

The Preston Magazine



Issue 3



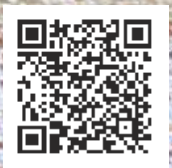
September 2012
Guild Issue



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Welcome to the Guild Issue of The Preston Magazine

Our Preston Guild Merchant, celebrated since 1328, is about to take place for the first time in the 21st century. Preston Guild 2012 is the first time it has being celebrated by Preston as its status as a city.

To find out about all the related events visit www.prestonguild2012.com or pick up a programme from the Preston Tourist Information Office situated in the Guild Hall Arcade on Lancaster Road.

We hope you enjoy our Guild related articles, special thanks go to Peter Vickers, Stephen Halliwell and Philip Walsh.

Please continue to support our advertisers who have made the publication of this magazine possible. Thanks to Priory Sports and Technology College with their help in its production.

The front cover image of our Guild Mayor and Mayoress, Councillors Carl and Linda Crompton, is by Bernie Blackburn (see below)
Enjoy the celebrations !!!

Contact Details - Heather 07733 321 911
Email theprestonmagazine@gmail.com

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Preston Now and Then

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Bernie Blackburn www.bernieblackburn.com

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26th May - 31st July

Wytham Park Pavilion
2nd August - 26th September

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Preston Guild 1822

Shoes for Henry 'Orator' Hunt



During the procession of trades in the Guild of 1802, the Cordwainers (shoemakers) had a stage drawn by two horses, with two youths, the sons of Mr James Huffman, making shoes, and a youth female binding. In front of the stage was a banner with the motto 'May the manufacture of the sons of Crispin be trampled underfoot by all the world'. Two pair of shoes that were made were presented to the Mayoress and the other to the Countess of Derby, and a third was sent to Mr. Henry Hunt, who was then confined in Ilchester Gaol, under sentence of the Court of King's Bench, for the part he took in the great Manchester meeting of the 16th August 1819. Such was the esteem by which this man was held by the people of Preston.

PRESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PROGRAMME 2012-2013

- Monday 1 October 2012 *Historic Views of Preston: a New Perspective*
Speaker: Stephen Sartin
- Monday 5 November 2012 *New Light on South Ribble: the Romans at
Walton-le-Dale, the Cuerdale Hoard and
Penwortham Castle*
Speaker: Dr David Hunt
- Monday 3 December 2012 *Will Onda – Preston's Acrobat, Filmmaker
and Cinema Impresario*
Speaker: Emma Heslewood
- Monday 7 January 2013 *The History of our River: Preston and the River
Ribble from Prehistory to the Present Day*
Speaker: Dr Alan Crosby
- Monday 4 February 2013 *From Port Sunlight to Rivington –
the Life of Lord Leverhulme*
Speaker: Malcolm Tranter
- Monday 4 March 2013 *The History of Dick, Kerr Works, Preston*
Speaker: Colin Dickinson
- Monday 8 April 2013 *Whalley – Portrait of a Village*
Speaker: Cliff Astin
- Monday 13 May 2013 Annual General Meeting followed by
'All Stations to Longridge'
Speaker: David Hindle

The meetings are held in the Central Methodist Church,
Lune Street, Preston, starting at 7.15 pm

Visitors and new members are very welcome

Members £10 annual subscription
£2 admission for visitors

PLEASE COME AND JOIN US

For further information contact our Secretary, Karen Doyle
Telephone 01772 862673 or Email kd@pdprojects.co.uk
www.prestonhistoricalsociety.org.uk

'Once Every Preston Guild' Exhibition by Age Concern Central Lancashire A Reminiscence Project of over 200 memories and 600 photographs

1902

My Grandad was in the 1902 Guild procession for Joseph Foster and that was the firm that is a firm that is on the site of the present day Goss Printing Press factory here in Preston. On a cart and a horse in the Trades procession they had a working forge and they were hot riveting the front end of a Lancashire Boiler.

1922

I had a photograph of one of my granddads in the Preston Guild of 1922. He was on a float and he was a master plasterer, and they had made this massive, I don't know what it was, out of plaster and they had put it on the back of the lorry.

As a member of Moor Park Methodist School my father, Harold Sudell, played the part Abraham Lincoln.

1952

I was Mary and I walked in the Church procession with the Moor Park Methodist. All summer I went to Lostock Hall to learn how to ride a donkey. When we came to the Guild my Jesus had got scarlet fever so I had to walk. I still have the doll I carried.

I can recall singing with the Cecilian choir in 'Merrie England' on Avenham Park, and can testify to the truth of the newspaper report that began, 'Despite the bitterly cold wind which blew.....'. My husband's duty was to be always on hand with a flask of hot coffee.

