

The Future of *Transactions*

After 162 volumes of the *Transactions of the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire*, the Council of the society has recently passed a unanimous vote to change the format. The most important changes are a new, larger, page size and a soft binding. This may not be a popular move amongst some members who value the traditional format and those, like many members of Council, who like to see the volumes lined up on the book shelf. This decision has not been taken lightly and is the result of discussions over several years. However, there are distinct advantages to the Society which I hope will convince members that this is a positive change.

Some of the advantages are certain. First, the larger page size will allow us to produce a more attractive page layout and incorporate a broader range of images, tables and charts. This might attract different submissions and certainly gives us more flexibility in terms of what we will be able to publish. Second, the soft binding will yield a cost saving each year.

There are further potential advantages, some of which may not be fully realised until we have developed further plans for online hosting of the journal. A more standard academic journal format may help to attract high quality academic submissions so that we can attract some of the outstanding original work that is being undertaken on the history of the two counties. This format might also attract new members to the Society, especially from undergraduate and postgraduate students.

Of course, these changes will not negatively affect the quality, quantity or variety of content published in *Transactions*. The editorial board continue to work hard to publish the journal, working with authors and commissioning articles on a wide variety of topics.

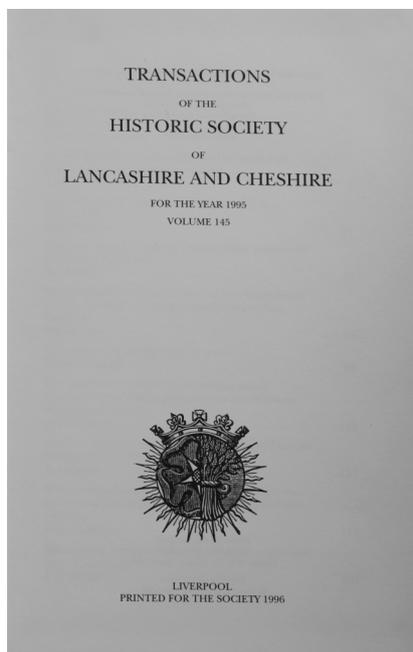
Transactions continues to attract high quality

submissions on a range of topics, and the forthcoming volume will once again contain a diverse range of articles. However, I am always happy to receive further submissions, not only from established academics and from allied professionals, but from postgraduate students, local historians and ordinary members of the society. Some inexperienced authors may be a little hesitant to submit their work for critical review by academic historians. This is understandable, but it is also the case that history is one of those rare academic subjects where the non-professional can make genuine and significant contributions to the development of the subject. I know there is diverse and innovative work taking place across the region, and I would like to encourage those researchers to consider writing for *Transactions*. In order to support this work I am currently preparing more detailed guidance on writing for *Transactions*, with specific guidance for inexperienced authors. This will be available on the new Society website later this year.

As regular readers of *Transactions* will know, I am keen to expand the type of article we publish, and I would be happy to receive further ideas and input from members on how the journal can develop. Would members appreciate a digest of scholarly articles on the history of Lancashire and Cheshire published in academic journals in the previous twelve months? Would members appreciate more short 'Research in Progress' articles? Would members appreciate more guidance on archival holdings and possible areas of research to develop? Are there other areas you would like to see us develop?

If you would like to contact me about *Transactions*, please email me at Andrew.Gritt@ntu.ac.uk

Andy Gritt

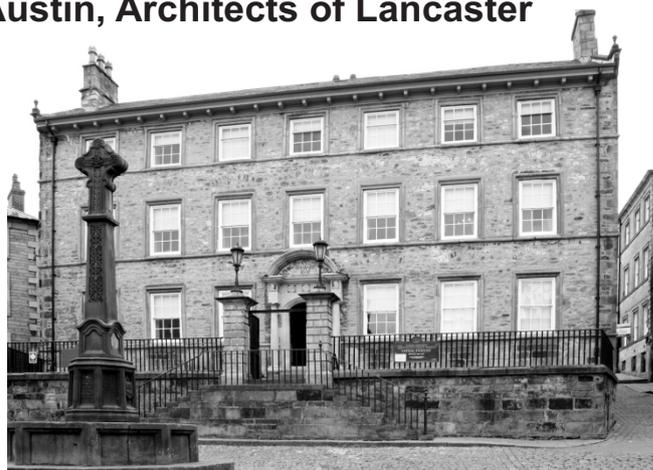


Talks, visits and listings

The Work of Sharpe, Paley and Austin, Architects of Lancaster

Our visit to Lancaster was split into two parts. The morning saw a talk by Geoff Brandwood on the work of the this famous Lancaster based architectural practice, in the afternoon Mike Winstanley guided us around Lancaster looking at the work of our subjects and other significant buildings.

