

Issue 96
March 2025

The Ormskirk and District Family Historian

*The Magazine of the
Ormskirk and District Family History Society*

45TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR . 45TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR

The ODFHS Useful Information Page

Ormskirk and District Family History Society was inaugurated in 1980.

Registered Charity (No. 1004895). Member of the Family History Federation.

ADDRESS FOR ALL CORRESPONDENCE

Ormskirk & District Family History Society

‰ 15 Greethey Hill, Ormskirk, Lancashire, L39 2DP

website: www.odfhs.website boat families: www.boatfamilies.website

Facebook page: www.facebook.com/OrmskirkDistrictFamilyHistorySociety/

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Could You Contribute To Our Magazine?

Articles for the Ormskirk and District Family Historian are always welcome. If you'd like to send something for publication, please contact the Editor using the e-mail or postal address above. We will do our best to look after all items (and will return them on request) but we suggest that you retain any original documents.

The Ormskirk and District Family Historian

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"Not to know what happened before we were born is to remain perpetually a child. For what is the worth of a human life unless it is woven into the life of our ancestors by the recording of history." - Cicero (106-143BC)

sent in by Jean Haikalis (1946-2017)

View From The Chair

To describe 2024 as “busy” behind the scenes at ODFHS is something of an understatement. After a whirlwind year of revising Bill Huyton’s boat families talk, outside events, live meetings, Zoom chats, library help desks, and preparing and publishing the booklets created for our now completed SpaceHive project (please see pg. 14 for a full report on the launch of the second - and final - instalment, *Family History and the Landmarks of West Lancashire*), your hard-working Executive Committee were ready for a little rest . . .

That was when I remembered something - the magazine you’re reading now was due to be published in time for the Society’s 45th anniversary, on 27 February 2025. It’s a huge achievement for a family history society to reach such a milestone; last year, Essex Society for Family History celebrated their 50th anniversary, and the Family History Society of Chester reached their fifty-fifth, so clearly we’re not alone. At ODFHS, one thing was for certain - we needed to mark the occasion somehow!

We all know that family history research doesn’t lead to instant results (I’ve been looking for my 3xgreat-grandfather’s baptism record for years, and several other ancestors seem to have simply appeared from nowhere!), so rather than scramble to make Issue 96 the “special” magazine, we’re planning something more relaxed . . . and it’s been specially designed to let you get involved.

Before Christmas, Julie Broadbent remarked that she’d been having a wonderful time browsing back copies of our Magazine, discovering a new appreciation for the wealth of knowledge shared in members’ articles over the years. A vague idea about some kind of article-writing competition followed, which Julie’s husband Keith (our Membership Secretary) turned into a formal plan, complete with dates, guidelines and even a prize . . . essentials for any self-respecting competition.

Our Sharing People’s History of West Lancashire project proved that people can

have a huge impact on the world they inhabit, and fifteen years of editing this magazine has certainly taught me that most family historians can share at least one memorable story about their research. If the phrases “most interesting West Lancashire ancestor” or “most interesting family history discovery” inspire you, why not turn to page 6 to learn more about our special 45th Anniversary Competition? As I write this introduction, we’ve already received our first entry; we look forward to many more!

It’s a little too early in the year to make firm plans about any outside events for 2025, but it’s fair to say that things look promising for ODFHS. You may know from our Newsletter that three members attended a Study Day to mark the 250th anniversary of first cut of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal in November; as a result, the Society has joined the Lancashire Local History Federation; I hope this new connection will benefit everyone involved.

Members with an interest in “pre-1841” resources or the history of education or may have noticed that our February 2025 Newsletter reported on a potential project to digitise the original register from Ormskirk School; dating back to the seventeenth century, it’s an excellent example of the wide variety of pre-census era resources found in archives! At present, ODFHS is assisting the Ormskirk School Foundation Trust in discussions about the practicalities of digitisation, and we hope to share further updates as things progress.

In Issue 96, you’ll find everything from eighteenth century parish records and a taster from our Digital Library to a possible answer to a puzzle from our Autumn magazine and even an image of a mediaeval manuscript. I hope you’ll find it a fitting start to our “sapphire anniversary” year . . . and the perfect excuse to renew your membership for 2025/26!

