

**Issue 15**

# **The Lostock Hall Magazine**

**Lostock House**

**Trainspotting Around Lostock Hall**

**An Elephant Story**

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Welcome to the 16th issue of The Lostock Hall Magazine, which also covers Tardy Gate and nearby parts of Farington. It is a collection of local history articles relating to the area. Many thanks to all our contributors and readers. Our thanks to Penwortham Priory Academy who support us by printing and formatting the

magazine. Please support our local advertisers without them we could not produce our magazine. **A copy of each issue will be kept in the Lancashire Records Office.** Jackie Stuart has kindly allowed us to serialise her book entitled 'A Tardy Gate Girl'. Once again we have contributions from Tony Billington and Joan Langford. Additions to Thomas Moss CC photo in Issue 14, 3 names were omitted. Rest of front row after Tony Billington and Lennie Newell were David Barnish, Eddie Pye and Joe Johnson. Lostock Hall Spinning Company photo 2<sup>nd</sup> person on front row is Ivor Fish. It is Les Smith not Keith Smith.

This year being the centenary of the First World War we are looking for any photos and memories of any soldiers who served in the Great War that you may like to share in the magazine. **We are also collecting material for Preston Remembers and the South Ribble Remembrance Archive 1914-1918, which will include anything relating to World War One in our area. A photo, document, a memory, etc.**

Joan Langford's new book is now out entitled 'Lest We Forget' which is the eighth book in the series 'Farington – a Lancashire Cotton Mill Village' – a series of books now much sought after. Joan was asked especially to produce this book to record the lives of the men of Farington who died during World War 1.

You can contact Joan on 01772 436505 or email [joanlangford@talktalk.net](mailto:joanlangford@talktalk.net)

**Lostock Hall Youth Band** are looking for new players or even learners, to swell their ranks. We rehearse Fridays 6.45 to 7.45 pm in Lostock Hall Bandroom adjacent to the Victoria Hotel, Watkin lane, Lostock Hall. All are welcome from beginners to a little more experienced brass musicians. For further information have a look at our website [www.lostockhallbrassband.co.uk](http://www.lostockhallbrassband.co.uk) or telephone Ron Heyes on 01772 463187

If you have any memories you would like to submit to the magazine for publication, please do contact me, or our roving reporter – Mr Fix It – Tony Billington, especially memories from our older residents, because once the memories are gone they are lost forever. We can call at your home or speak to you on the telephone if you wish us to write down your memories. Have a look on Flickr at the Lostock Hall group of photographs, please upload any you would like to share. Copies of the magazine will always be available at Lostock Hall Library on Watkin Lane. Contact me to have your own copy delivered each month or to receive it by email.

Front Cover image – The Stepping Stones, Dandy Brook (River Lostock)

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## Photographs from Lostock Hall Past



Lostock Hall Council School c. 1920's. Courtesy of Mrs Marina McNulty.



Lostock Hall Council School Football Team 1951. Courtesy of John McCall. John is 3<sup>rd</sup> on the back row. If you can name anyone else please get in touch. 07733 321911

**South Ribble Museum & Exhibition Centre,  
The Old Grammar School, Church Road, Leyland, Lancashire.  
Tel Preston 422041. [www.southribblemuseum.org.uk](http://www.southribblemuseum.org.uk)**

***Events Summer 2014***

**June 10<sup>th</sup>-July 6<sup>th</sup> Brownies Centenary Exhibition**

- Thurs 12 7-30pm. St.Leonard's (Walton-le-Dale) Arts Festival. Talk and graveyard walk exploring the ancient church and its site with David Hunt (DH). Meet at the church. Refreshments.
- Sat 14 11am Official Opening of the exhibition.  
9<sup>th</sup> Brownies (Moss Side: Paradise Lane) in Attendance.
- Sat 21 12<sup>th</sup> Brownies (Seven Stars) in Attendance. 2014 Leyland Festival Day.  
Performance by Leyland Morris Men en route to the park.
- Sat 28 8<sup>th</sup> Brownies (Moss Side: St.James) in Attendance.  
10-30 to 12-30pm. Punch & Judy Show and Workshop ...with Prof. Ivan Walters.
- Sat 5 July 7<sup>th</sup> Brownies (Hough Lane: URC) in Attendance.  
11am. Short local history walk. DH. 'Who's Who in Leyland Churchyard'.

**July 8<sup>th</sup> -26<sup>th</sup> National Archaeology Festival: Exploring Farington Moss.**

A celebration of our local archaeology in recognition of 40 years of South Ribble Borough Council. Will also feature the Borough's treasures on loan from the Harris Museum: the Cuerdale Hoard, the Penwortham Castle finds, the Worden Hoard and the finds from Roman Walton-Le-Dale.

- Sat 12 11am. Illustrated talk. DH. 'The Vanished World of the Faringtons'.
- Thurs 17 2pm. Local History walk. 3 miles. DH. 'Worden Hall and Park'.
- Sat 19 11am. Illustrated talk. Dr W.Shannon.  
'Hell Holes and Mere Stones: The Leyland Mosses in the time of the Tudors'.
- Sun 20 2pm. Archaeology Walk. 3 miles. DH. St.Leonard's church, Cuerdale Lane, Walton-Le-Dale. Strong shoes essential. Remember our firm's motto -*There Shall Be Rain!*  
'England's Greatest Treasure: The discovery of the Cuerdale Hoard'. (Provisional at 1-6-14)
- Thurs 24 2pm. Illustrated Lecture. Elizabeth Huckerby. Now retired, but one of our leading authorities.  
'Reconstructing the Past: How Pollen Analysis works'.
- Sat 26 11am. 'Focus On Leyland'. The Damp Brothers film of life in the town in 1964, followed by David Ashmore's study of the building of the Tesco superstore in Leyland.

