



THE HISTORIC SOCIETY OF LANCASHIRE & CHESHIRE Newsletter

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This is a reviews-heavy newsletter to box off our current year and lecture cycle. The New Year edition will be more 'traditional' and should include our full programme for 2022.

As usual, please keep an eye out for updates about our events via email, social media (especially Facebook), and the website.

For those of you reading this on your computer, remember that you can get to the websites referenced in this newsletter by clicking (or tapping, if you are on a mobile device) on the links provided. Though you can type out the link for, say, the Society's Eventbrite page (available here: <https://bit.ly/3djZ3zk>), it is much quicker to simply click on it!

If there are any technical problems, feel free to drop me a line at newsletter@hslc.org.uk and I will do my best to be of assistance!

– James Evans, Newsletter Editor

S. Halliwell, *Pubs in Preston; Plough to Plau & 14 other INN-side stories, (2021)*

Having previously written and published *Pubs in Preston* in 2014 and being the compiler of a website devoted to the subject, Stephen Halliwell is certainly the fount of knowledge on matters historical on the subject. In this book, he writes 15 chapters on specific pubs and ends with one in which he looks at some pub names and explains the reasons for them. The book is illustrated with colour photos and street plans which have been coloured to indicate the presence and floor plans of named pubs – very useful and helpful practices on the author's part.

The first chapter covers a town centre pub named 'The Plough' which probably existed in the 1600s. It closed in 1913 and 105 years later became the 'Plau', (pronounced Plow) a gin and beer house now open for brunch, lunch, and dinner. Its history in the intervening centuries is revealed through archived documents and newspaper reports.

Further chapters concentrate on selected pubs and those within certain geographical parameters. Among the former are the 'Anglers' Arms', where local brewer Matthew Brown started his chain of tied houses in north-east Lancashire; the 'Black-a-Moor's Head', one of several pubs linked to the transport of travellers before trains and the motor bus; and the 'Port Admiral'. The 'Black Horse' chapter is devoted to this one pub and is described in great detail so far as its architecture and design, both inside and out, are concerned.



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We learn that in the town, there have been pubs named after horses coloured black, grey, white, bay – and one that could fly. There have also been a Horse & Farrier, a Waggon & Horses, a Horse Shoe. Two Pack Horses and two named Doctor Syntax – a famous racehorse in the mid 1800s. In this chapter a story about a pet

is an interesting adjunct to the author's previous book 'Preston's Pubs' and his website 'Preston's Pubs, Taverns & Beerhouses' (available at <https://bit.ly/2YfzQ4w>). It is a splendid way of finishing off the rest of the book. Every town should have such a website and Preston should be proud of it.

At times, particularly when quoting from other sources, or recording actual speech, I found the use of the same font confusing and was left wishing that the author had used a different, perhaps italic, font instead. He does use bold italics in the occasional footnotes and captions to the illustrations, however. In the final chapter, pub names are given in bold, though it would have been useful if this rule had applied elsewhere.

This high-quality paperback book is available from the author at 29 Minster Park, Cottam, Preston PR4 0BY. E-mail: srh.steve@aol.co.uk

– Bob Dobson, HSLC

Update on Transactions 2021

At the time of writing I, like you, am waiting for *Transactions* to be delivered. I can tell you that it has been printed and that it is a bumper issue. I'm informed that despatch is 'imminent'. I'm guessing that the slight delay is, somehow, Covid related. Anyhow, I hope that you will enjoy it once it arrives (soon, I hope).

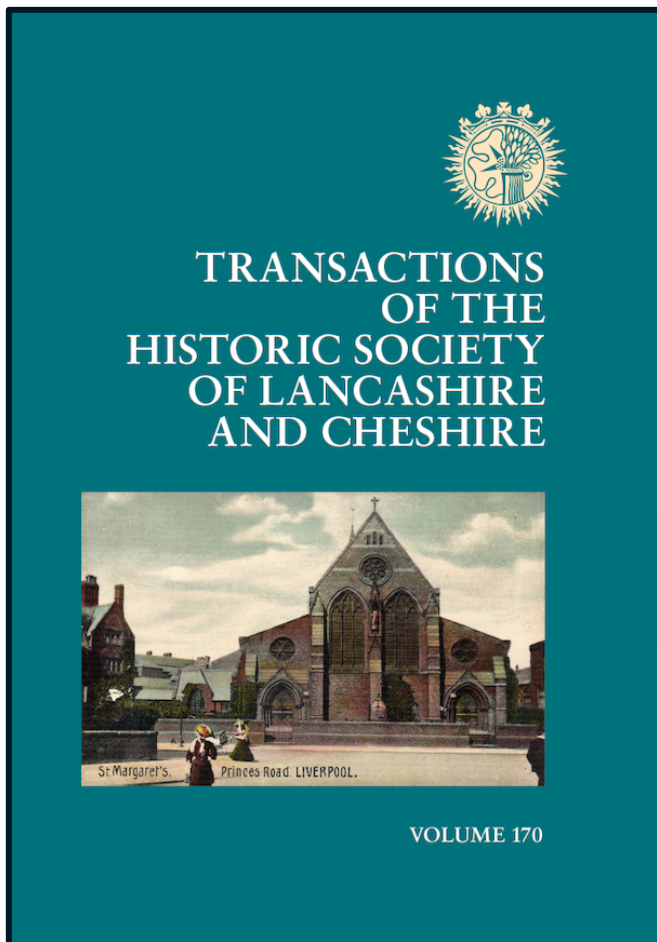
The 2022 edition is in robust health with a number of articles accepted and others presently being revised by authors following reviewers' comments. I can promise that the 2022 edition has an exceptional breadth of book reviews. I don't know how Marc has managed it but, thus far, there are 15 books destined for the 2022 edition.