A good turnout of 25 members and friends were treated to a guided tour by photograph and illustration of many of the most famous buildings produced by Sharpe, the two Paleys and Austin. From 1835, when Sharpe first settled in Lancaster, for over hundred years their practice



Churches were one type of building that they were famous for, Bolton Parish Church and Christ Church Walmsley being extant examples. Their range of buildings however included railway premises such as Lancaster Carriage and Wagon works and stations for the Furness Railway Company; tenements in booming steel town Barrow as well as the Barrow Jute and Flax mill; the Royal Albert Asylum in Lancaster and in later years they designed many war memorials. One distinction about their church work was their broad and low church work in a time when architects tended to be High Church.

In the afternoon we had what was at times a bit of a dash around the town. There are obviously enough interesting buildings to fill a day and more in the town. Mike Winstanley showed us the best of the Castle/prison, the parish church, part of the docks and some commercial building.

Chris Jones



designed buildings great and small across the region, rivaling and competing with the more famous metropolitan architects such as Pugin and Scott. Their greatest years probably being 1870 to 1914 when Austin was in charge. While regionally based their reputation was national.

The Lancashire Local History Federation.... Membership Secretary is Zoe Lawson (members@lancashirehistory.org) The Federation acts as an umbrella organisation for all the local history and similar societies in the true county (Dalton to Denton). They help publicise events and to organize lecture days and such. The Federation maintains a list of speakers and be will be pleased to hear from anyone who can add to that list. Copies can be e-mailed
See www.lancashirehistory.org.uk

In connection with the Federation, secretaries of various societies inform the Federation of their planned meetings. These are included if the newsletter. If your society is not a member, please do consider taking up the free offer. Coming events:

Sat 11th Oct. Book Fair, Hornby Institute

Sat 1st Nov. Local History Day. Lytham StAnnes

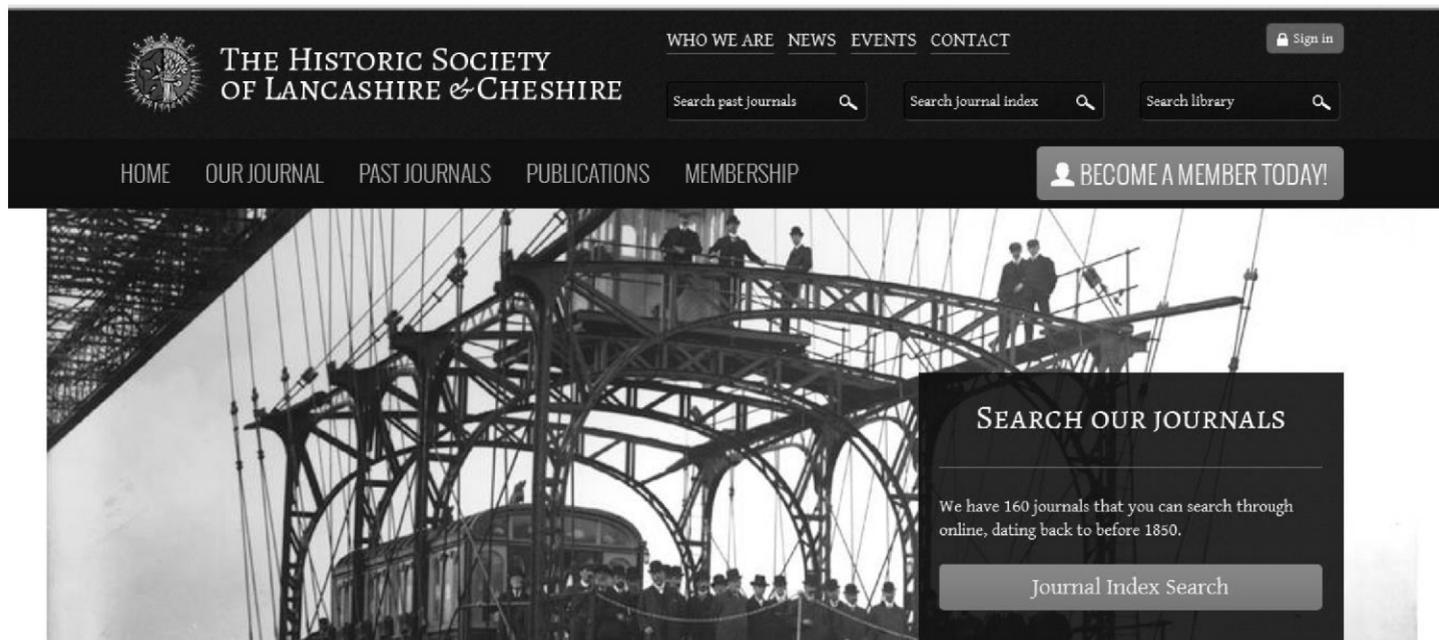
See website of the Fylde History Network

Sat 29th Nov. Greater Manchester Archaeology

Sat 25th Oct. Book Fair, Barton Village Hall

Sat 15th Nov. Book Fair, Longridge Civic Hall
Day, Salford

Welcome to our new Website



This month sees the launch of the Society's new website. The site has a completely new design and introduces features such as a members' area. The priority when designing the site was to ensure that the past Transactions were again available online and we hope that those of you who make use of this facility find it a much better experience than on the old website.