**August 1<sup>st</sup>- Oct 18<sup>th</sup> Our August 1914 Commemorative Exhibition: 'Antarctic Witness'.**

*A second chance to see Frank Hurley's wonderful photographs of Shackleton's 1914-16 Imperial Antarctic Expedition. The exhibition thus also commemorates the centenary of the greatest Arctic adventure.*

Hostilities broke out as *Endurance* was making her way out into the English Channel. On hearing the news Shackleton immediately volunteered the ship and her crew for military service, only for Winston Churchill to telegram the single word 'Proceed'. This sheds light on the contemporary view that the European crisis was not particularly serious and need not stand in the way of scientific exploration. When they finally escaped from the ice and shipwreck two years later the party was shocked to learn that the war had spread around the world and would rage on for another two years!

- Sat 2 Aug 10-30am. Official Opening. 11am. Short Local walk. DH. 'Leyland's Belgian Refugees'.
- Tues 5 Aug. **The first day of the Great War.** 2pm. Local History walk. DH.  
'An introduction to Leyland in the Great War'.
- Sat 9 Aug 11am. Illustrated talk. Malcolm Tranter.  
'August 1914, Winston Churchill and the Imperial Antarctic Expedition of 1914-16'.
- Sun 31Aug 2pm. Local History Walk. 2 miles; DH with local specialists.  
'McNamara VC: An introduction to Bamber Bridge in the Great War'.  
Meet at St Mary's church, Brownedge Lane, Bamber Bridge.

**8-12 September: South Ribble Walks week. Theme 'Endurance'.**

- Mon 8 Sept 11am. Official start of Walks Week. Meet at Museum. Short walk, 3 miles.

**Opening Times: Tuesday & Friday 10-4pm, Thursday 1-4pm, Saturday 1-4pm, Other times and group visits by appointment. Children must be accompanied by an adult. 1-6-14**

**SUICIDE OF FARMER** – Early yesterday morning **John Pemberton**, farmer, Tardy Gate, near Preston, committed suicide by cutting his throat with a razor. Deceased had been drinking heavily of late, and leaves a widow and large family.

**The North Eastern Daily Gazette, September 25<sup>th</sup> 1885**

**NEW ROMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL FOR FARINGTON** – The faith has most certainly progressed in the district of Farington, Brownedge and thereabouts. Educational requirements have proved insufficient, and consequently a new school has been erected at Tardy Gate, in connection with the mission at Brownedge. Two acres of land were purchased behind the Tardy Gate Inn some time ago, and the object was to erect a substantial and durable school in a central position. The main school will measure 80 feet by 30 feet, with infant's gallery at one end, and there will be a classroom 26 feet square, as well as two smaller classrooms. The appliances for ventilation and heating are of a most modern principle, and the school will be thoroughly equipped with all necessary conveniences for carrying on educational work. The school will be divided by a screen, and one portion will be set apart for the infants, while the other will be occupied by the older scholars. The entire cost of the work is estimated at about £2,000. Mr Chas. Walker, of Preston, builder and contractor is charged with the work, and Mr Charles Walker, of Newcastle upon Tyne, is the architect, Messrs. Metcalf and Dilworth supplying the heating apparatus. On Saturday afternoon the foundation stone was laid by the Most Rev. W.B. Scarisbrick, DD, OSB, Archbishop of Cyzicum, in the presence of a large assembly. There was also in attendance the Children of Mary, members of the Young Men's Association and a large number of scholars and congregation attending Brownedge. These were drawn up in processional order at Brownedge Chapel, and, headed by two handsome double-poled banners, in addition to a large number of small flags, accompanied by the Brownedge and Preston Temperance Bands, proceeded to the site of the new school. The Archbishop was attended by the Right Rev. Abbot Snow (of Liverpool), Fathers Pozzi, OSB (Warrington) O'Brian OSB (Parbold) R Turner OSB (Walton-le-Dale) TA Walker OSB and RA Fishwick OSB (of Brownedge). After a short service the stone was laid by the Archbishop, who was presented with a beautiful silver trowel for the purpose. At the conclusion of the ceremony the Archbishop delivered an address, in which he dwelt upon the importance of obtaining a truly religious and Catholic education for their children, and entreated every one of them to join in and work side by side for the progress of religious work. A very enjoyable tea-meeting was held in the evening.

**The Preston Guardian July 13<sup>th</sup> 1889**

**RAILWAY FATALITY AT FARINGTON** – The coroner, Dr Gilbertson, held an inquest at the Anchor Inn, Farington, on Tuesday, on the body of a man unknown. Deceased was seen in Farington and Tardy Gate, on Sunday evening going in the direction of Preston. He had only a stick with him, and he leaned forward when he walked. The following morning **John Thomas Williams**, a goods guard in the service of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company, stumbled over the body on the down slow line in the four-foot of railway, about 190 yards from Farington Station. The head was very badly injured, the top of the skull being cut off. The body appeared to be that of a man about 70 years of age, 5 ft 9in high, with brown hair, turning grey, grey whiskers and moustache, and blue eyes. There was 5 ½ d in the pockets, some pieces of cloth and thread, and other similar articles. A verdict of 'Accidentally killed' was returned.