I was walking with St Marys Street Methodist Sunday School and then afterwards went on Avenham Park to do 'Leaps and Bounds' to the music of the Skye Boat song.

I belonged to Lostock Hall Methodist Church and we went over to Preston to join in with another Methodist Church. I was dressed as a little Chinese schoolgirl.

My brother was 'John Bull' and he walked in the Orange and he walked just behind the young Prince William of Orange. It was very exciting. The Orange Club walked on their own. Everybody did. The Church of England walked one day, the Catholics another, Trade Unions, different churches, different works, cotton mills, everything. All week it went on then there was a big fair. When I walked with the Orange Club I was on a banner and I had a little 'Dorothy' bag and by the time I got back I had made a bomb. I must have had about £2.

In the 1952 Guild the only one I went to watch was on the Saturday night. But next door to me was a young man with his mother and father who belonged to Preston Wheelers and him and his pals got some Penny Farthing bicycles and we lived in a crescent and they used to practice riding them round. They were in the procession on the Saturday night and they didn't fall off so they must have practised well.



History Talks & Events

PRESTON GUILD WEEK

Tuesday 4th – Thursday 6th September 2012
University of Central Lancashire, Preston PR1 2HE

Tuesday 4th September, 1 – 2pm

What Makes Preston Different? Preston History in Context

Andy Gritt – UCLan

Livesey House, Room LH002, Heatley Street

Tuesday 4th September, 5 – 6pm

Poverty and the Poor Law in Victorian Preston, 1837 – 1860

Lewis Darwen – UCLan

Livesey House, Room LH002, Heatley Street

Wednesday 5th September, 1 – 2pm

Re-discovering Ordinary Life in Twentieth-century Preston. An Oral History Contribution

Steve Caunce – UCLan

Livesey House, Room LH002, Heatley Street

Wednesday 5th September, 7.30pm

The Great Juggernaut: Temperance, Alcohol and Social Reform, Past and Present

James Nicholls – UCLan

Mitchell & Kenyon Cinema, Foster Building

Thursday 6th September, 1 – 2pm

Preston's Nineteenth-century Urinals, Water Closets and Other Conveniences

Sally Pilkington – UCLan

Livesey House, Room LH002, Heatley Street

Thursday 6th September, 7.30pm

'Band of Hope Evening' with entertainment including a Magic Lantern show and refreshments

UCLan – Mitchell & Kenyon Cinema, Foster Building

ALL WELCOME · ENTRY IS FREE



Please email:

David Howard, dhoward1@uclan.ac.uk

or telephone 01772 892250

to confirm your attendance.



If you would like to be kept informed of future events organised by the Institute of Local and Family History at UCLan, please email Susan Bailey on LFIHistory@uclan.ac.uk. See www.ilfh.co.uk for further details.

As a family with my brothers and sisters I went to see the torchlight procession. Then we went on to Avenham Park to see the fireworks. We were nearly trampled under foot. I'm a bit scared of great crowds like that but the fireworks were lovely.

1972

Our church, Ribbleton Avenue Methodist, had a wonderful procession and everything went right. We had a model church in the back of the porch which someone had made and we working on that until about half an hour before the procession and then we had to go and get ready quickly for the procession. We put the model on the lorry and we got down past The Rosebud on New Hall Lane and we got round as far as the lights on Church St when the lorry broke down and they had to push it off the road and there it stayed.

We went to Emmanuel School and Mister Fordham who was the vicar and his son carried a big cross all the way round and people dressed up to walk round after them. They had a Boys' Club, Emmanuel Boys' Club, and it was one of the teachers from the school who did it. A lot of teachers rode on horseback as centurions. All the lads who were in the Boys' Club walked behind and you had to buy them 'Jesus' sandals then tie shoe laces up their legs to make it look as though they had proper things on.

I remember the 1972 Guild. I was standing in Church Street watching the procession and listening to the radio news. It was announced that in Germany some of the Palestinian terrorists had murdered members of the Israeli Olympic team. I was most upset by the news.

I remember how the Guild Hall was planned to be opened but true to form was late. I have memories of the Public Hall and how I danced on the sprung floor. It felt as though I was on a wave. During the Guild workers were given time off. I remember being dressed as a mouse with a long tail. As it rained that year the tail kept splashing in the puddles. Also Avenham Park was so wet they had to put planks down around the band stand for the seats.