Kate Hurst
February 2025

ODFHS 45th Anniversary Competition

27 February 2025 marks a significant milestone in the history of Ormskirk and District Family History Society - it's forty-five years since our inaugural meeting!

With a back catalogue of almost one hundred magazines, we know that you, our Members, have made all sorts of interesting discoveries about your ancestors, and to celebrate our "sapphire" anniversary in style, ODFHS would like to invite you (and any others with an interest in West Lancashire's past) to take part in our forty-fifth anniversary competition.

What Does It Involve?

1. Members of Ormskirk and District Family History Society, and any other interested people are invited to enter a short piece of writing (between 300 and 750 words, plus any illustrations) on your choice of two family history research themes - either "My most interesting West Lancashire ancestor" or "My most interesting West Lancashire family history discovery".
2. The prize is a year's membership of ODFHS.

Timetable

1. Start date - late March 2025.
2. The competition to be publicised through our January and February newsletters, March 2025 magazine, Facebook, and any other practical outlets.
3. Submission deadline 31 May 2025; entries are welcome before this date.
4. Result announced 31 July 2025.
5. Publicity and presentation to winner early August 2025.
6. Winning article to appear in November 2025 ODFHS Magazine (with others, at discretion of the Magazine Editor).
7. Articles submitted for the competition may be printed in the 2026 Magazines (again, at the Editor's discretion).

Process

1. Committee members and members of their household are ineligible to enter.
2. Judging panel to be selected from and decided by Committee, i.e. size of panel, individual interest in becoming a member of the panel, availability of personnel in June and July specifically.
3. Electronic submission of entries via e-mail to Membership Secretary are preferable.
4. If entrants are not online, paper entries can be submitted to the Membership Secretary in person or by post to **Competition, Ormskirk and District Family History Society % 15 Greetby Hill, Ormskirk, Lancashire, L39 2DP.**
5. The Membership Secretary will anonymise entries, allocate reference numbers and forward to the judging panel.
6. Each member of the judging panel will read every entry, and send their preferred first, second and third choices to the Membership Secretary by 24 July 2025.
7. The Membership Secretary will collate the results and confirm the six leading entries to the judging panel by 28 July 2025.
8. Judging panel to meet on 29/30 July 2025 to agree the winner and report their decision to the Membership Secretary.
9. The Judging panel will also make suggestions on other articles that could be suitable for magazine publication.
10. All involved to commit to absolute confidentiality.

Kate Hurst (Honorary Chair)

Keith Broadbent (Vice Chair)

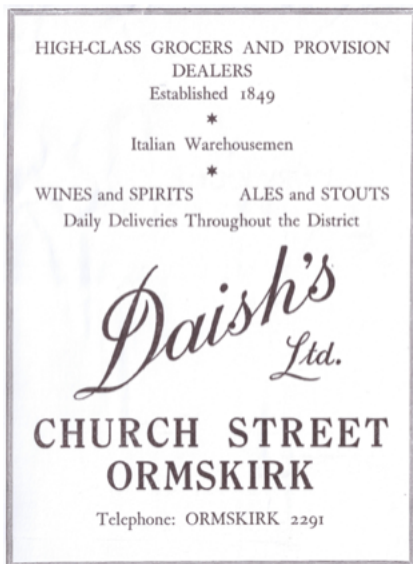
January 2025

In Conversation with Nigel Daish of Daish's Ltd, Church Street, Ormskirk

Memories of Church Street, Ormskirk between the late 1940s and the 1960s

I was born in December 1942, Ormskirk was a lovely town when I was growing up, you should have seen it 60 years ago, Mum used to say you have everything you could want in town. I worked at Daish's until it closed in 1973.

Going up further you had Mr. Haydock's betting shop next to Daish's Ltd. Then eventually you came to a pub which is still there today. Ashcroft's was on Church Street, I had my hair cut there – men went downstairs and ladies went upstairs – it was a family firm.



*Daish's Ltd. was on Church Street,
opposite Scott's butchers.
It dated back to 1845.*



Mansergh's on Church Street sold old fashioned iron goods, pans and that sort of thing. I used to go in that shop.