**The Preston Guardian September 21<sup>st</sup> 1889**

# PRESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## PROGRAMME 2014-2015

- Monday 1 September 2014 *Preston as it was – or was it?*  
Speaker: Stephen Sartin
- Monday 6 October 2014 *Moses Holden 1777-1864: Lecturing Astronomer, Freeman of Preston, and much, much more*  
Speaker: Stephen Halliwell
- Monday 3 November 2014 *The Great War You Don't Hear Much About – a Lancashire perspective on operations beyond France and Flanders*  
Speaker: Lt Colonel John Downham MBE
- Monday 1 December 2014 *The Making of Preston's Parks*  
Speaker: Colin Stansfield
- Monday 2 February 2015 *Place Names and Landscape in Medieval North Lancashire*  
Speaker: Dr Alan Crosby
- Monday 2 March 2015 *Pathways to Preston's Past. A. J. Berry, H. W. Clemesha and the History of Preston*  
Speaker: Dr Keith Vernon
- Monday 6 April 2015 *Aspects of Freckleton*  
Speaker: Peter Shakeshaft
- Monday 11 May 2015 Annual General Meeting followed by  
*Preston in World War I*  
Speaker: Jane Abramson

The meetings are held in St John (The Minster),  
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**Visitors and new members are very welcome**

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For further information contact our Secretary, Karen Doyle  
Telephone 01772 862673 or Email [info@prestonhistoricalsociety.org.uk](mailto:info@prestonhistoricalsociety.org.uk)  
[www.prestonhistoricalsociety.org.uk](http://www.prestonhistoricalsociety.org.uk)

# An Elephant Story

## Memories of Bernard Billington

(written by Tony Billington)



In the late 1940's an incident occurred at Preston Railway Station, which subsequently involved the Tannery at Lostock Hall.

A circus, which travelled the country by rail had arrived at Preston Station and was in the process of being moved from the sidings back onto the main track when a very large elephant became very agitated. It proceeded to make a mess of its cage and was threatening to run amok. It is believed the local vet was called for but the equipment he had proved inadequate for the task in hand. Whether the beast's handler was seriously injured or even killed pales in the memory. An urgent call to Fulwood Barracks brought about the arrival of about ten Royal Artillery soldiers armed with rifles. Its quite possible that they were placed in a coal wagon and shunted down the next track adjacent to the mayhem where they duly dispatched the far from happy Jumbo.

How or when the deceased trunker was taken to Mr Newsham's Tannery on Croston Road, Lostock Hall (now the site of Lonsdale Chase Sheltered Housing Scheme) is not known but I remember seeing the four large feet of the elephant standing outside one of the Tannery doors in the yard.

Being very inquisitive I risked life and limb by going across the yard to have a closer look at the huge clodhoppers but I was soon dispatched by the size 13 boots of the Tannery watchman. I cannot remember the elephant's name but the nameplate off its cage was to be seen over the door of the platelayers cabin on Maudland Curve at Preston Station. Does anyone recall the incident or have any more information about it ?



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# PRIVATE FREDERICK JOSEPH MURRAY

23977

1<sup>st</sup> Battalion

**The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment**

**Died 26<sup>th</sup> November 1916, aged 19**

**Buried at Thiepval Memorial, France**

Frederick Murray's family home was on Croston Road, Lostock Hall. He had two brothers Ignatius and James, and two sisters Elizabeth and Madge.

Frederick died on 26<sup>th</sup> November 1916 and is remembered on the Lostock Hall War Memorial, St Gerards War Memorial and also on the tablets in the Harris Museum, Preston. His mother devastated wanted his name to be remembered and applied to have him on many memorials. James daughters Val (of Val Murray, Preston) and Karina sent in the photograph of their Uncle Frederick. Frederick and Ignatius were never married and had no family. Ignatius luckily returned home after the war.

Frederick also had two sisters Elizabeth and Madge.

Elizabeth's married name was Thompson and she had three daughters, June, Clare and May.

Madge married Edward Starr and had three children Vernon, Ena and Edward. James Murray and his wife later returned to Croston Road, Farington in the sixties.



An account was related to me by Bernie Roddy, of Tardy Gate, who led me to write this article. She had recently met one of James Murray's daughters in the graveyard at St Gerards Church and was told that during the war years James and a friend (whose brother was Francis Shultz), were camping out on Longton Marsh one night. They must have had a light showing which attracted the attention of a warden doing his rounds. He questioned the two boys as to what they were doing. Next he asked their names. 'Murray' replied James, his pal said 'Shultz'. 'Let's be having you' shouted the warden, the German name must have unnerved him and amidst their pleas that their brothers were fighting in the war, he carted the two of them off to the police station to make further checks on their credentials. Once this has been done they were released. James Murray's pal's brother, Francis Shultz, went on to perform many a heroic act during his active service before he was killed on 13<sup>th</sup> April, 1918. He was mentioned in dispatches and awarded the Military Medal ! 'What's in a Name' said Bernie to me.

# FRY INN

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## TRAINSPOTTING AROUND LOSTOCK HALL IN THE LATE 1950'S AND EARLY 60'S.



**Photo taken during the demolition of Farington Station in 1960. Courtesy of Dave Ellithorn. Jubilee Class No. 45663 'Jervis'**

In the days when television was the preserve of the rich and snobs only, lurked the honourable (nay only) pastime of trainspotting! Days when electrics and diesels were almost unheard of and very rarely seen in the railway hotbed of Lostock Hall. A five minute walk in almost any direction from the village centre would bring you into railway territory. It was like a 'Bermuda Triangle' of railway tracks inhabited by huge iron horses of all shapes, sizes and colours. These beasts carried nicknames like Mickeys, Jubs, Pats, Scots, Semis, Brits, Lizzies, Tanks, etc., relating to the many classes of locomotive which plied their trade on the London Midland and Scottish Railway. A gang of us, 8-10 years olds, had a huge variety of vantage points around the 'Triangle' from which to spot these memorable monsters of steam.