As ever, please feel free to submit articles and/or comments on the journal. This year's edition has a 'new section'; the editorial team look forward to hearing your views upon it.

– Dr Bertie Dockerill, Manchester

Editor of the *Transactions*

The journal is available online here:
<https://bit.ly/3F1yr1Y>



monkey and a terrier kept by the landlord of the 'Grey Horse & 7 Stars' is squeezed in. Another chapter on the 'New Cock Inn' makes it clear that cock-fighting and dog-fighting were practised in the town and its pubs despite being illegal. Halliwell shows that certain publicans also favoured customers of a certain political persuasion.

The River Ribble and the Lancaster Canal had pubs alongside their banks and these are given plenty of cover. Many of their names reflected their connection with the waterside.

The final chapter, 'Where did that name come from?' is a telling of a great many obscure pub names with suggested explanations for them. It

G. Ogden, *Born in Bolton*, (2020)

Geoff Ogden has written an ode to cricketers born in Bolton. Ogden admits that he fell in love with cricket from a young age when he was taken to Old Trafford to watch Lancashire. He went on to have an amateur career for well over twenty years, playing at a high level of club cricket.

He outlines in pen pictures the vital statistics of thirty-eight players, their county careers and if they played Test match cricket. The good thing about this book is that the cricketers that have been selected are not just those from the twentieth century but those from the nineteenth also.

Ogden has included even those who made only one appearance in county cricket, such as William Scott, who played one match in 1874 for Lancashire against Kent, at Old Trafford. Not all those Ogden has selected have played for Lancashire, such as Alf Hall, who had emigrated to South Africa and had played his career in the country, as well as played for South Africa against England.

An excellent book on cricket with some interesting statistics. It is unusual to write a sports book about players from a particular place, and therefore makes the premise an interesting one. Most definitely for those researching Bolton's local history and sport.

– Paul Diggett, HSLC

L. Stewart, *et al.*, *The Calderstones – a prehistoric tomb in Liverpool*, (2021)

As many members will be aware, the Calderstones are the remains of a Neolithic tomb which are on display in Calderstones Park in Liverpool. However, while these are historic artefacts, they have not remained static. In 2018 the stones were moved to a new position and underwent conservation. To celebrate and take advantage of renewed interest in the stones, Liz Stewart, George Nash, and Ron Cowell have revised and updated the text. The full-colour booklet is delightfully presented, well-illustrated, and will be of interest to any member with a fascination for the ancient past. A collaboration between the Museum of Liverpool, Merseyside Archaeological Society, and the

Reader Organisation, this new edition is informed by new research and historical perspectives about the stones, their assembly, changes in use, and movements over millennia. It can be purchased for £8 at the Museum of Liverpool or via the Merseyside Archaeological Society website, where alternative methods are listed (address here: <https://bit.ly/2Y9q17X>).

– Dr Marc Collinson, Bangor

Forthcoming events

‘History and development of municipal parks in Manchester and Salford’, Dr Sam Hayes (University of Salford), **20th October 2021 at 14:00**

Register here: <https://bit.ly/3mg1FUL>

‘Historic and historical mapping of Chester’, Professor Keith Lilley (Queen’s University Belfast), **20th November 2021 at 14:00**

Register here: <https://bit.ly/3FcTLLs>

Each of these events will be held via Zoom at 14:00 on the date given. Tickets are to be booked via our Eventbrite page (available here: <https://bit.ly/3djZ3zk>). Further details are available on the Society’s website. Recordings of the lectures will be uploaded to YouTube.