1992

Although I had just retired I was asked to train choir from Grimsargh C of E Primary School, and again the choirs were recorded, this time at All Hallows High School, Penwortham. Along with other retired teachers I was asked to act as a steward at the pageant itself and for the rehearsals. This was to save schools having to pay for supply teachers to cover for others who would have had to be released to do the job. Yes, cutbacks even in 1992 ! Participants were taken by bus to and from the park, almost every week throughout the summer term, so practices could take place. Organising each school in the Miller Park rose garden ready to take part in their particular section of the pageant on neighbouring Avenham Park was quite phenomenal. Can you imagine the cost of transport and manpower. I'm told that is why there will be no Schools Pageant on the park in 2012.

Why not go along and see the Exhibition at The Age Concern Shop on Cheapside

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Part Three of pub historian

Steve Halliwell's tour of the

City centre.

<http://pubsinpreston.blogspot.co.uk>

The Fox and Grapes, Fox Street.

My research into the old and ancient inns, taverns, and beer-houses that have existed in Preston have been partly inspired by comments such as the one that was made in a court case exactly 150 years ago, and reported in the *Preston Chronicle* dated 30th August 1862. It was said then, in respect of yet another licence application that "There are no less than nine public houses in Fox Street." I have, to date, traced just four of them – the 'Hen and Chickens', the 'Oddfellows', the 'Fox Street Tavern' which later became 'The Exchange', and this month's focus, the 'Fox and Grapes'. The years when the Public Hall, or Corn Exchange was a thriving market, would have had a positive bearing on the licensed trade at the time, with many houses serving the needs of its customers from five o'clock in the morning. Today, just two remain.

My first record of this house was in 1841, and the following year it was offered for sale, but then an eight year gap exists where my knowledge of the place is a complete blank. Interestingly, the list of former landlords that hangs on the wall of the Fox and Grapes starts where my records pick up again in 1851, when Nancy Gent took over the reins.

Compared with scores of other town centre houses, the Fox and Grapes has had a remarkably low turnover of landlords, which for me indicates a well-run, profitable business, that has been nurtured and cherished by succeeding incumbents. For Prestonians of a certain age, the only landlord that they are likely to have known will be the dapper George Spencer, complete with handlebar moustache, the quintessential English landlord. George was a real character, who enjoyed, when not behind the bar, nothing more than ride his beloved motor-cycle throughout the North of England. He was the landlord here for forty years from 1955.

Today, the Fox and Grapes is run by Sharon Fishwick and Paul Jones. Sharon is now in her tenth year as the tenant, and among the very few public houses in the town that is run by such an entrepreneurial couple, who will sink or swim through their efforts. And swim they do! The house is small but cosy and lively, and is awash with Preston memorabilia, thanks to their enthusiasm for the city and its fascinating past.

If you share that enthusiasm, you will find kindred spirits down at the Fox.

On the first Tuesday of each month there is a comedy night, with a leading circuit comedian to entertain, and to accompany that entertainment there are always three hand-pumped cask ales on the bar to discuss the merits of.

All in all, the Fox and Grapes in Fox Street, offers you an interesting pub with a long history, a very pleasant present, and with Sharon and Paul's efforts, a welcoming and prosperous future.

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1842 A Guild of Contrasts



The Corn Laws were trade laws imposed between 1815 and 1846, designed to protect cereal producers in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland against competition from less expensive sources abroad. The strikes throughout the land in 1842 were in part to persuade the governments in power to repeal the Corn Laws so as to lower the price of cereals. In Preston on the 13th August four men were shot dead and several others wounded.

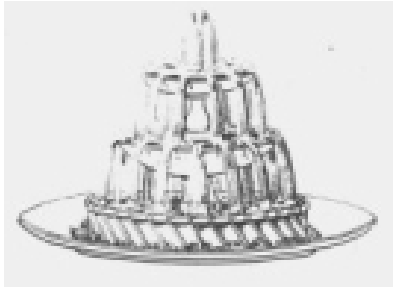
Two weeks later, on the 3rd September 1842 in the papers there were two items of news printed in the same column; firstly that the unrest amongst the working people had been suppressed due to the firm action of the masters and the introduction, of troops. Workers were to return to their place of employment directly or they would be replaced by others. Secondly that in spite of the crowded programme the Mayoress's' Breakfast on the Thursday of Guild week was to go ahead as planned. It



was further agreed that the Town Corporation would be responsible for the expenses incurred in providing the breakfast. This poetic report from the “*Preston Chronicle*” of the 10th of September 1842 is reproduced: -