Farington Railway Overbridge on Croston Road was hugely popular. We would gather on either side of the bridge on two huge concrete buttresses, which carried a pipeline adjacent to the bridge. These were ideal to see the up-fast, down-fast, up-slow, down-slow lines between Farington Bridge and Fowler Lane. If we looked to our left we would see a large field containing the famous 'Painters', a large wooden structure of two enormous painters carrying a plank displaying the name of a local firm, was it McCleans or Leyland Paints, I am not sure. They even had a tin of paint in their hands ! Separated by a path (still in use) which led to the Iron Bridge traversing the line between Lostock Junction and the Main Line near Fowler Lane. On the other side of the path was the imposing carriage sheds (a favourite haunt for teenage pursuits !)

On the other side of the overbridge at Farington was Farington Railway Station (closed 1960) which had a central platform. We never spotted from here but instead used the grass banking behind Kellett Acre (a convenient gap in the railings provided access and also a quick escape route in case the 'Fat Controller' at Farington suddenly appeared down the platform! On the opposite side of the tracks from Kellett Acre was a large triangle of land now occupied by Campbells Caravans and Squirrels Chase. Does anyone know the origin or who owned the large, well maintained cabin which ran parallel to the embankment carrying the line over the Main Line to Lostock Hall Station ? (see above photo) Nearer to Squirrels Chase and the Anchor Bridge were a couple of other cabins which seemed to have been put together using the remains of Farington Station judging by the cream and maroon timber !

It was around this period of time that I acquired my first proper trainspotting book, the Ian

Allan British Railway Locomotives LMS Region Edition for the princely sum of 2/6d (12 ½ p). I scrimped, saved, scrounged, etc., for this highly prized work of art, which replaced an old Co-op pay book my Mum had given me. The front cover bore an image of 42647 'City of Liverpool' in stunning red livery.

It contained all the locomotive numbers and names in the LMS region along with shed and shed numbers, 24C being our own Lostock Hall Shed of course !

Carrying on with our journey of discovery we would occasionally cycle to Fowler Lane Overbridge and position ourselves on a high bank just down the line from Leyland Motors. The high wall in Pitt Street next to the County Hall and Skew Bridge embankment were also visited but nothing carried the ambiance or comfort of the concrete perches at Farington. Living in Avondale Drive next to St James Institute and across from the old Council School (now sadly closed) my nearest vantage point was on the bridge overlooking Lostock Hall Station (then on the opposite side of the overbridge) but as the line carried nothing like the amount of traffic as the Main Line this proved a rarely visited place.

This was the main reason why the steps near Junction Hollows just down the line from Todd Lane Railway Station were also very rarely used although it was by far the most pleasant place to spend a sunny afternoon during the School Holidays.

Another favourite spot was the narrow embankment between the two bridges at Flag Lane, which gave us an unlimited view of both the Main Line as well as the lines to Blackburn and Liverpool. Best of both worlds ! This patch of ground now carries an access road down to the tracks for repair and maintenance work. Just down the track towards Skew Bridge were some steps adjacent to Bee Lane Overbridge, which were also a pleasant viewing point. We weren't always sure whether we were allowed on them or not but as we were all good runners it never seemed to stop us !

If we ever got hungry or thirsty at Flag Lane there was always Conway Café on the corner near Leyland Road for us to find refreshment of some description.

Incidentally, its well known that trainspotters are tagged as 'anoraks' but in the late 50's and early 60's most of us wore hand-me-down jackets, blazers, etc. Nobody had even heard of an anorak let alone afford one !

Back to Junction Hollows, which I have been informed were marl pits originally. Many people used to flock to the Hollows on Easter Monday instead of Avenham Park to roll their Easter Eggs.

Lostock Hall High School Playing Fields now occupy most of this site but it was always a hive of activity, especially in the summer.

Marl Pits were formed when farmers would dig for marl. Marl was a calcareous mudstone, consisting of clay with calcium carbonate, sedimentary laid down from fresh sea-water. Marl crumbled easily. 'Marling' was spreading the marl on poor soils to reduce acidity and promote nitrification.

There were many pits around Lostock Hall in those days, were they all marl pits, I'm not sure, but the ones I remember are : -

1. Several on Lawsons Field between Wateringpool Lane and Todd Lane North, now the site of Lostock Hall Junior and High Schools.
2. One adjacent to the graveyard at St Gerards, now the site of the schoolyard on Lourdes Avenue.
3. Baxi, now a housing estate.
4. Between St Cuthberts Road and Mercer Road very close to where the football pitch is situated.
5. Near Ampleforth Drive when at 'low tide' an old car, possibly an Austin would surface and provided hours of enjoyment for would-be drivers !

I am sure there are many more but the way to spot them was one side sloped downwards for a horse and cart to back down to pick up the marl while the other side was just a higher bank.

Trainspotting and Marl pits, what more did you need during the school holidays !!

**By Tony Billington**

## Settlements in the Area

**Tardy Gate** : Until the 1840's Tardy Gate as a community did not exist, it was simply a point on the turnpike road between Preston and Leyland. John Tardy's house had been on the opposite corner of Brownedge Road to the present day Tardy Gate Inn, and there was also a smithy, a few cottages scattered along the roads nearby, and a tannery at Farington Cottage on Croston Road.

The early years of the nineteenth century were the heyday of horse-drawn coach travel and the organisation of this travel was mainly in the hands of Inn-Keepers. Tardy's House being situated on the Waines Way (wagon way) to Preston, and the highway to Leyland, meant stage coaches had to stop there to pay the toll. As the House was also an Inn, the coaches would have probably stopped to change horses, or just water them, or maybe stay at the Inn for a rest. The present day Tardy Gate Inn had for many years, several stables at the back and a trough at the front of it.

