

## Forthcoming Historic society Event

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

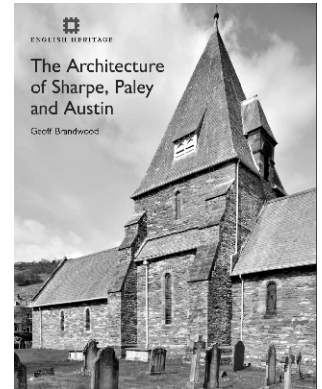
*Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June, Storey Institute, Lancaster*

Lancaster was home to one of Victorian and Edwardian England's most remarkable architectural practices. Founded by Edmund Sharpe in 1835, it achieved national and, indeed, international celebrity under the guidance of Hubert Austin (1841-1915) whom Pevsner regarded as an architect of true genius. Most of the firm's work was in the North West and is particularly famed for many splendid churches. But it was also responsible for a vast array of other work including country houses, hospitals, schools, shops, offices and even many of the buildings for the Furness Railway

The day will begin with Geoff Brandwood's talk on the three architects, their work and collaborations. In the afternoon there will be a guided walk around Lancaster by Dr. Mike Winstanley, to see some examples of the work discussed in the morning session.

Pre-booking is necessary by 16<sup>th</sup> June, see website if you don't have a booking form.

Geoff Brandwood's *The Architecture of Sharpe, Paley and Austin* (2012), will be available to purchase at the very special price of £35 (RRP is £50).



## Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire *Transactions*

*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?

**Andy Gritt**

Editor: AJGritt1@uclan.ac.uk

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**Study Day: Chronicles, courts and public spaces:  
New research on Chester  
The Polychronion** *James Freeman*

The Polychronicon is a much copied and printed chronicle which was initially composed in St Werburgh's Abbey Chester by a monk called Ranulf Higden in the first half of the fourteenth century.

Dr James Freeman began his fascinating talk on the Polychronicon with the little information that is known about Higden but quickly moved on to establish the importance of Higden's work. Demand for the Polychronicon meant that manuscript copies continued to be made in the fifteenth century, and then, when printing started, reproduction shifted to that medium in 1492.

Cheshire Archives and Local Studies displayed Chester Cathedral's copy of the Polychronicon. This is not the original, and was not acquired by the Cathedral until the twentieth century. But it is a high grade copy, in textura hand, on parchment, and with coloured inks. The quality and therefore cost of the copy is further evidence of contemporary regard for the contents of the Polychronicon, and of how demand for it held up over time.

The copy on display had been owned by Leicester Abbey, and was given to that Abbey by a student from Oxford University. There is further evidence that the Leicester copy was made at Oxford for students. Why was history, though not part of the formal syllabus, so prominent amongst university students in the fourteenth century? Did the Polychronicon help to promote an identity for the English? Higden provided the Polychronicon with indexing aids, which indicates that it was intended to be consulted as a reference work, making the Polychronicon a major text for history in the fifteenth century. As such, the text was widely distributed amongst lay as well as religious owners across England, and even as far afield as Paris.

It was good to see members discussing points from the displayed copy with Dr Freeman after his talk, and well done CALS for bringing it for the day.

***C. B. Phillip***

**“Fornicators and Felons: Penalties and Pardons in Chester from the Domesday Book to the Great Charter of 1506’.** *Vanessa Greatorex*

In a fascinating talk, Vanessa Greatorex introduced members to the legal system as deployed in Medieval Chester. A wide variety of courts and jurisdictions operated within the city, and based upon her doctoral research involving a large amount of archival research at the Cheshire Record Office, Ms. Greatorex told members about these courts, the crimes which they judged and the penalties which they issued, as well as about some of the characters who appeared before the courts. Greatorex highlighted that women played an important role in the economy of the Medieval city, often running market stalls, and argued that their roles became increasingly marginalised in the 16th century as their trading activities were curtailed by the civic authorities. This was an excellent and well illustrated paper, and the Society thanks Ms. Greatorex for taking the time to share her research with us.