*Ashcroft's Hairstylists, at 2 Church Street,
were in business from 1948.*

In the 1940s Boots was in Church Street – you had to go down some steps to get into it. *[Boots moved from Church Street to Moor Street in the early 1960s.]* After Boots was the Advertiser printing firm on the corner of Church Street into Aughton Street. The Ormskirk Advertiser was printed there each week, and other printing as well. *[The Ormskirk Advertiser offices were at 7 Church Street, until they moved to Burscough Street in the 1990s.]*

Mr. Howard had an electrical shop; he used to sell a lot of old electrical equipment, light fittings, that sort of thing, although he didn't go out to do electrical work in people's homes. There was a clothes shop, then Miss Dorset's café; she did afternoon tea and things. She didn't do big meals, we used to go in for a cup of tea and cakes and all those sort of things. I used to go as a little boy and have tea there. *[Dorset's Café, at 8-10 Church Street, closed in 1962.]*

There was the Regal Cinema. It had an upstairs, you could look down on the screen. *[The Regal Cinema opened in 1936, and closed 1963.]*

Mr. Daish was speaking to Kathryn MacDonald at his Westhead home in November 2023. We thank him for sharing his memories of Ormskirk town centre in times past, and plan to publish more from this conversation in future magazines.

DORSET'S

Delicious Dainties.

TELEPHONE 329.

8 and 10
Church Street,
ORMSKIRK.

BECAUSE WE HAVE MADE IT OUR
BUSINESS TO MAKE REALLY DELICIOUS
PASTRIES, AND AT A PRICE SO TEMPT-
ING, THERE IS NO NEED TO WORRY
ABOUT MAKING PASTRIES YOURSELF.
ENJOY THE ADDED COMFORT AFFORDED
BY OUR SERVICE, AND SO MAKE YOUR
DAY LIGHTER AND MORE ENJOYABLE.

Membership Renewals for 2025/26

Membership renewals for 2025/26 are due by 31 March 2025; fees are unchanged from 2024/25, i.e.

- UK and Worldwide membership with digital magazine £11.00
- UK membership with postal magazine £15.00
- Worldwide membership with postal magazine £20.00

Whenever you renew, your renewed membership will last until 31 March 2026. Early renewal helps our cash flow and spreads the workload on the hard-working officers. The simplest way to renew is via the online renewal form on the membership page of the ODFHS website:

www.odfhs.website/index.php/membership/22-public/438-online-membership-form

Online payments via PayPal and Parish Chest are available. Payment by bank transfer and cheque are also available. Renewal may also be made in person at a monthly meeting where cash payment is also available.

Members' Interests Directory

The Members' Interests Directory has been updated, and the latest version is now available in the Members' area of the ODFHS website. The following members' interests have been added to the Directory since the last update, with authority to include the member's name and interests in the magazine:

- *Carolyn Gander* - MILLER
- *John Westhead* - ASHTON, PRESCOTT, WALMSLEY and WESTHEAD
- *Patricia Boylett* - BOYLETT, FROST, HEYMAN, MURPHY and WALKER
- *Hilary Evans* - O'DWYER
- *Margaret Hegan* - CARRINGTON, CHEETHAM, FORSHAW, GILL, GREGSON and WAREING

In accordance with ODFHS policy, the published Directory contains only the membership number(s) of members interested in a particular surname, rather than full contact details.

Anyone wishing to contact other members about a particular surname interest should contact Keith Broadbent at membership@odfhs.email via e-mail or our postal address on page 2. Only details specifically authorised by members for release to other members will be passed on.

Obituary – Judy Hyder

We are sorry to report the death of Society member Judy Hyder in late January 2025. Judy was a great supporter of ODFHS in the early days of our existence, and made valuable contributions to our memorial inscription transcription projects.

During the last few years, she had actively reconnected with the Society, attending several meetings, and was also an enthusiastic advocate for our archive. She kindly donated a great deal of important material relating to the Aughton area to our collection, and our Librarian had many fascinating conversations with her, on subjects ranging from local clockmakers to magic lantern slides. We extend our sympathies to Judy's family and friends.

Landmarks of West Lancashire Launch Event

13 January 2025



*Kathryn MacDonald introducing the
Landmarks of West Lancashire launch event*

Eighteen months after starting our crowdfunding campaign, the team behind our Sharing People's History of West Lancashire project hosted more than sixty visitors (including several ODFHS members) to the official launch of *Landmarks of West Lancashire*, held on 13 January 2025, at Ormskirk Library. The new title is the second of two local history booklets created using donations from our supporters, and

matched funding from the Lancashire Culture and Sport Fund.