“The Mayoress's' Breakfast which took place this day, was well attended by a most select and elegant company, who promenaded the grand saloon – ever and anon giving and receiving cordial salutations and affectionate greetings to and from friends whom they had heretofore met during the week – for most part only by artificial light shed by the gas over the assembled throngs of grace and beauty. The room with all its freshness and richness was seen to the most excellent effect – set out as the tables were with every thing that could please the eye and gratify the palate. It was a complete magic scene as looked upon from either end of the room. On the tables, fruits and flowers were strewn, intermingled with the choicest confectionery, displayed with all the skill of the most accomplished culinary *artiste* in the country. Every imaginable device had been resorted to. To enhance the pleasure of the participants, and edibles were clothed in the forms of dolphins, lions, and other specimens of the animal creation. Boar's heads, formed of collared brawn, looked like life itself. Birds of beautiful plumage appeared to spread their pinions in umbrageous shadows over the tables, whilst lobsters

dressed in salads and other ways, became representatives of their tribes, and other fish of theirs amongst the myriads of the finny inhabitants of the deep. Jellies,



blancmanges, cakes, tarts and sweetmeats were also scattered with a profuse but discriminating hand on every side. Temples sacred to the fruits of the earth, and hallowed as it were by science, and filled by the genius of their constructors were up reared as if containing shrines dedicated to the goddess of plenty. Everything, although meant to administer to the physical wants of our race, was impregnated with the spiritual. The lamb, the emblem of peace and

type of plenty, lay quietly reposing in all the delicacy of the most perfect modelling. Trifle dishes were supported by beautiful figures, in the attitudes of the graces; angels with closed wings seemed to be looking down upon the board, whilst one of the figures of history, Joan of Arc, supported dishes filled with the most delicious peaches and grapes. But as if these were not alone sufficient to raise the mind into the regions of the poetical and the fanciful, melody



floated through the room lending the aid of its charms and seeming to be little short of "*The music of the sphere*". Such should the account rendered of this enchanting entertainment by the rhapsodist. In sober truth, a scene more bewitching we never looked upon, it was one that will long dwell in the memory of those who took part in the feast. The wines were of the finest quality, the iced champagne was particularly refreshing, the viands were diverse and tempting, the confectionery was very good, and the fruits of exquisite ripeness.

The decorations of the table not less than the breakfast, reflected great credit on the caterer, Mr Lynn, of Liverpool."..."The Lady Mayoress and the Mayor approached the table and commenced breakfast about a quarter to two, and the example was quickly followed by the guests. The Rifle Band played during the afternoon in the saloon, relieved by another band which played in the orchestra" Following the toast to The Queen, as the Duchess of Lancashire Mr Wilson Patten, one of the Members for the County, proposed a toast to the Lancashire Witches. After the breakfast there was more promenading and a few quadrilles were walked before the company retired to prepare for the evening's amusement at the Theatre."

The Temperance Procession 1882

The Temperance Procession of 1882 was held on Friday. This was the Jubilee Year of Teetotalism in Preston. There had been hopes that the venerable gentleman, Joseph Livesey would take part in the procession, but due to the weather, and his weakly state, he decided not to venture out. His friend Mr King and Councillor Joseph Toulmin drove along in the procession in a trap.



The route taken was Fishergate, Walton's-parade, West-cliff, Fishergate-hill, Fishergate, Lune-street, Friargate, Moor-lane, Unicorn Inn, North-road, Meadow-street, Stephenson-terrace, Deepdale-road, Ribbleton-lane, St Mary's-street, New Hall-lane, London-road, Stanley-street, Church-street, Lancaster-road and disperse. The first portion of the procession was preceded by thirteen men on horseback, and these were followed by the Orchard Sunday School Band of Hope, in front was a handsome banner and it was accompanied by the Preston Temperance Band. The teachers walked first, followed by the girls, the boys carried a large blue silk banner dressed in white jacket and red hats. Following this the Preston Orphan Sabbath School with a beautiful banner. Next came the Preston Branch of the British Women's Temperance League. The Primitive Methodist Band of Hope Sunday School came next, at the head a little child on horseback, the horse beautifully ornamented, then followed a large banner with a finely painted home scene on the front, and on the back a scene in the street, the two meant to contrast the life of a temperate man with that of a drunkard. The Shepherd-street Band of Hope was preceded by a large banner and a band. In front of the Tennyson-road Band of Hope there were four young men on horseback with a band of music behind them. The Mill Hill Ragged School Band of Hope had in front a large banner on which was the painting of the school, in this procession there was a very pretty turn out of bannerettes. The Grimshaw-street Band of Hope was led by the 5th Lancashire Artillery band and a large banner. In front of the St Mary's-street Band of Hope there was a large banner with a fine portrait of Rev.