The site's members' area gives access to a message board, for posting messages, questions and (hopefully) answers. This is something that is increasingly common on societies' websites and will help to address the need for a way to answer questions directed to the Society from people interested in the history of the two counties, while giving members the opportunity to share their knowledge with others. Members who have provided an email address

will be assigned a temporary password, which can be changed online.

The general 'look and feel' of the website has been completely overhauled. The way the website is designed should mean that users find it easier to navigate and will also enable Council members to make changes to the website quickly. Another new feature is the introduction of online payments, for both membership and publications. This should make the process of becoming a member much more efficient and will allow speedier ordering of publications.

We hope you find the new website informative and easy to use. Please let us know via the links on the new website if you have any comments.

Paul Newman *Web editor*

The ping pong flight, an often overlooked event in the history of aviation.

An exhibition has been built along with this site to depict the main incidents which took place during the journey. Pictures of the mural panels are placed below and you can scroll down them and read a short description of the flight and the men who made it happen.

Facts covering the flight can be seen by clicking on the titles at the top of this page. The flight returned via Merseyside, where this project was created and is based. The exhibition is now available to hire or borrow please see the contacts page for details.

<http://www.pingpongflight.webs.com/>

Upcoming Historic Society Talks and Study Days

'Untold Stories: Black families in the First World War'

by Karen O'Rourke

Wednesday 15 October 2014 2.00pm Museum of Liverpool,

This talk from the Museum of Liverpool's Curator of Social History: King's Regiment Collection will consider a recent project investigating Liverpool's Black families in the First World War.

This HLF-funded project has sought to encourage local Black families to research their First World War family histories. The Museum of Liverpool is keen to research and collect memories uncovered to fill a gap in the collection and archives.

Liverpool has one of the oldest Black and Minority Ethnic communities in Europe, in some cases reaching back ten generations, yet details and photographs of Black First World War soldiers in local archives are incredibly rare.

As part of the First World War: Reflecting on Liverpool's Home Front exhibition the contributions of Black and Minority Ethnic Liverpool families to the war effort are being celebrated.

'Prosperity and Private Philanthropy: How important was social welfare to the merchant community in Victorian Liverpool?'

Sunday 26 October 2014 10.00am-4.00pm Liverpool Hope University,

This is HSLC's first event run in partnership with Liverpool History Society. The day will involve speakers exploring the mercantile culture in Liverpool in the 18th and 19th centuries, and the philanthropic contributions of individuals and families in Liverpool – including the Rat bones, Millis and Andrew Barclay Walker.

With ample time for questions and discussion the theme of the importance of social welfare to Liverpool's merchants will be examined, with consideration of the different motives for charitable and philanthropic work, and the ways in which individuals promoted causes, and the mercantile community worked together. Pre-booking is necessary, see website if you don't have a booking form.

'Tories divided: Lancashire and Cheshire Conservatism and inter-war imperial reform'

Wednesday 19 November 2014 2.00pm Liverpool Central Library.

by Dr Neil Fleming

Dr Neil Fleming is Senior Lecturer in Modern History at the University of Worcester, having previously held posts at Cardiff, Queen's and Glasgow Caledonian Universities. He was the 16th Fulbright-Robertson Visiting Professor of British History, Westminster College, Missouri. He is the author of *The Marquess of Londonderry: Aristocracy, Power and Politics in Britain and Ireland* (2005) and has published widely on imperialism, Conservatism and Ulster Unionism. Dr Fleming has been awarded a number of research grants, including one from the Historic Society, and will speak to the Society on his current work on North-West Conservatism and imperial reform. All are welcome.



Join/continue membership of *The Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire* - enjoy the benefits of the annual Transactions, lectures, events and access to our extensive library.

To: JE Hollinshead, 28 Tewkesbury Close, Liverpool, L25 9RY e-mail: jhollinshead558@btinternet.com

I/We wish to join the HSLC and enclose cheque/postal order for the annual subscription of £16, payable to:-

The Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire?

For new members - Please send my list of Society Off-Prints, from which I may select three.

Signed:

Name and address:

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