Elizabeth Russ (Library Manager) introduced the event, attended by Tim Ashton (Chairman of Lancashire County Council) and Councillor Julian Finch (Mayor of West Lancashire). Mr. Ashton praised the project as “a wonderful initiative”, and complimented the “marvellous job” done by both ODFHS and the Library Service.



ODFHS Librarian Kathryn MacDonald offered a brief history of the project, from its origins in summer 2023, explaining our aim to share the heritage of our local area with the wider community. As a publications group was formed (including Kathryn, Norma Gregson, Julie

Broadbent, Pam Richardson, and Kate Hurst, assisted by Jean Gidman) to research and write content for the proposed booklets, the initial aim for a six-part series evolved into a more realistic two-booklet plan!

Complementing the meticulous research, *Landmarks of West Lancashire* (like its sister volume *Lost Buildings of West Lancashire*) features a beautifully designed map by local artist Angie Thompson; to make it as accessible as possible, a free digital download was added to our website in time for the January launch. By then, the digital version of *Lost Buildings of West Lancashire* had been downloaded

879 times since 10 June 2024 - it's our best-selling title in the Society's history! Printed copies of each booklet have been supplied to local schools, and 380 copies have been given away via libraries in West Lancashire.



Pam Richardson gave a presentation on Ormskirk's Clock Tower (above); Norma Gregson discussed St. Michael's Church, Aughton and its associated buildings (below)



Two presentations offered a flavour of the contents of the books. Pam Richardson guided listeners through the history of Ormskirk Clock Tower, referencing by-laws about fish stones and building lines that governed daily life in the town. She pointed out the 1772 date on the drainpipe of the old Town Hall (now Kas Social) and the

Earl of Derby's crest. The Clock Tower owes its existence to a simple need to use up available money, when the Court Leet was disbanded in 1876. Describing the landmark as "iconic", Pam recalled that (in her youth) it was a popular meeting place for friends and courting couples, and continues to serve that purpose today.

Drawing on her own memories, Norma Gregson explored the architecture of St. Michael's Church, Aughton; although bricked up, the original porch (said to have Norman origins) remains visible. The building was closed for eighteen months of renovation after 1913 (when Reverend MARKHAM built a temporary iron church at his own expense). She also discussed Marjorie HOLMES' *"Memories of Aughton"*, made available by ODFHS member Kathryn Baird. Thomas PLUMBE and his son William served as vicars in the eighteenth century; after 1913, the new Lady Chapel was named the Plumbe Chapel. Summing up the twentieth century history, Norma referenced Reverend CHAVASSE and his son Noel (a recipient of the Victoria Cross and the Military Cross, who was killed at Ypres).

To finish, Keith Broadbent remarked that family history and local history will always be linked, and Kate Hurst presented County Councillor Ashton and Councillor Finch with copies of both the Landmarks and Lost Buildings booklets. To download digital versions of either publication (free of charge) please visit: <https://www.odfhs.website/index.php/downloads>



(left to right) Pam Richardson, Councillor Julian Finch (Mayor, West Lancashire Borough Council), Kathryn MacDonald, County Councillor Tim Ashton (Lancashire County Council), and Norma Gregson

Tried At The Lancaster Assizes

Manchester Mercury, 24 March 1818

On 21 March 1818, the following West Lancashire were tried at the Lancaster Assizes:

Rd. WALKER, 36, for stealing a gelding at Ormskirk, the property of J. OWEN. James WELSBY, 20, J. ECCLESTON, 23, W. HOWARD, 27, Robert GILL, 22, T. CULSHAW, 24, W. CULSHAW, 18, and James ORFORD, 22, for robbing Abraham CATTERALL of a gun, on the highway, at Bickerstaffe.

George HESKETH, 21, for burglary in the house of Mary RYLANCE, at Burscough, and stealing 15s. also for robbing J. STANNANOUGHT of a watch, on the highway, at Much Hoole.