Charles Garrett, their was a pretty model carried by two lads of an old fashioned dip well with a bucket suspended above. In the same section there were a pair of figures on a cart representing a man and a woman under the influence of drink, the figures were ingeniously contrived so as to go with all the actions that are painfully common in a drunken man and woman. St Mary's Band of Hope Procession was one of the longest of all. The Wesleyan Sunday School Band of Hope was preceded by a fine banner. Moor Park Wesleyan Band of Hope and the Ashton-street Band of Hope, United Methodist Free Church Band of Hope, Moor Lane followed. Parker-street Band of Hope had in front a fine banner, the arms of the Temperance Order on the front and the words 'Be thou faithful until death'. Croft-street Wesleyan Sunday School followed with a grand display. The Independent Chapel, Cannon-street, Band of Hope had a fine banner in front with a picture of the chapel. Saint-street Primitive Methodist Sunday School Band of Hope was preceded by a large blue banner and seven men on horseback. Fylde-road Primitive Methodist Band of Hope was last in the procession and made a good show.

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Preston Digital Archive

Annual Appeal

Our initial goal of collecting 8000 images before the commencement of Preston Guild 2012 has been met, but we need your help to expand the collection even more. So, cap in hand, like Oliver Twist, we humbly ask for more.

We know you must have musty old albums, biscuits tins and the odd sock drawer full of interesting items of Preston and the surrounding areas past. So how can you submit them to us

Read on !

1. If you have the ability to scan them to your computer, you can send them to our email address as attachments (300 dpi. Photo quality please) to prestondigitalarchive@hotmail.com
2. For the technically among us you can mail material to our local address. We will make copies and return them to you (at our cost) Our mailing address is as follows
Preston Digital Archive, PO Box 1316, Preston PR1 0RT.
Please remember to include a return address.
3. For heavier/bulky items such as postcard collection etc. one of our local volunteers may be able to pick up and collect or scan on site. Please let us know your preference. (Call us on 07733 321911)

So what are we looking for, obviously photographs form the core of our collection, images of commercial or industrial activity, lost streets and buildings, social activity and gatherings etc. We love to receive post cards, especially RP-PPC (Real Photo Picture Post Cards) Ephemera covers a broad spectrum of items and would include such items as theatre programmes, invitations, magazine articles, old advertisements and newspaper cuttings, also old church magazines.

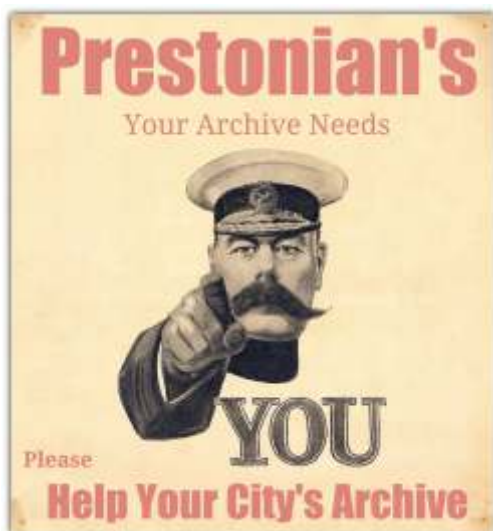
At present the upper date range is 1990. We also try and confine the general geographical area to Preston, Penwortham, Fulwood, Grimsargh, Walton le Dale, Bamber Bridge and Lostock Hall.

Finally we welcome any suggestions you might have for improving our archive. You can see our archive on Flickr, to date we have received over 3,000,000 views, with an average daily count of +8000.

Thankyou for your interest and hopefully support.

Also a big thankyou to all Preston Digital Archive viewers.

Regards from Barney
Preston Digital Archive

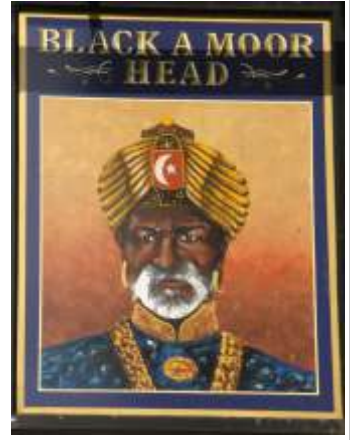


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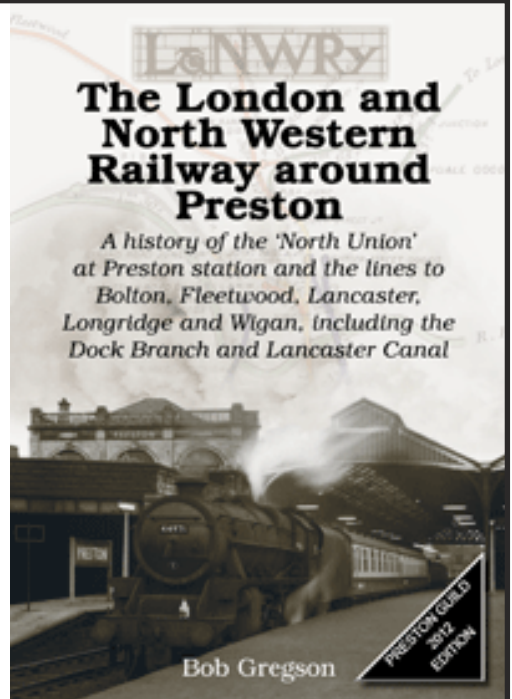
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An Account of The Preston Guild of 1802