***James Mawdsley***

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## Study Day: Chronicles, courts and public spaces: New research on Chester

### Chester's Late 20<sup>th</sup> Century Archives: identification, selection and preservation in a digital age *Lisa Greenhalgh, Cheshire Archives and Local studies*

Lisa posed the question "what would be in the archives for the HSLC Study Day: new research on Chester 2514?" How can archivists today select what to keep and how to store it to maintain the 'moral and physical defence of material' (quote, Hilary Jenkinson, an early practitioner of the archivists art). How can they provide 'a service to unknown people in the future' (HJ again)?

The massive increase in the amount of written, typed, printed and electronic material since the Second World War, and particularly in our digital age, has left archivists struggling for the space and the technology to store it. With vellum still coming in as easy winner for length of proven preservation at over 1000 years (compared to a floppy disc decade or two - if you still have a machine to read it!) there are mammoth tasks of endlessly updating conservation techniques. Selection of what is useful is a permanent headache.

Lisa used the example of West Cheshire and Chester Council to highlight their methods. They focus on ongoing long term key functions of local councils. They try to ensure that digital files have understandable and indexable titles that are backed up. And the question was posed whether it mattered or not if only 5% or 10% survived.

This was an interesting visit to the world of the historians most valuable assistant and I couldn't help wondering if, in 2514, any of the writings of those present would be getting the same treatment as the Polychronion.

**Chris Jones**

### Amy Calladine – 'Ritual Life in 17th Century Chester: Civic Ceremony and the Public Space c. 1630-1670'

This paper represented an introduction to Amy Calladine's doctoral research, and she explained that she had chosen the years 1630-70 for her study as they represented the possible passage of a life-time that within that span there was a concentration of conflict and change with the experiences of civil war and interregnum, and questioned how such changes were reflected in the ritual life of the town. She explained that the central zone of Chester where the Pentice, the Medieval court house stood at the crossing of the four main streets was the heart of the town, critical for civic ritual life.

Amy discussed her time span decade by decade. The 1630s saw an escalation of conflict occasioned by the Personal Rule. There were public demonstrations of Royalism and nostalgia for tradition juxtaposed with the increasing Puritan



presence in the town, which the Church came to see as a hotbed of Puritan propaganda. Nevertheless, she argued that the Cathedral was not cut off from public life, and that loyalty was demonstrated by attendances at Cathedral services and traditional festivals continued to be held.

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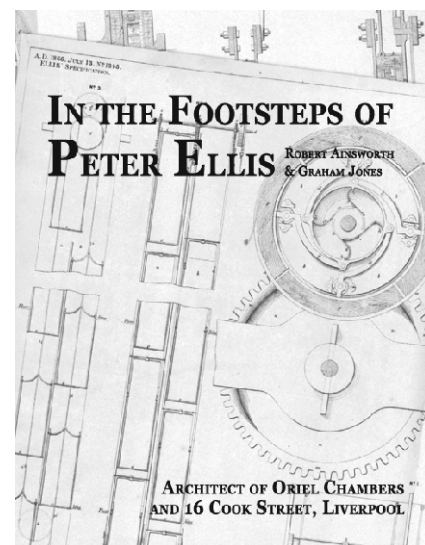
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## New Liverpool History Society Book

### *In the Footsteps of Peter Ellis. Architect of Oriel Chambers and 16 Cook Street, Liverpool'*

This book was published in September 2013 by the Liverpool History Society and traces the life story of this enigmatic 19<sup>th</sup> century Liverpool architect. Oriel Chambers was so ahead of its time that Peter Ellis was ridiculed by the architectural press of the day, but his two iron-framed office buildings are now seen by many as anticipating the design of the American skyscrapers that subsequently arose. In later life he developed an interest in engineering and produced several delightful patents. He invented the world's first '*paternoster lift*' (as it later became known) and installed it in Oriel Chambers. 240 pages, the book is profusely illustrated with over 250 images, many in colour, including pictures by James Brierley and the Herdman family, maps, modern photographs, and material from the Liverpool Record Office, the Athenaeum and the 19<sup>th</sup> century *Liverpool Mercury*.