The Burscough Street Cotton Factory

Manchester Mercury, 22 May 1810

Valuable COTTON FACTORY and PREMISES, in ORMSKIRK To be Sold by Private Contract, (SUBJECT to a LEASE to Messrs. DIXON, GREENHALGH and WELCHMAN, for 21 years, of which, on the 1st of May next, 14 will remain unexpired at the clear yearly rent of £318 16s per annum). THE Inheritance in Fee Simple of and in all that substantial and well built COTTON FACTORY, situate in Burscough Street, in Ormskirk, in the county of Lancaster, containing 283 feet in length, by 25 feet in breadth, or thereabouts (outside measure) and very well calculated for Throstle Spinning, being four stories high, and having in each story, one room 270 feet in length by 22 feet in breadth or thereabouts; at the easterly end of the factory is a Counting House, with rooms over.

And also, of and in a large and commodious Messuage or Dwelling House, also situate in Burscough street aforesaid, adjoining or very near to the said factory, being in front 42 feet, and running in depth backwards 42 feet, and containing several spacious and excellent rooms, with good cellars and other suitable conveniences. Mr. Thomas SOURBUTTS of Ormskirk, carpenter, will shew the premises; and for other particulars, and to treat for the purchase, apply to Mr. Peter ARROWSMITH, of Astley, near Leigh; Mr. John PENNINGTON, of Hindley, near Wigan, or at the Office of Messrs. BARON and DITCHFIELD, Solicitors in Wigan.

What's Coming Up?

Spring/Summer 2025

Face-to-Face Meetings

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 26 March 2025 | The Enumerator's Walk: 1911, Long Lane, Aughton
by Norma Gregson |
| 23 April 2025 | Celebrating VE Day: Remembering World War Two
featuring contributions from ODFHS members |
| 28 May 2025 | ODFHS AGM followed by a short presentation |
| 25 June 2025 | Ormskirk Library: Facilities for Family and Local History Research by Elizabeth Russ |
| 23 July 2025 | A Song Seeker Found (featuring the work of Emma Vickers) by Peter Snape) |

Our in-person talks are held at the Guide HQ, Moorgate, Ormskirk, and begin at 7.30p.m.

All welcome; non-members are requested to make a £2 donation. Refreshments available.

Please see www.odfhs.website for any changes to our programme.

Zoom Meetings

15 May 2025 ZOOM Family History Chat 12p.m. (provisional date)

14 August 2025 ZOOM Family History Chat 6p.m. (provisional date)

For access details for our Zoom meetings, please contact Kate Hurst
(ODFHS Chair) at chairman@odfhs.email

ODFHS Digital Library – A Brief Selection

Over the past two years, generous contributions from members and supporters, have allowed Kathryn MacDonald (Librarian) and Alan Cooper (Website Manager) to collate and organise hundreds of images into the Digital Library on the ODFHS website. The following items are stored in the Library Resources section of the Members' Area (accessible with a password and username) at www.odfhs.website :

Original Documents and Artefacts

Farming and Agriculture

Hutton's *Agricultural Directory for South and West Lancashire* (1901); including a list of farmers in Aughton, Bickerstaffe, Billinge Higher End, Billinge Chapel End, Birkdale, Bispham, Bold, Bretherton, Burscough, Burtonwood, Downholland, Eccleston (Chorley), Eccleston (Prescot), Farington, Halsall, Hesketh with Beconsall, Heskin, Much Hoole, Knowsley, Lathom (including Westhead, Blaguegate, Newburgh and Moss Lane), Leyland, Lunt, Lydiate, Maghull,

Mawdesley, Melling, Netherton, Newton-le-Willows, Ormskirk, Orrell and Ford, Orrell (Wigan), Parbold, Penwortham, Prescott, Rainford, Roby and Thingwall, Rufford (including Holmeswood), Scarisbrick, Sefton, Shevington, Simonswood, Skelmersdale, Speke, Standish, Tarbock, Tarleton (including Sollom, Holmes and Mere Brow), Thornton, Ulnes Walton, Upholland, West Derby, Winstanley, Whiston, Worthington and Wrightington.

Domestic Property

Documents relating to the 1952 sale of Asmall House, Scarisbrick, including an auction sales brochure (illustrated with six black-and-white photos and a plan of grounds) and a separate auction brochure for the sale of two cars.

