burnley and the surrounding district. Fiona and Lucie took them on a town centre heritage walk looking at 9 of the plaques and the children had to fill in the missing words from the plaque on their worksheets. When they returned to the Library they had a research skills session in the Community History Department looking at resources that would help them to find out more about the plaques. They chose to look at one in particular "The Cattle Market & Gaiety Theatre". The children loved looking at the books, photographs, maps and microfilmed newspapers and discovering how to research and check facts. From these sessions they each produced articles which are currently being exhibited in Burnley Library. A website is under construction at [www.burnleyblueplaques.org.uk](http://www.burnleyblueplaques.org.uk)



**Lancashire Lantern – 37294**  
**At the Fair on the Cattle Market c1910**



**Lancashire Lantern - 32278**  
**The Gaiety Theatre, built in 1884**

## Booked Family History Sessions

Members of the team deliver events in libraries across the county to people who book to have, one-to-one half hour, sessions to ask about their own family history.

The sessions are aimed at helping either people who are just starting on the journey, or those who have done some research but have reached a dead end.

We show them the online resources which are freely available from library PCs, principally Ancestry Institution, as well as others which they can access from home.

It is very gratifying to see how pleased some people are when, within a few minutes of starting, we have found an ancestor's records which they had been searching for previously but with no success.

One person's great grandfather had an unusual first name, which made searching for him easier, and we even found a picture of his headstone which revealed yet more information about the family.

Some comments:

*I found the session wonderful and really useful. Thank you so much for your time and energy.*

*Very helpful and stimulating.*



**Andrew at the Family History session at Kirkham Library**

## George Lyon, the Upholland Highwayman

As part of the commemoration of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his hanging, Marianne arranged for 35 people, mainly from the Skelmersdale U3A, to go to Lancaster Castle and have a private guided tour.

We saw the actual courtroom where he was tried and condemned to death, the cells in which he was held, the drop room where he was prepared for hanging, and hanging corner itself. It was very meaningful to hear part of the contemporary account of the trial and hanging, and George Lyon's sorrowful last letter to his wife.

As you can see, we enjoyed our visit to the Castle more than the person we were remembering – and we were able to leave afterwards!

Marianne has been asked to give a talk about George Lyon in the courtroom itself at 7.30pm on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> of September (phone 01524 64998).



**The group in Lancaster**

## Lytham History Walk

On 8<sup>th</sup> August Andrew jointly led a history walk from Lytham Library which was also part of the Lytham Arts Festival. 15 people attended the walk which covered aspects of the history of Lytham and notable places, building and people related to the art collection.



On the Lytham History Walk

## Winckley Townscape Heritage and Gardens project celebration event

Townscape Heritage Initiative received over one million from the Heritage Lottery Fund to refurbish key buildings around Winckley Square in Preston and nearby streets, restoring its historic character and supporting ways of adapting property for new use including business, commercial, retail, restaurants and bars. The project also aimed to deliver a schools activity programme. In partnership with Community Gateway Housing Association, Claire Sutton from the Community Heritage Team and Dawn Worthington, Education Officer for the Museum & Art Gallery planned and delivered local history sessions to school children about the history of Winckley Square and its inhabitants. The sessions were split between the Harris Community History Library and the Harris Museum and Art Gallery. In total 135 pupils and teaching staff from local primary and secondary schools engaged with the wealth of resources available at the Harris. The pupils were all working towards their Arts Award and part of the day's programme included a visit to the Square and to Preston Vocational Centre to learn about traditional building processes. A celebration event was held at the Harris on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June which was attended by approximately 70 pupils, parents and teachers. The Mayor of Preston gave a speech and presented representatives from each school with their Arts Award certificates. The artwork produced by the schools is on display at the Harris until 27<sup>th</sup> July. For more photos and information about the project visit <https://www.facebook.com/WinckleySquarePreston>



With the Mayor of Preston



Claire talking to a group of school children

## World War 1 Centenary - Calendar of events

The Community Heritage team has organised over 80 events across Lancashire: to be delivered in the year April 2016. They include 4 themed WW1 talks and bookable WW1 family history sessions. The four talks are **Women and the War**, **Read all about it!**, **Military hospitals in Lancashire** and **Prisoners, aliens and Belgian refugees**.