Slater's 1851 Directory of Preston and Districts lists Joseph Orrell as manager at the Tardy Gate Inn, when it was described as a Beer House, managed by Mr E Dandy.

In the second half of the nineteenth century Tardy Gate began to grow with ribbon development of housing along the Lane, necessary for the growing workforce involved with employment in the nearby mills and railway works at Lostock Hall. Between 1881 and 1891 the population of Tardy Gate and Lostock Hall rose from 712 people to 1,108.

**Lostock Hall** : This area was originally part of Cuerden, but in the 1840's the name 'Lostock Hall' came to be applied to the district to the west of the ancient Lostock Hall (now the core of St Catherine's Hospice) which encompassed the small communities of mill workers that developed around the early mills at Cuerden Green and Lostock Hall. It was separated (to the north) from Tardy Gate by the line of the East Lancashire railway and stretched as far south as Farington Road/Lostock Lane.

**Cuerden** : This was an ancient township where, in 1801 there were 519 people, living in 88 houses. The earliest surviving documents relating to the Manor of Cuerden date from 1199, when the Molyneux family held the lands. In 1788 Thomas Townley Parker (High Sheriff of Lancashire in 1793) inherited the estate, which included what later became known as the Lostock Hall area. Cuerden Hall itself is now the Sue Ryder Care Home.

**Farington** : Farington was also an ancient township dating back to about the twelfth century. The population figures remained more or less the same for many hundreds of years, and in 1801 there were 382 people recorded living in the township (which still extended to Tardy Gate) and who occupied just 79 houses.

**Taken from Farington, A Lancashire Cotton Mill Village, Book 5 by Joan M. Langford. Joan has written 8 excellent and very informative books on the Farington area, her new one entitled 'Lest we Forget' is now available and can be obtained by contacting her on 01772 436505**

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## Lostock House

The 'gentleman's residence' – Lostock House – was set back a little way from the Lane, with gardens to the front and side, and had a high stone wall all around the property. The stone built house had a portico entrance, with stone pillars. Five windows graced the front of the house, with two additional attic windows. On the ground floor was a sitting room, dining room, morning room and a kitchen. On the first floor there were three bedrooms and a staircase to two more rooms in the attic. The servant's rooms were in an extension at the rear of the house.



In the early 1800's a ballroom was added, off the sitting room on the ground floor, and above it was another large family room. The entrance into the mill yard and the mill itself was by a roadway off the Lane, next to the House.

Members of the Bashall family continued to live at Lostock House until the 1860's, when they left the Lostock Hall area. After that it was the home of several managers at the mill – including William Flitcroft and later John Almond.

In 1905, John Almond, the then owner of Lostock House (and General Manager at the mill) gave land from his front garden for the building of a new Methodist church, which was described as 'one of the most beautiful in Methodism' and in 1910 a new Sunday School was built abutting the original Factory School/Sunday School room. The new 1910 Sunday School and original Factory Schoolroom both on Watkin Lane – are now leased to Lancashire County Council and are in daily use as a Youth and Community facility for the people of the area.

After Mr Almond's death c.1926 the old house was divided into four apartments. From 1940 – 45 Canadian Army officers were billeted in the Lostock House apartments and very much enjoyed their elaborate surroundings.

When the war was over the apartments were sold to individual families, and the family who owned the main part of the old house from the 1950's lovingly restored much of it to its former glory. Sadly they were forced to sell the house to the local authority in 1991 (under a compulsory purchase order), in order that an access way could be made off Watkin Lane for Lunar Caravans to get their vehicles into the old mill site behind the house. Tragically the House was then demolished, as it transpired unnecessarily, because Lunar Caravans had already acquired alternative access to their site from Farington Road – and another part of our local heritage disappeared.

Joan Langford – local historian and author of eight books about the History of Farington and area has kindly allowed us to produce this information from Book 5. Her new book 'Lest we forget' is now out and you can contact Joan on 01772 436505 to obtain a copy.

*Just a Line from Preston*



## **PRESTON DIGITAL ARCHIVE**

Each June, we open up our old biscuit tin in order to collect more vintage Preston images. The PDA is a free resource and we rely a great deal on content donated by the local community. We are always on the lookout for items of interest which would include any of the following: Vintage photographs (schools, places of work, streets, buildings, local events etc.) vintage postcards, old brochures and pamphlets, newspaper cuttings and other Preston related ephemera. At present we are only accepting pre-1990 content. We have the facility to collect and return any items to you at our cost. If you have anything you wish to donate to the PDA please contact us at [prestondigitalarchive@hotmail.com](mailto:prestondigitalarchive@hotmail.com) As always, thanks for your support. Barney, Heather, Wendy, Nigel, Andrew and Stephen. Call us on 07733 321911

## MOSS C.C. 1956

**Moss C.C. 1965.  
Chorley and District  
Cricket League Div 2  
Champions  
Back Row L EAVES  
- ?? - B TYRER -  
MR VOSE - A  
HAYES - MR HOLT-  
D WILSON - D  
PARKER  
FRONT ROW -  
SCORER? - S  
RUDMAN - E PYE -  
J WILSON Capt - G  
JONES - D  
BARNISH - F  
BLAND Umpire**



The photograph was taken in 1965 after the team had just won Division 2 in the Chorley and District Cricket League. The team would also go on to win it in 1966 and 1967. The team were considered too good for Division 2 but not good enough for Division 1 preferring to stay put where winning nearly every week was more enjoyable than losing ! As I wasn't around in the early days of the Cricket team I can only go off the odd memory or rumour but Stan Rudman tells me that Albert Cross remembers the team playing on St Gerards school field behind the church.

