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June 2023

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Please do not hesitate to get in touch with ideas, reviews, and research projects for the newsletter via email (newsletter@hslc.org.uk)

James Evans, Newsletter Editor

Please note that *Transactions 2023* is with our publishers (Liverpool University Press) and is presently being prepared for printing and dispatch.

Members should receive their copies of this year's volume in early September 2023.

Celebratory Cake for the Society's 175th Birthday



For further see the Newsletter's back cover

HSLC online

Don't forget to find us online at the following locations:



Search 'Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire' on Facebook or use this address: <https://bit.ly/3WPYml5>



Visit our Eventbrite page at this address: <https://bit.ly/3djZ3zk>



Our website can be found at the address: <https://hslc.org.uk>



Visit our twitter page via our handle @HSLC1848 or this address: <https://bit.ly/3kVAgb4>



Introducing the Society's New President, Professor R.C. Richardson



Born and raised near Manchester, **R.C. Richardson BA PhD FRHistS**, the newly elected President of the Historic Society of Lancashire & Cheshire, is a graduate of Leicester and Manchester Universities.

Now retired, he spent much of his working life as Head of History at the University of Winchester, interspersed with periods as a visiting professor in the USA and as a visiting fellow at the Huntington Library in California.

He is the author or editor of many books, principally relating to aspects of seventeenth-century English history, particularly in the Civil War period, among them *The Debate on the English Revolution* (3rd ed., Manchester UP, 1998). He also wrote what is considered the standard work on *Household Servants in Early Modern England* (Manchester UP, 2010).

Many of his published essays deal with NW England and have been collected together in two main volumes, *Social History, Local History and Historiography* (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, Newcastle, 2010) and *Varieties of History and their Porous Frontiers* (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, Newcastle, 2021). He has published a number of articles and book reviews in the Society's *Transactions*. His very first book *Puritanism in North West England* (Manchester UP, 1972) was recently reprinted in a 50th anniversary edition with a new retrospective introduction. He has served as General Editor of two major series of books for Manchester University Press and for over thirty years he co-edited the international journal *Literature & History*. Recently, he brought out a new edition, with historiographical introduction, of G.H. Tupling's 1927 classic *Economic History of Rossendale* (Lancaster, Palatine Books, 2022).

FUTURE EVENTS in SEPTEMBER and NOVEMBER 2023

The Society's Programme Secretary, Brian Higgins, has confirmed the dates of the Society's next two events as follows:

Wed 27 September Lecture – Zoom – 2pm SPEAKER and TOPIC TBC

Wed 29 November Lecture – Zoom – 2pm SPEAKER and TOPIC TBC

Once confirmed, details of speakers and topics will be made available on the Society's website and emailed to members. Details of how to register for both lectures via *Eventbrite* will be circulated in due course.

Book Reviews:

Peter Waller, *British Trolleybus Systems: Lancashire, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Northern England* (Pen & Sword, 2022, pp.134, £30).

A distinctly Northern technology, being pioneered in Bradford and Leeds, early operators of Trolleybuses were often in Lancashire, northern England and Scotland. Peter Waller's latest publication with *Pen & Sword* is one of four that examines the history of all trolleybus operators in the British Isles. It focuses on Lancashire, Northern England, Scotland and Northern Ireland. That Lancashire is first should not surprise readers. The contents discuss systems in towns ranging from Ashton-under-Lyne to Wigan, via Manchester, Oldham, Ramsbottom, South Lancashire (Farnworth to St Helens, Bolton to Leigh, centred on Atherton), and Stockport. The counties Palatine were full of these fascinating networks, together with their complementing contemporary tramlines, bus routes, and branch railways.

This is a well-illustrated and lovingly organised tome that will please all ranging from the intrigued to the expert. There is a lot of information included and the photographic collection is superb. Once again, Pen & Sword have delivered a wonderful volume, that sits alongside Peter Waller's three companion volumes. A well-written and interesting work that should be on the bookshelf of any public transport enthusiast!

Dr M Collinson,
Bangor University
Book Reviews Editor, Transactions

Peter Clark, *Churchill's Britain. From the Antrim Coast to the Isle of Wight* (Haus Publishing, 2020, pp.294, £20).

Peter Clark, no stranger to the genre, has had the excellent idea of compiling a gazetteer of the many places in the UK associated with Churchill over the course of his exceedingly long life. He does so with considerable aplomb. Birthplace (Blenheim) and place of death (Hyde Park Gate) are naturally included, as are 10 Downing St, Chartwell, Chequers and Bladon churchyard, Oxfordshire, his final resting place.

Lancashire is prominently positioned, being the scene of some of Churchill's early electioneering in Oldham and Manchester and his speech-making at the Free Trade Hall and King's Hall, Belle Vue. Several pages are also given over to Churchill's friendly dealings with, and defence of, Manchester's Cheetham Hill Jewish community and his eye-opening encounter with the appalling slums of Angel Meadow in the same city.

In a book packed with human detail and revealing anecdote we are also informed here about Churchill's favourite tobacconist and preferred tailor. In addition, Churchill's fondness for Gilbert and Sullivan and music hall songs figure in these pages. Nor are we shielded from the revelation that this war-time colossus wore only size 6 shoes!

Professor R.C. Richardson,
University of Winchester
President of the Society 2023-2024

MEMBERSHIP APPEAL

The new issue of *Transactions* is on track for on-time publication at the end of the summer and will be a bumper edition containing more pages than usual, and a total of 8 articles and 18 book reviews. We know from feedback that the latter are always greatly appreciated as an easy way of keeping up to date with new publications in the field of Lancashire and Cheshire history. As well as its annual published volume the Society also hosts periodic lectures to which members have access, on-line or in person according to the event in question.

With an annual subscription of just £20 membership of the Society represents enormously good value for money at today's prices. But we desperately need more subscribers. It would help so much if existing members could persuade one or more of their friends to join or encourage their local library or college/university library to do the same, if they do not already do so.

Please lend us your support. If each existing member could bring in just one more new member it would be such a huge benefit and help the Society to achieve even more.

175th Celebration at our AGM

Members who came to this year's Annual General Meeting in March celebrated the society's 175th year with a specially made cake.

Two long-standing members of Council who have given many years of service, retiring president Dr Arlene Wilson, and retiring membership secretary Dr Janet Hollinshead, cut the specially made cake, after the AGM at the Liverpool Athenaeum. Dr Hollinshead had also previously served as president and treasurer. Our new treasurer, Dr Fiona Pogson, presented Dr Wilson and Dr Hollinshead with flowers in thanks for their many years of work on behalf of the society.

Although both of them have stepped down as officers of the society, they were elected as 'ordinary' members of Council, along with Dr Diana Ascott and Dr Liz Stewart. Dr Wilson was also made a vice-president.

Our new president is Professor Roger C Richardson (see article in this newsletter), and our new treasurer is Dr Fiona Pogson.



Retiring president Dr Arlene Wilson and retiring membership secretary Dr Janet Hollinshead cut the society's 175th birthday cake at the AGM.

The AGM was followed by a lecture from Hugh Gault on 'Liverpool lives at the turn of the 20th century'.

Dr Andrew Hobbs
University of Central Lancashire
Secretary to the Council of the Society