Secrets of Finch House, Appley Bridge (2021) by Mark Dowding, Barbara Moore, Barbara Dix and Stephen Craig Smith. Includes a detailed account of architectural alterations and past owners, illustrated with photographs, floor plans, newspaper extracts and historic maps. (88 pages.)

Family Trees and Family Histories deposited in the ODFHS Research Library

Family trees and family histories relating to the following surnames are held in our physical Research Library, and can be viewed on request:

- ACKERS
- BALDWIN
- BALSHAW (linked to ASCROFT, FAGAN, HARRISON, WINROW, KINGMAN and SHERVINGTON)
- BAMBER (linked to PARR)
- BAMPTON
- BIBBY
- BRADSHAW
- BUCK
- COWELL
- CRAIG
- DANN
- DARWIN
- DOBSON
- DRAPER
- FORSHAW
- HANKIN (linked to BARTON, WESTON and WATERWORTH)
- HATTON
- HOLLAND
- HODSON
- HURST
- HUYTON/Harry HUYTON
- JARMAN
- KERRUISH

- KIGGENS
- LEA
- LEATHERBARROW
- McKENZIE
- MARCROFT
- MERCER
- MOORCROFT (Thurston line)
- MOSS
- NICOL
- PARKER/McKENZIE
- PARR
- RAINFORD
- RIDING
- RIMMER
- SAGAR
- SEFTON
- SNAPE
- SMALLSHAW
- STANIFORTH (linked to CAVE, BAXENDALE, MYRES and WOODS)
- STANLEY (Sir John)
- WARLOW (Charles Medcalf)
- WESTHEAD
- WILCOCKSON
- WINN
- WOODCOCK

A Brief History of ODFHS

A Continuation

When ODFHS celebrated our thirty-fifth anniversary in 2015, the late Don Holt (a long-time Committee Member) compiled a timeline of notable moments in the Society's history; this was duly published in Issue 67 of our Magazine, with a an updated version appearing in Issue 82 five years later. Space doesn't permit us to include a complete timeline of the past forty-five years, but we hope you will enjoy the next instalment!

26 Feb 2020 Our 40th Anniversary meeting featured short talks on family history case studies.

- 23 Mar 2020 Our meetings were suspended due to the Covid-19 pandemic. During the following two years, committee meetings were held via Zoom, and sterling work was done by Alan Cooper (Website Manager) and Kathryn MacDonald (Librarian) to expand the digital library on our website.
- 8 Apr 2020 The first of thirteen virtual talks, *Celebrating 10 Years of the Boat Families*, was published as a YouTube video.
- 10 Jul 2021 Our first Zoom Family History Chat was held. Since September 2022, the sessions have been held quarterly.
- 23 Feb 2022 Face-to-face meetings resumed with updates on behind-the-scenes activities, a social evening and tributes to the late Bill Huyton, our Chairman Emeritus (who passed away in January 2021). Bill's relations kindly presented us with a bequest in his memory.
- 11 Mar 2023 ODFHS hosted a Research Library Open Day at our rented premises in the Scout HQ, Wigan, Road, Ormskirk.
- 17 Jul 2023 The launch of our SpaceHive crowdfunding project, aiming to raise £3000 to produce two short history booklets on the theme of "Sharing People's History of West Lancashire". We reached our target on 30 August 2023!
- 2 Sep 2023 A Family History Fundraiser with displays and short talks was held at the Civic Hall, Ormskirk, to promote our SpaceHive project.
- 22 May 2024 After twenty-two years, Pam Richardson stepped down as ODFHS Secretary. She was succeeded by Ruth Mercer.
- 10 Jun 2024 Ormskirk Library hosted a launch event for our first Sharing People's History of West Lancashire publication, *Family History and the Lost Buildings of West Lancashire*.

- 12 Oct 2024 Over one hundred people visited our Treasures From The Archive Open Day at Ormskirk Parish Church.
- 13 Jan 2025 Ormskirk Library hosted a launch event for our our second Sharing People's History of West Lancashire publication, *Family History and the Landmarks of West Lancashire*.