Visit the Liverpool History Society website at:-

<http://www.liverpoolhistorysociety.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/Footsteps-sample.pdf>

to view a pdf of 20 sample pages from the book. RRP £24 but offered to members at half price, copies are obtainable at HSLC meetings or plus £3.50 P&P. If ordering by post please make your cheque for £15.50 payable to **Liverpool History Society** and send to:- Graham Jones, LHS Membership Secretary, The Croft, Cropton, Pickering, North Yorkshire, YO18 8HL.

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### ...**Civic Ceremony** (cont. from bottom of previous page)

The 1640s saw the escalation of conflict, following the fall of Chester to Parliament in 1645. This followed an extremely interesting discussion on the removal of the old symbols of civic authority, the mace, gowns and sword as an attack on civic identity. Nevertheless, new authority still required the framework of the ritual year for the administration of civic duties such as the Poor Laws.

The 1650s saw the attempt at cultural reform, national identity was modified, the King's arms were replaced by those of Parliament and new ceremonial regalia were introduced, however, the new still encompassed the old festival calendar and civic ritual remained as vital as ever. Beating the bounds was reintroduced for civic purposes and the change of political custom was grafted onto traditional forms.

In conclusion, Amy argued that custom remained surprisingly similar throughout the years. The ritual heartland of the town remained the same as did civic identity and that despite discontinuity the idea of ritual and ceremonial life remained as an important facet of town life despite the fact that the link between the cathedral and civic life had changed.

This was an important and most enjoyable paper which ably illustrated the impact that political upheaval, war and conflict had on town life in the years under discussion.

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## HSLC Lecture 12 February 2014

### ***Sir Richard Grosvenor and the outbreak of civil war in Cheshire***

Richard Cust

Professor Richard Cust's fascinating lecture examined developments in Cheshire on the eve of the Civil War as seen through the eyes of one of its leading gentlemen, Sir Richard Grosvenor of Eaton near Eccleston. Marking forty years since the publication of John Morrill's *Cheshire 1630-1660*, Professor Cust noted that Morrill's view of a 'county community' of gentry, isolated from national developments, has been convincingly challenged by Ann Hughes, Clive Holmes and Anthony Fletcher. Morrill's analysis of the aims of what he referred to as the 'middle group' of Cheshire gentry has received less scrutiny, although important research on petitioning has been conducted by Professor Peter Lake (and Professor Cust's own work should be noted: see *The Papers of Sir Richard Grosvenor* edited for The Record Society of Lancashire and Cheshire (1996)).

Professor Cust began by introducing the leading characters, including Sir Thomas Aston, a combative character who made strenuous efforts to defend episcopacy in the early 1640s, and Sir George Booth of Dunham Massey who, together with Grosvenor, was one of the leading members of the 'middle group'. Sir Richard's surviving papers provide some insight into his political beliefs and what his own role should be. Letters of advice written to his son set out Grosvenor's vision of king and parliament working together to combat Catholicism. His speeches to the Cheshire grand jury and as knight of the shire during the 1620s successfully presented an image of himself as a learned, godly magistrate. Financial

problems led to a spell in the Fleet prison during the 1630s, but the growing crisis of 1640-42 saw him re-emerge to play a leading role in the county's affairs.

Professor Cust's lecture discussed the deep divisions in Cheshire society that were reflected in the petitioning campaigns of 1641. Aston's first petition in support of episcopacy failed to win the support of the middle group, not for personal reasons, but because of its contents. His second petition claimed to speak for the county, which prompted Grosvenor, Booth and others to produce a denial known as the Attestation, sent to the Commons in April 1641. Religious arguments were sharpened by the outbreak of rebellion in Ireland in October 1641 and the leading gentry of Cheshire sought assistance from parliament to disarm recusants and manage the departure of soldiers from Chester. The Cheshire Remonstrance of the summer of 1642, with more than eight thousand signatures, called on king and parliament to work together to combat the threat of Catholicism, famously deploying the image of Hippocrates' twins that 'must laugh and crye, live and dye togeather'. The middle group tried to delay efforts by both sides to raise troops, before breaking apart following the arrival of the king in the county in September. In conclusion, Professor Cust emphasised that Cheshire's leading political figures were not isolated from national developments: they kept in contact with their MPs at Westminster and expected to receive support from the centre. Grosvenor's career also indicates the essential continuity of political and religious concerns from the 1620s to 1640-42.