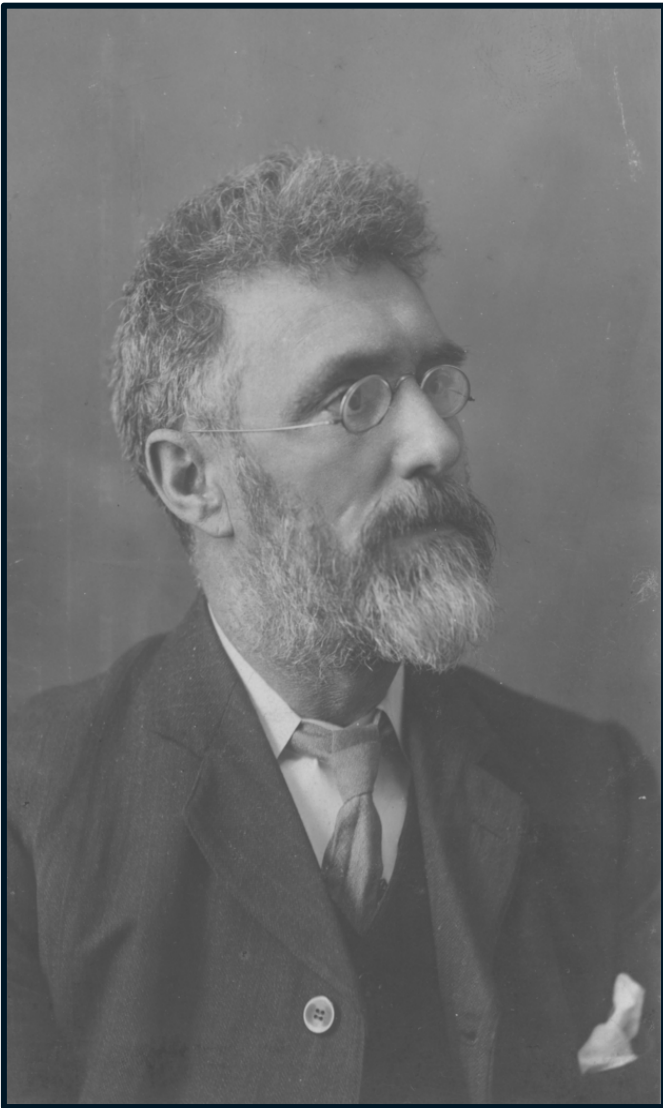
You can attend Zoom events via your smartphone, desktop/laptop computer, or tablet device (such as an iPad). To log into a Zoom call, you will need a Zoom link, which you acquire by registering for the event via Eventbrite.

Information about using Zoom can be found on a number of websites, including:

- A video on Zoom’s own website, available here: <https://bit.ly/3A15ujd>
- A written guide from Age UK, available here: <https://bit.ly/3zYAhtT>

R. Smalley, *Dan Irving – Socialist*, (2021)

This is the author’s third book on aspects of Socialism in north east Lancashire. He has an in-depth knowledge of the national as well as the regional history of the subject, as is evidenced by the bibliography in this book. The author made use of six archives, read twenty-seven newspapers, periodicals and parliamentary



papers and quoted from sixty published books and articles as well as six unpublished theses. These are all quoted as notes at the end of each chapter. I would have preferred them to have been at the bottom of each page as footnotes, however.

Dan Irving lived between 1854 and 1924. In that period there arose at least ten organisations (parties) supporting different sorts of socialism and labour policies, each with its own name. Smalley wisely refers to these by the initial letters of each word in the names. The sometimes confusing number of these parties is shown as an appendix chart, which I found very helpful.

Born in Bristol, Irving spent a few years in the Merchant Navy before returning to the city. On his return he joined the Liberal Party. Aged thirty and with two children, he lost a leg in an accident when working on the railway. He was treated shabbily by the company, a matter which must have strengthened his resolve to see

working men properly compensated by their employers. The next year, he joined the Bristol Labour League and became secretary of the Bristol Trades Council and the Bristol branch of the Gas & General Workers Union. A few years later, further immersed in politics and the welfare of workers, he organised Bristol's first May Day march.

After a short spell working in the same field in Westmorland, Irving arrived in Burnley and made his way into what interested him in the town. He was soon elected onto the School Board and also the national executive of the Social Democratic Party. From this, over a few years, he worked locally and nationally with the Social Democratic Federation, which supported the Burnley Liberal MP, Philip Stanhope. Irving progressed to being a Workhouse Guardian and town councillor. He stood without success in general elections in Accrington, Manchester, and Rochdale, at the same time becoming an officer in the newly-formed British Socialist Party. Twenty-four years after arriving in Burnley, he became the town's MP, though he still retained his town council office. He was returned in the next two elections in a period of huge growth for the Labour Party. In 1924, a year after being re-elected as MP, Irving died. Two days previously he had been made a freeman of the borough. He was much liked in the town and admired by his parliamentary colleagues.

Almost a hundred years on, the author has brought this major figure into view by documenting his work for working men and their families in the fields of working practices and social conditions. Few men have achieved more than Irving in those respects.

Copies may be obtained from the Nelson I.L.P. Land Society for £10 plus £2 postage. Enquiries to Carol Hopkins:carolhnoel@gmail.com

– Bob Dobson, HSLC

Got an idea or a short research project that you'd like to have featured in the newsletter?

Feel free to reach out to me via my Society email address: newsletter@hslc.org.uk