In days gone by you could walk down Coote Lane from Watkin Lane (main road when we were kids!) and having got to the end of both terraces of houses (still there) left and right of the lane you would come across a farm to your left and the factory wall to the right leading all the way down to near the entrance to Fir Trees Avenue. As mentioned in previous issues a brickcroft stood where Rushy Hey now lies whilst the land now occupied by Fir Trees estate was a collection of allotments and hen cabins later to give way to the cricket ground. On walking down Fir Trees Avenue and round the sharp right hand bend the houses to the left on the railway banking stand where the boundary was next to the old railway fencing. This boundary played a crucial part in Moss C.C. success. Visiting batsmen, who were unfamiliar with the contours of the ground would hit the ball up to where the boundary and stand back to admire the four they were expecting to be signalled by the umpire. Unfortunately in many cases, the ball would suddenly stop just inside the boundary and start trickling back down the slope. Many runs were lost in this manner and won many a game for Moss C.C. although they weren't a bad team either ! Stan Rudman did sterling work as groundsman as well as an all rounder for the team and tells me a very funny story about a game at Feniscowles in the mid 60's. Having goaded the home teams batsman out for 99, Stan went to the pavilion to ask for some saw dust to patch up the bowlers footmarks on the damp pitch. Next minute the dressing room door opened and out flew a saw. 'There's some trees oe'r theer, get thee own sawdust !'

**Tony Billington with contributions from Stan Rudman and Dave Wilson**

## Wesley House

An immediate problem facing Revd. Tracey William Walker when he took up position of vicar of Saint Saviour's, at the end of 1902, was to find suitable accommodation for his curate, George John Ash, also freshly arrived on the scene.

In February 1903 a Building Committee was convened, chaired by the new vicar at Saint Saviours. Harry Dewhurst, who had laid the foundation stone for the mission church, donated £250 towards a Parsonage Building Fund, with the proviso that a similar amount be raised by other means. In March, the building committee accepted a tender of £550.10s from Mr F Fazackerley, of Preston and work began almost straight away to build what became known as Wesley House, situated some 200 yards west of the church and fronting the High Road, (Watkin Lane). The work finished, George John Ash, the new curate, and his family took up residence as the year came to a close.

The fund benefited considerably when, one year later in December, 1904, a much heralded three day bazaar raised almost £200.

From 1926 the Church assembly had been discussing what was termed as 'insuitable house issue' the problem being that the church at large was facing the expense of modernising and maintaining houses larger than need be for parsons with moderate incomes. Since Wesley House fell into this category, it was disposed of. Following curates used a house in Highfield Avenue as their lodging until Reverend Challen (1932-1937) left.

**Taken from 'A Parish Companion' St James' Church, Lostock Hall by Jack Wilcock.**

**Copies still available from St James Church.**

## **South Ribble Museum and Exhibition Centre**

### **Church Road, Leyland**

**Opening Times: Tuesday & Friday 10-4pm, Thursday 1-4pm, Saturday 1-4pm, Other times and group visits by appointment. Children must be accompanied by an adult.**

**July 8<sup>th</sup> -26<sup>th</sup> National Archaeology Festival: Exploring Farington Moss.**

A celebration of our local archaeology in recognition of 40 years of South Ribble Borough Council. Will also feature the Borough's treasures on loan from the Harris Museum: the Cuerdale Hoard, the Penwortham Castle finds, the Worden Hoard and the finds from Roman Walton-Le-Dale.

## **A TARDY GATE GIRL by Jackie Stuart**

I started my job at Leyland Garage in the offices. The job was fine but I had this terrible guilt feeling of leaving my baby with someone else. I did nothing but cry when I got home. After the first week of working I decided I did not need to take the valium anymore so I weaned myself off them. I had become alive again. I had come through a difficult period of my life, with very little help from anyone. I suppose people didn't really know how to help. I knew from then on, that I was not cut out to be a full time housewife. I needed adult company and conversation. The boss of the firm I worked for helped me to get a place for Helen at Yewlands Drive Nursery. She loved it there. She had lots of company and made lots of new friends. The situation for both of us was ideal. It was while I was living in Leyland that I discovered I had a problem with my eyesight. I had caritacorneaus (I don't think that is the right spelling). Apparently there was only one other person in the northwest with this condition. She was a 90 year old lady and had gone blind. The prospects looked rather bleak. The only thing I could do was to wear glasses permanently or try contact lenses. The contact lenses were awful. I had to use a rubber sucker to get them out of my eyes. I could not iron with them in, or cook or go anywhere they had central heating. My eyes would stream all the time and it looked like I was crying. I went back to wearing my glasses, they were a lot more comfortable. I worked at Leyland Garage for two and a half years until I left in May 1971, when I was pregnant with my second child, and was about to move house. Bernard and I had bought a house in St Cuthbert's Road at a cost of £1,800.00. My dad thought we were mad paying that amount of money, it was far too much. Within months prices started to rise rapidly in the property market, which made him change his mind. On the day we moved in he helped us to take out the black leaded fireplace. Water came pouring out of the boiler, which mixed with the soot and smelt like wee. We tried to catch it in a bucket to take outside, but the bucket had a hole in it and leaked the sooty water all over the floor. Luckily there was no carpet down so it was easy to clean up. My brother helped us to rewire the house and put extra plug sockets in. I was helping him to feed wires through the cavity wall when he came down stairs to check that enough wire was coming through. All of a sudden he burst out laughing. My face was covered with dust from inside the cavity. The only white parts were where my glasses had been. The decorating proved to be a bit difficult. I was so large with this pregnancy that I had to stand on the step ladders backwards. By the time we went on holiday to Fleetwood in July the house was beginning to look more like a home. The firm that Bernard worked for had several caravans dotted around the country. For a small payment employees could hire them of a week or a fortnight. We had a few holidays in Fleetwood and one in Morecambe. One Thursday in August when I was eight months pregnant I had gastro enteritis. I thought that I was going to lose my baby. Mum and Dad had gone to Yorkshire to see my grandmother who was very ill. They had asked me to do their weekend shopping for them, but I was unable to do on my own. Bernard had gone to work and I only had Helen to rely on. She was only three and had to take a message across the road to the Walker's house. Luckily Anne was there and did the shopping for me. My brother came to see me and couldn't believe the terrible state I was in. He tried to help me the best way he could. I did recover from it and did not lose the baby.