The Guild commenced on Monday the 30th of August, under the most propitious auspices imaginable, and with as favourable weather as could be desired. The concourse of people of all ranks, from the highest nobleman to the humblest peasant, was such as was never before collected there on any similar occasion. The morning was ushered in with the ringing of bells and the sounding of trumpets. At the different inns where the companies assembled, colours were seen flying from the windows, and bands of music playing. The language of Milton might be adopted here with propriety:- 'And young and old came forth to play'- for it was like calling all forth to enjoy the jubilee. And indeed, it may be said with truth, that parties joined in exerting themselves to support the Guild with propriety. The gentleman's procession commenced on Monday morning, immediately after breakfast; it was preceded by the Marshal, armed cap-a-pie, on horseback, trumpeters on horseback &c., then came twenty four young, blooming, handsome women, belonging to the different cotton mills, dressed in a uniform of peculiar beauty and simplicity. Their dress consisted wholly of the manufacture of the town. The ground petticoats were of fine white calico; the head-dress was a kind of blue feathered wreath, formed very ingeniously of cotton, so as to look like a garland: each girl carried in her hand the branch of an artificial cotton tree, as the symbol of her profession. These branches appeared as in full bloom, and had a strong resemblance to nature. The ingenuity with which the leaves were formed, and the execution of them, in general, reflects the highest credit on the taste of Mrs Horrocks, and the female part of her family who made them. This part of the spectacle had a truly original and pleasing effect. The gentlemen walked in pairs, preceded by Lord Derby and the Hon. T. Erskine. They amounted to about four hundred, consisting of all principal noblemen, gentlemen, merchants and manufacturers, of this and the neighbouring counties. At the head of the manufacturers were J. Horrocks, Esq., MP, and J. Watson, Esq., arm in arm, (the two principle and indeed rival manufacturers of the county) carrying white wands in their hands; upwards of one hundred workmen and mechanics followed, two by two. They paraded through all the principle streets of the town, attended by bands of music, and flags, with various emblematical devices, &c., and then proceeded to the parish church. In the course of the procession came Nicholas Grimshaw, Esq., the Mayor, with his maces, the Recorder, Balliffs, Aldermen, common-council men, halbert men, any other corporation officers, town crier, beadle, &c., as likewise all the different companies or incorporated bodies, headed by their wardens, with staves of office, in their state dresses, and with the usual insignia; also one of the lodges of the free-masons, in their appropriate decorations.- The excellent band of the 17th Regiment of Light Dragoons, preceded the corporate body, all in full dress, and their officers in new clothes of office. The company of butchers in uniform and characteristic dresses, and those of tanners, skinnners and glovers, habited in like manner, closed the whole. The other companies were the wool-combers, spinners and weavers' company, the cordwainers' company, the carpenters' company, the vintners' company, the tailors' company, the smiths' company (joined by the plumbers, painters, glaziers and watchmakers) and the mercers and drapers' company. The tailors' company was attended by a man and a woman decorated in fig-leaves, an emblem of the very high antiquity of their business. The Eve, although selected from among the fair Lancashire witches (and never say, the Lancashire papers, did they look more bewitching than on this occasion) did not, it seems, resemble the Eve of Milton, of whom it is said, 'Grace was in all her steps, heaven in her eye, In every gesture dignity and love !' The butchers company were about forty in number; they had all new white aprons and steels hung to them, and twelve of their sons walked in the procession dressed in a similar manner – all of them had white and red ribbands in their hats. The farriers' company was led by a man accoutred in steel armour, elegantly ornamented, his armour cap was decorated with a fine plume of feathers; his horse had a scarlet saddle-cloth, ornamented with gold lace, which gave him a stately and grand appearance. This personage represented Vulcan; he was followed by eight boys, with their hair powdered, without coats or waistcoats, their shirts ornamented with