**Women and the War.** This illustrated talk by the Community Heritage team looks at how the First World War affected home life for the women and children left behind. From fund raising, volunteering as individuals and with various organisations, and taking over jobs traditionally considered suitable only for men, this fascinating talk will reveal the sacrifices and changing roles that women undertook throughout Lancashire and Britain during World War 1. Tickets can be booked by visiting the library or phoning 0300 123 6703 or ringing the museum 01524 64637

**Lancaster City Museum** 11/9/2015 1pm

**Chatburn Library** 24/9/2015 7pm

**Bolton-le-Sands Library** 30/9/2015 2.30pm

**Rishton Library** 8/10/2015 10am

**Lostock Hall Library** 11/9/2015 2pm

**Bacup Library** 28/9/2015 5.30pm

**Euxton Library** 1/10/2015 10am

**Longton Library** 10/11/2015 2pm

**Read all about it!** Find out the importance that the press played during WW1 in this illustrated talk from the Community Heritage team. From Lancashire newspapers to the national press, discover how the war unfolded through reports, obituaries, letters from the front, fundraising and even advertisements and how it provides us with a window on yesterday in this fascinating talk. Tickets can be booked by visiting the library or phoning 0300 123 6703 or ringing the museum 01706 226459

**Helmshore Textile Museum** 31/8/2015 1pm

**Barnoldswick Library** 30/10/2015 2pm

**WhalleyLibrary** 6/10/2015 7pm

**Silverdale Library** 12/11/2015 11am

**Military hospitals in Lancashire.** Discover the generosity of the Lancashire people in this illustrated talk by the Community Heritage team. From sewing and knitting to donating and equipping whole buildings, find out how Lancashire established Auxiliary Military Hospitals throughout Lancashire to cope with the casualties coming back from WW1. Tickets can be booked by visiting the library or phoning 0300 123 6703.

**Thornton Library** 2/10/2015 10.30am

**Burnley Library** 6/10/2015 2pm

**Prisoners, aliens and Belgian refugees.** This illustrated talk from the Community Heritage team looks at what happened to the imprisoned, the dispossessed and enemy aliens as war broke out and progressed through Europe from 1914. Using original documentary evidence, photographs, newspapers, censuses and military records it builds a picture of their lives and experiences and shows how you access these resources for yourself. Tickets can be booked by visiting the library or phoning 0300 123 6703

**Ribbleton Library** 9/10/2015 10am

**Freckleton Library** 12/11/2015 11am

**Tarleton Library** 28/10/2015 10am

**Whitworth Library** 18/12/2015 2.15pm

## Coming Soon



### Get your Skates on

From the opening of the first dedicated rink in the 1850s until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, roller skating became a hugely popular pastime. The people of Lancashire took to it enthusiastically, and rinks were opened all over the county. As part of National Sporting Heritage Day, Community Heritage is planning to gather recollections, images and more between September 2015 & March 2016.

Lancashire Lantern – 12613 Colne Skating Rink c1910

## What people have said about Community Heritage

Good information & content learning experience also brought Fred Green & WW1 to life. Fiona's style very easy going and approachable, enjoyable session. **This Soldier's life talk, Barnoldswick**

Very helpful & useful to my research. Excellent for me- disabled & unable to do it myself some days **WW1 Booked family History session, St Anne's Library**

Thoroughly enjoyable. Most informative. Best talk I have attended and will certainly return for others. **Talk on the Role of Women during WW1 Leyland Library**

Was very informative and interesting. Good to link to actual places. **A Briercliffe Soldier's Life: a Local History Walk, Queen Street Mill Museum**

Thank you for the sessions that you held on Friday for archives – it was well worth it as loads of positive feedback. **Family History Session, Branch Manager, Garstang**

Wonderful to have access to and expertise. Alison was very good at getting across the info. Took her time & very patient. **WW1 Booked family History session, Barrowford Library**

## What are you doing to celebrate Lancashire's rich and diverse heritage?

We would like to hear from you if you have recently been successful with a Heritage Lottery funding bid or if you would like any advice and/or support from the Community Heritage team. Please contact [ch.enquiries@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:ch.enquiries@lancashire.gov.uk)

Follow us on Twitter @lanhistory

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