I gave birth to my son Stuart David at 5.30 am on the 9th September, 1971, at Sharoe Green Hospital. Stuart weighed 8lb 7oz and was completely different from Helen. He had very fine blonde hair and blue eyes. I was much better prepared this time around. I felt much happier in my home surroundings because I knew nearly everyone in the street. When I arrived home the house was in a tip. I had to start cleaning it up and then do all

the washing and ironing that had piled up over the week. One thing I didn't do was the shopping. I felt much more at ease and more able to cope. I had to cope anyway because I was back in the same routine of being with the children during the day and on my own in the evening.

I knew I had to do something about this so I started working at the Baxi Social Club a couple of evenings a week. My brother was the steward there at the time. Bernard agreed to babysit while I worked.

In 1972 Helen started school at Lostock Hall County Council School. She was the first of the second generation to attend there. In this same year when Stuart was only 18 months old, I had to take him to the doctors for a check up. He had a cold and wasn't able to get rid of it. During the examination the doctor discovered that Stuart had a heart murmur. We had to see a doctor at the Preston Royal infirmary and also one at the Blackpool Victoria Hospital. All these electrodes were placed on the pulse areas of his body. The doctor at Preston asked me once at the end of one visit, why Stuart didn't cry like all the other children. I explained that he thought he was the 'Bionic Man' and that he thought he was being recharged every time he went. This made the doctor laugh. He had never heard that before and it greatly amused him.

This year was also the Preston Guild year. I took Helen and Stuart down to the Shawes Arms in Walton-le-Dale to see the boating regatta. We had a really nice day. Then I worked at the Baxi Club that night. I didn't work there very long, the problem was the late hours and Bernard got fed up minding the children. I was back to square one again. Only this time I got into a very desperate state of mind. I didn't see the point of carrying on anymore, so I threatened to swallow a load of tablets. My mum came round to see me and talked me out of it. I felt totally lost and still had this feeling that something was missing. BUT WHAT WAS IT? I was crying out for help, but why and what for? The following day I went to see Dr Cohen. I told him that I felt totally useless and inadequate and that Bernard had constantly told me over the years that I needed to see a psychiatrist. I asked Dr Cohen if he thought this too. He quickly put this thought out of my mind. He had known me all my life and knew me better than anyone else. He told me to tell Bernard how I felt to see if we could sort things out. We did sort things out for a short while and then I decided I wanted another baby. This might sound odd to some and it isn't the right answer, but I had made my mind up when I was young that I wanted four children. I thought four was a good number and that they wouldn't have a lonely childhood like I had. There was also another reason. I loved my children, but more importantly they loved me.

I actually started labour with my third child on Thursday, 6th December, 1973, but it was a false labour. This had happened when I had Helen. It was exactly the same pattern and she was born two days later. I told the midwife that my baby would not be born until Saturday morning. She asked me not to call her before 11.30pm on the Friday evening as the Black and White Minstrels were on the television. I assured her I wouldn't do that as I would be watching it myself. Exactly at 11.30 that night I started in labour but I didn't call the midwife until 1.15am. The following morning Alison Jayne was born on the 8th December at 1.48am, weighing 8lb 8oz, another 'Tardy Gate Girl'. She was just like Stuart, with blonde hair and blue eyes. This time it was a home birth. It was much nicer at home, in fact you got more care and attention that you did in hospital. Bernard didn't take much notice of Alison. In fact he said she wasn't his. This was a bit ironic really, he was the one who went out every night not me, so how the hell did he work that one out.

**More next month ....**

# MOSCOW DYNAMOES – 'Lostock Hall Branch' by Tony Billington

## LOSTOCK HALL DYNAMOES, MERCER ROAD – 1966

As football mad teenagers in the aftermath of England's World Cup Victory over the 'Fatherland' we used to scratch our heels at weekends during the day particularly Sundays. One or two of us got together, Brian Sherliker and myself were quite instrumental in trying to form a team and also to find some opposition. We got a few of the lads together who we knocked about with and had a 'poll' into what colour of shirt most of us had so that we could have a kind of uniform strip.

We had no funds, no pitch, no name and as yet no opposition. As it was 1966 there was such thing as the 'Lancashire Evening Post' Sunday League. Blue seemed to be the colour which the majority of us could muster. So we had a colour.

There were only several pitches in the area but only three had the goal-posts up permanently. The Gasworks, Mercer Road and St Gerards school field.

The next task was to find opposition. As we'd all been to different schools between us, Preston Catholic College, Hutton GS, Brownedge St Marys, Walton-Le-Dale etc., there was a good nucleus of potential opposition against old school mates. One or two games began to be arranged provisionally so now we needed a name.