blue ribbons, they carried white staves in their hands, with gilt heads. The farriers followed with new blue jackets and trowsers, the jackets had red collars, they wore red caps, with tassels at the top, and fur fronts; they had on new leather aprons, with pincers and hammers hanging in the fronts. The tanners' company wore green ribbands in their hats, and oak leaves; most of them were dressed in blue coats. The cordwainers' company, to the number of about forty, wore red morocco aprons, bound with new light blue ribbands. They had sashes over their shoulders, with an appropriate inscription. They were followed by a number of apprentices, carrying on long poles all the different fashions of ladies' and gentlemen's shoes, & c.. Of the free-masons lodge, Peace and Unity, No. 565, about sixty only were in the procession. After divine service, the procession paraded the streets in the same order they had gone into church, and then broke up at the Guildhall, where they had first assembled at nine o'clock in the morning. Two very striking emblematical devices occurred in the procession, one was a machine, on a sort of stage, with a spinning-jenny on it, worked by a boy characteristically habited, and drawn by fourteen men, uniformly and neatly dressed in calico shirts. The other was a similar machine, with a loom drawn on a long sledge, at which was a girl working with bobbins; and this was also drawn by fourteen men, dressed in a uniform like the others. After the procession, Mr Grimshaw, the Mayor, entertained the gentlemen with a sumptuous dinner, at his house, in Winckley-place. The Mayoress, likewise, entertained the ladies on the following day. On Tuesday was the ladies procession. A numerous body of gentlemen, holding white wands in their hands, walked before and filed off, making a line on each side of the street though which the ladies were to pass. The girls from the cotton manufactory, led the van, as before; afterwards came the ladies, two and two.

They were all superbly dressed and adorned with a profusion of the richest jewels. Each of them wore an elegant, fashionable plume of feathers, branching from the coiffure. This part of the spectacle (especially the first coup d'ail, when the ladies had all got out of the Town Hall and into the street) comprehending such a brilliant display of beauty, elegance and fashion, deservedly attracted universal attention and admiration, and produced one of the grandest, most uncommon, and charming sights ever beheld. After attending the Mayoress to the church and hearing divine service, the ladies paraded in the same order quite round the Market-place. In the course of the procession, a complete steam-engine in miniature, at full work, and performing all the various operations of the cotton manufactory, was exhibited for the instruction and amusement of the ladies. It was attended by fourteen men in uniform dresses, like those mentioned above. This very curious and singular piece of mechanism attracted great attention. The spectacle of this day was by far the most brilliant and gratifying of the whole festival. So splendid an exhibition of female attractions has seldom been witnessed in this part of the country, and indeed every possible variety of taste, elegance, and art, were displayed by both sexes, during the whole festival, in costume, ornaments and decorations. Some of the dresses worn by the ladies, on this occasion, were said to be worth over £10,000. On Monday there was a splendid assembly at the Town Hall, (the tickets at half a guinea each) which was crowded to an uncommon degree, and on Wednesday night the Mayoress gave a ball at the same place, for which more than 400 tickets were issued. The crowd was so great that the dancing was scarcely practicable. The New Theatre at Preston, a very elegant and convenient house, was attended by crowded audiences every night, at double prices; a great part of the pit had been laid into boxes; notwithstanding which hardly a place was to be had on most of the nights. The prodigious concourse of visitors, especially those of the higher ranks was such as to excite the astonishment of all the townsmen. More than two hundred gentlemen's carriages were daily parading the streets of Preston. The races began on Wednesday, and the concourse of people on Fulwood Moor was greater than ever before remembered.

When the Royal Show came to Penwortham

By Philip Walsh

Some say, it always rains at the Royal Lancashire Show; well it certainly did for the Preston Guild in 1862! The Royal Lancashire Agricultural Society and its parent societies have had a long and proud, if not chequered history dating back to 1767. However, rain has been the enemy of many past shows. At Chorley in 1999, the heavens opened on the final day as the Grand Parade was about to start – the River Chor rose 4 feet in 40 minutes and Astley Park was flooded leaving many visitors marooned on higher land around the park. In 2003 at Salesbury, the first day of which was attended by the Duke and Duchess of Wessex, rain brought the show to a halt at the end of the second day. In 2007, weeks of heavy rain waterlogged the Salesbury farmland and forced cancellation, while the new Duchy of Lancaster showground at Myerscough in 2008 was turned into a mudbath and was closed to the public, with only animal classes taking place on the first day. Such were the huge losses, the three day show ceased to operate on such a large scale but the present show organisers have bravely fought their battles against the weather and now mount an annual one day RLAS Countryside Experience at Witton Park in Blackburn.

One of its parent organisations, the Royal North Lancashire Agricultural Society was the amalgamation of the Preston, Lancaster and Fylde (Lytham) associations and was established in Preston on 14th November 1846. Like its sister society, the Manchester and Liverpool Agricultural Society (founded in the same year), the show toured from town to town staging the annual show in the local public park. The first show was held in Penny Street Lancaster in 1847. The Patron was Her Majesty, Queen Victoria, while the Presidency was usually occupied annually by one of the noble landowners. In 1862, the President was the Earl of Derby and for the first time in its history, Preston Guild was proud to host a Royal Show - on Penwortham Holme.