Talk Reports

25 September 2024 - Arthur Davenport: Ormskirk Boy, Man of the World by Keith Broadbent

Keith Broadbent told the story of illegitimate Ormskirk-born Arthur William Davenport, whose life ended in far different circumstances. His talk was not only about Arthur's extraordinary life, but also how he had pieced the story together. It began with an e-mail to ODFHS from Uruguayan sports journalist and author Alvaro Cabrera, seeking proof that Arthur William Davenport had been born in Ormskirk in 1867.

Working together online, Keith and Alvaro created a detailed account of Arthur's life, finding much more than Alvaro envisaged when he began researching the origins of leading football club Club Atletico Penarol (comparable to Manchester United). Arthur is known in Uruguay as one of the club's founders, scorer of its first goal, and later its first general secretary.

Arthur grew up on Aughton Street, Ormskirk with his single mother Catherine and her parents, tinsmith and shopkeeper John Davenport and his wife Margaret (nee Woosey). In 1881, Catherine married a man only ten years Arthur's senior.

Many researchers will have seen similar stories of an illegitimate son leaving the new family home and striking out on his own; in Arthur's case, there are no further records of him in Ormskirk or England. He obviously ended up in Uruguay, but how?

Alvaro responded with excitement - another of the football club's founders was the son of Daniel Woosey, who he was unable to trace. A relative of Arthur's? Keith couldn't find any record of a Daniel Woosey born in England between 1800 and 1880, but did find Dennis Woosey (b. 1833 Burscough), Arthur's grandmother's illegitimate son. No records of Dennis were found in England after 1851, but years later Daniel Woosey worked for a British company, building Uruguay's first railways. The same company employed Arthur as a bookkeeper from the late 1880s, and started the workers' sports and social club that eventually became Club Atletico Penarol.

Keith used a feature of Ancestry to contact a site member with a family tree that seemed relevant to Arthur's story (he has since written a piece for the ODFHS website explaining how to use this), and a response from a matching relative provided information that Arthur rose to senior executive level; records and photos showed him in high-society circles in Montevideo, confirming that he was in Uruguay in 1888 - three years after a Cheshire newspaper report that Daniel Woosey (whose wife was born in Montevideo) was leaving the tenancy of the pub he was running. Evidence was accumulating that Daniel returned to Uruguay after a spell in England, taking his nephew Arthur to work for his new company.

Arthur's upward mobility was confirmed by family papers showing that his daughter Edith married into the leading Hambro banking family, another of the society circle that Arthur and his family joined. In the 1920s, his senior status was shown by his regular journeys between Uruguay and England, using his company's registered address as his own personal address on UK entry. (Alvaro confirmed that Club Atletico Penarol would only have recruited a senior company employee to be their general secretary). From 1929, Arthur returned permanently to England, taking on a new role as the Uruguayan consul to Manchester. His posting was officially recognised by King George V in the London Gazette.

Arthur died in Tonbridge Wells in 1939, but a posthumous elevation came when his daughter Edith's Hambro nephew was created the first Baron Hambro in 1960; as a result, both Edith and Arthur were recorded in The Peerage.

The audience was gripped by Arthur's remarkable story, and by Keith's account of how he had discovered the key facts working with Alvaro. His final comment said it all - *'Not bad for the son of a single parent in a tradesman's family in a small town in North West England in the mid-1800s'*. Alvaro is now hoping to write a book about the founders of Club Atletico Penarol with emphasis on Arthur William Davenport.

Talk report by Julie Broadbent.

23 October 2024 - The Boat Families of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal by Kate Hurst

More than fifty people attended our updated talk on the boat families of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal. Kate Hurst (ODFHS Chair) explained that the presentation was a revised version of one created by Bill Huyton (our late Chairman Emeritus), based on the Society's Foat Families website. The original database grew from research into intermarriages between a small group of boat families, allowing Keith Jenkins (our Boat Families website manager) to create a 3,000-person family tree that formed the original website, published in 2010.

Kate explored the motivation to build the 127-mile canal, excavated between 1770 and 1816, considering interested parties who might have supported it (e.g. Liverpool merchants, Yorkshire woollen mills and the many "textile towns" along the route). Important moments - such as the ceremonial first cut by Charles MORDAUNT of Halsall Hall in November 1770 - featured alongside the challenges of directing the canal through the hills of East Lancashire and Yorkshire; at Barrowford, near Burnley, a set of seven locks moves barges up and down the rising ground.