A few were banded about till someone, can't remember who, it could have been me, said LOSTOCK DYNAMOES, it sounded like MOSCOW DYNAMOES, a very famous Soviet team for the 40's and 50's. There wasn't too much opposition to this. All the lads wanted to do was get on with it and play. Our first game was on St Gerards school field but it was a small school pitch and even though we won it was a struggle to play. Incidentally, we had been to Watsons down Wateringpool Lane and 'cadedged' two sacks of sawdust to mark the pitch out !

In our vast array of differing shades of blue we started to play quite regularly and won nearly every game. We played some of my old mates from school called Deepdale Celtic, some came from Bamber Bridge, Leyland and from roundabout. We even played Fishwick Motors, blokes twice our age, twice as ugly and three times dirtier.

One game I vividly remember was for a Sunday morning on Mercer Road against some blokes from either the Vic or Labour Club or both. There had been a really heavy frost and the pitch was like concrete. We wanted to play, but the older blokes bottled it, saying they had kids etc., and a broken leg wouldn't pay the mortgage. What wimps we thought, but years later we'd have all felt the same. The team only lasted a couple of seasons but they were great times.

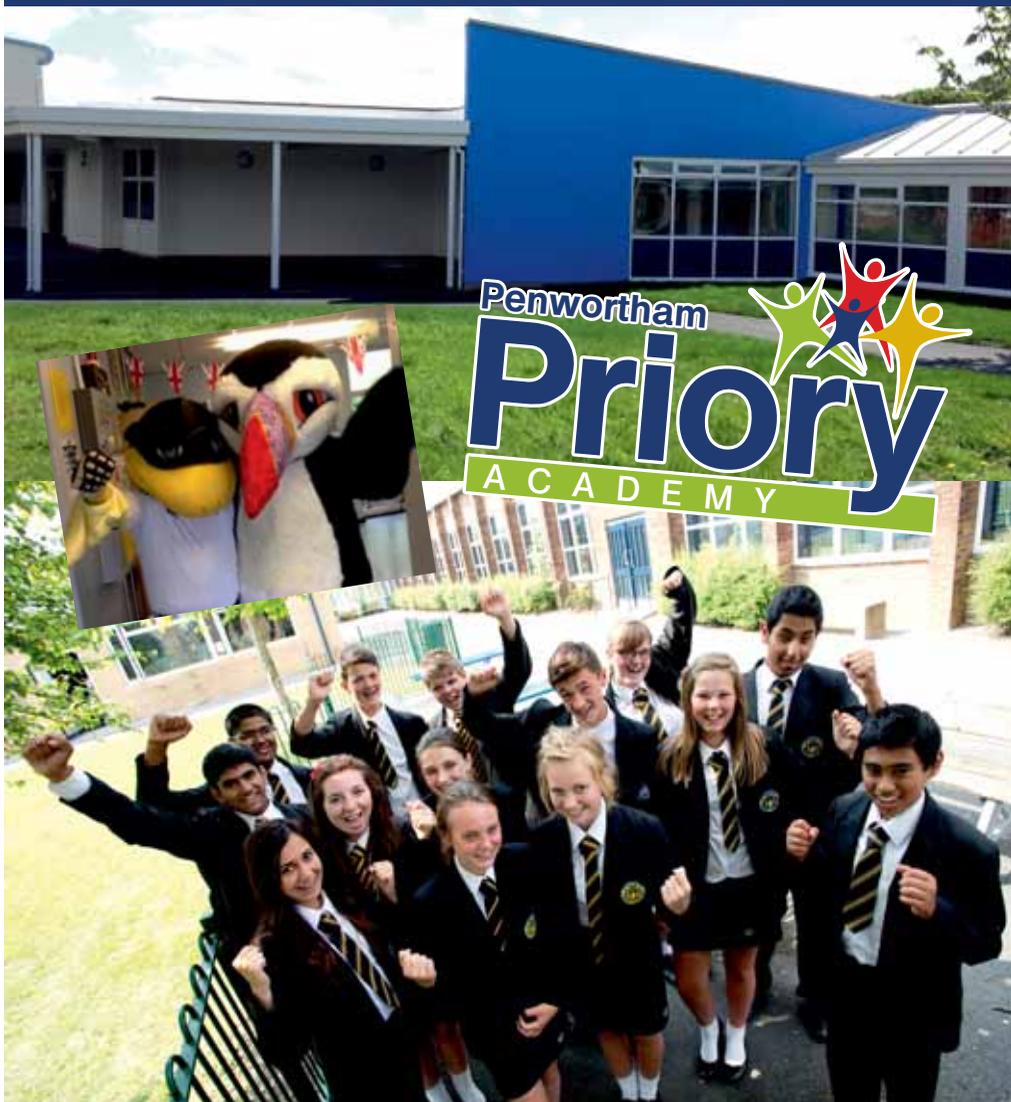
The photograph was taken in 1966 at Mercer Road prior to a game against some lads from Bamber Bridge. As the cabin was locked the bicycle in the background was used to put as many clothes as possible on as it was a very muddy area around the changing room. Eat your heart out Rooney !

BACK ROW – ERIC  
GARDNER – BRICK JONES  
– TANK MOXHAM – ERNIE  
INGHAM – ROY MADDOCK  
– BILLY DEANS – JOE  
JOHNSON (+ BIKE)  
FRONT ROW – NEIL  
DEANS – BILLY LIVESEY –  
CHALKER HEATON –  
SMACKS SHERLIKER –  
DAVE PARKER – TONY  
BILLINGTON

Footnote. Unbeknown to us –  
Moscow Dynamoies were a  
Secret Police Team who toured  
the west in 1945 and played  
exhibition matches against all  
and sundry. Also unbeknown to us was they played in – BLUE !!



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