The pre-show day was a trial of implements including steam ploughs, reaping and mowing machines at Priory Farm, Penwortham on Tuesday 2nd September 1862. But this was a minor event compared with the laying of the foundation stone for the new Town Hall in Preston, by the Mayor, Robert Townley Parker when hundreds of people witnessed the event on the Flag Market.

The showground alongside the River Ribble took between 30 and 40 men working full time for a fortnight to set up the large number of booths, pens and stalls for livestock. The main entrance was by a bridge of punts thrown across the river

opposite Ribble Place. The second entrance was from the Penwortham Road, (now Leyland Road) at the South Western side of the show field. The two day show opened on Wednesday 3rd September and the weather according to the Preston Guardian was described as inauspicious. The rain fell heavily in the morning, it cleared a little at noon, but the change was only temporary for it rained again hard in the afternoon and the show field became extremely wet and dirty. The weather did not deter the visitors, as like the rain, they poured in from all quarters to see livestock and implements of every description.



A view of the show at Penwortham Holme from what is now Broadgate opposite River Parade.
(Illustrated London News 13 Sept 1862)

The horned cattle were on the north west side, the horses below them in three long rows of stalls and again on the north side, the sheep were located in pens on the east side while the implements on the southern side. There were also pigs, poultry, butter and vegetables. In the centre was a four dial clock elevated on a stand.

Animals attracted the most attention particularly Lieutenant Townley's prize bull "Royal Butterfly" which obtained first prize and the society's silver medal. There is still a pub in Burnley named after this prize winner.

As the illustration shows above, the catering was undertaken by William Snailham. Born in Grimsargh in 1821, he was the Innkeeper (from 1860 to 1873) at the Ribbleside Inn across the road.

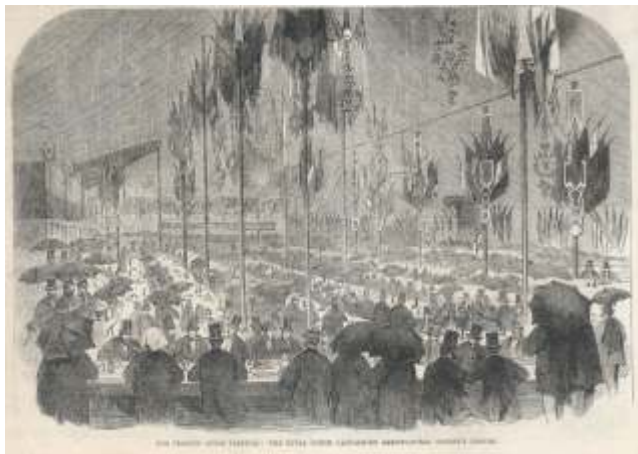
Amongst the hundreds of implements there were thrashing machines, chaff and turnip cutters, carts, hay makers grinding mills and liquid manure pumps. There was a small portable fire engine intended for use on farms capable of sending a column

of water up to 30 yards high! On the domestic side, there were washing and wringing machines, kitchen ranges and fire grates and for the garden, summerhouses and garden seats.

Just before four o'clock in the afternoon, guests moved towards the dinner tent situated in Chapel Walks, Preston. The streets were crowded with people waiting for the Butchers procession who escorted Lord Derby from the Mayor's town residence in Starkie Street to the dinner tent.

The marquee was decked out in bunting, armorial bearings and union flags. There were paintings of the Queen, the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Wellington. There was a figure of Britannia and the letters "VR" illuminated with gas light. At the centre of the marquee there was a large gas pipe connected at intervals to pendants. These terminated with circles of gas jets. At the tables were approximately 1600 male guests who included many knights, lords, earls and M.P's.

Soon after Lord Derby took his place and after the Vicar of Preston, Rev. Canon Parr had said grace, the rain fell once again. It was thought the downpour would ease off, but a "tremendous and frightful" shower of rain came through the canvas roof and completely deluged the whole company. Plates, dishes and glasses were half filled with water, overcoats were adorned and umbrellas went up. The gentlemen were very upset that their gastronomic treat was going to be wasted. The ladies however, who were not dining but were in the gallery, were stone dry and found the whole episode most amusing!



The Royal North Lancashire Agricultural Society Guild Dinner in 1862
(Illustrated London News 13 Sept 1862)

There were four successive Preston Guild Shows, in 1882 (Royal Manchester, Liverpool and North Lancashire Agricultural Society) and in 1902, 1922 and 1952 (Royal Lancashire Agricultural Society).

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