Discussion following the lecture focused on the nature and significance of the Cheshire petitions, and the methods employed to secure signatures. Professor Cust's very informative and stimulating lecture took place in the newly refurbished Liverpool Central Library and made an excellent start to the 2014 programme.

**Fiona Podson**

## HSLC Lecture 26<sup>th</sup> March 2104

### **The Archaeology of Early Industrial Ceramics Production in Rainford**

Sam Rowe

Following our traditionally brief AGM on the 26<sup>th</sup> March, Sam Rowe, Community Archaeology Project Officer for Merseyside Archaeological Society's *Rainford's Roots* project, spoke to us about findings of recent excavations. The village of Rainford, near St Helens has a very interesting history as an early industrial centre for the region – producing pottery from at least the 16<sup>th</sup> century and clay pipes from the early 17<sup>th</sup> century.

There is a long history of antiquarian and archaeological interest in the village – indeed, in 1877 Transactions published some beautiful drawings of 'tygs' tall drinking cups found in the

village. The present project started after a chance find of a 17<sup>th</sup> century cup in a garden was reported to archaeologists at the Museum of Liverpool in 2011. Since then there have been five excavations, two building recording exercises, several weeks of finds processing, and lots of events and activities, engaging local residents, students and others from across the region.

Excavations undertaken have revealed hundreds of ceramic vessels and thousands of fragments of clay pipe. While archaeologists are used to excavating small fragments of pottery, the near-complete finds from recent digs in Rainford are exceptional in their survival.

Sam explored the archaeological and historical evidence for potting and pipe-making, and how thousands of people have been involved in revealing more about the story of Rainford through the project.

**Liz Stewart**

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## MANCHESTER HISTORIES FESTIVAL – Celebration Day 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2014

The Manchester Histories Festival was a ten-day event, to celebrate and promote the region's histories and heritage. The event culminated on the Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March with a 'celebration day' held in Alfred Waterhouse's Neo-Gothic town hall completed in 1877. The event is an opportunity for societies, community groups, archives, libraries and the University to promote their work. Nearly ninety exhibitors including this society were present.

The exhibition was spread over three rooms in the town hall, including the great hall where our stand was situated. Unfortunately the Pre-Raphaelite Ford Madox Brown's twelve murals of the history of Manchester from Roman times were partly obscured by the various stands, but it was, nevertheless an impressive venue for the event.



Pat Cox, Tom Lacy, Catherine Nunn

Several members of Council attended, to assist on the stand and to visit the other exhibits which ranged over a large number of interests, from local history societies, cultural societies, military history, suffrage and literary history – The Pankhurst Centre and the Elizabeth Gaskell Society were both present- to a group representing the Guernsey Evacuees who were given sanctuary in Stockport and other Northern industrial towns days before the German occupation of the Island.

Our stand promoted the work of this society, to encourage joining and to explain the benefits of membership! We had a steady stream of interest throughout the day, helping enquirers with their queries over access to information and promoting our publications. Interest was shown in our programme particularly in our next study day.

This was a lively event which the writer would not hesitate to recommend that we should attend on a future occasion.

**Catherine Nunn**

### LANCASHIRE LOCAL HISTORY FEDERATION 'At Home' with Tatham History Society' [www.tathamhistory.org.uk](http://www.tathamhistory.org.uk)

**Saturday 21 June 2014, 10.00-4.00**  
**Wray Village Institute (with outings to Tatham)**

Includes:

John Wilson: 'Tatham: Settlement and Landscape through the Ages'  
Melinda Elder: 'Transatlantic Slavery: local family connections'  
Afternoon guided walks and talks  
Info and booking: Anne Wilson, Holcombe House, Tatham, Lancaster, LA2 8PS. Tel: 015242 63399  
Email: [mail@tathamhistory.org.uk](mailto:mail@tathamhistory.org.uk)



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](mailto: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: .....

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