A wide variety of resources demonstrated how researchers could use names in the

database as a stepping stone to learn more about individual families. Parish records from Rufford showed a burial for one boatman (John HEEPS) who lived in Lancaster, and baptism records for the PLUMBE family of Lathom were used to identify three generations of boatmen, whose sisters and daughters married into other local boat families!

The important nineteenth century services at Top Locks were revealed through census extracts and trade directories, where the small community included boat builders, shoemakers and lock keepers. A case study on the GILL family looked at potential ways to expand the database using records from the Lancashire Archives; some boatmen were ordered to pay maintenance for their illegitimate children, and others appeared in court after disputes and arguments.

Newspaper archives can be a particularly rich source of information; Kate noted that everything can appear in print, from accidents and drownings to fines for forgetting to turn swing bridges back and appeals from boatmen whose sons were liable to be conscripted in World War One. The Documents section of the website already contains several transcribed news stories.

Since 2010, the original boat families database of 3000 has grown to include over 64,500 people, partly thanks to the release of new data (e.g. the 1911 census, 1921 census and the 1939 Register); however, site manager Keith Jenkins protects the identities of living descendants by hiding details of anyone born less than one hundred years ago from public view (unless their death date is known). The talk ended on a light note with trivia on the five most popular surnames, and a dozen unusual names from the website, including Admiral Pickles and Venus Annie Haddock.

Talk report by Kate Hurst.

27 November 2024 - Social Evening and Quiz hosted by Colin MacDonald

For our final meeting of 2024, Colin MacDonald devised a completely original set

canals until they were eighty-one years old, the adapted route of the original Leeds and Liverpool Canal, and many surnames with connections to the canal, including ABRAM, BAYBUTT, CARRINGTON and FISHWICK.

Talk report by Kate Hurst

22 January 2025 - Mediaeval Manuscripts by Brian Farrimond

On a chilly January evening, ODFHS members and visitors had a most enjoyable time being well entertained and considerably better informed by Brian Farrimond's engrossing presentation on Mediaeval Manuscripts. We immediately felt close to home when he produced a map of Lancashire, showing all the abbeys and priories that would have used, and maybe produced, manuscripts, including Burscough Priory.

His warm and deeply knowledgeable approach was obvious as he introduced this opportunity to meet the manuscripts, see them up close and even touch them, as a glimpse of life more than five hundred years ago. Dozens of examples of surviving manuscripts from his large collection, protected in plastic covers, were available for the audience to scrutinise. It's thought that maybe one million such documents survive, and it was a real pleasure to experience so many of them at close quarters.

Mediaeval manuscripts were usually religious in subject, reflecting how religion was much more deeply embedded in people's lives than now; in pre-Reformation times, the texts were Catholic, and Latin was the language used. Cathedrals, churches, abbeys and priories, together with wealthy private homes, all needed a means for reading not only the Bible, but also religious commentaries and philosophical discussions. These usually took the form of bound books (often small in size), hand-held and used for private prayer or reading, such as psalters or breviaries. They also had practical uses; the beautiful Books of Hours were used for recording the passage of time (the illustrations shown from a few of these were particularly memorable.) Before the invention of the printing press, manuscripts were the only way to meet the demand for such books.



Mediaeval manuscripts at our January meeting, including texts and music with lyrics

A 6-minute YouTube video swiftly covered all stages of manuscript production - preparing parchment by lengthy and meticulous treatment of animal skins, cutting pages to size and preparing quills from large bird feathers, making ink and paint colours and ruling lines for clear handwriting. The illuminators' work had similarities to modern artwork, moving from light pencil sketches, background colour bases, painting the detailed pictures and (for special items) the addition of gold or silver leaf. The pages were bound into solid board covers, and finished with beautiful embellished covers of precious metal, with strong clasps for further security.

Before the mediaeval period, manuscript books were usually large, the kind of dimensions often seen in churches and cathedrals, but from around 1200, numbers of smaller books increased. Around this time, the sight of friars travelling from place to place to preach became more frequent; Lancashire was visited by both Franciscan and Dominican friars. Accordingly, parchment for the smaller books was often especially produced with very thin pages for easy use. The rise of the rich merchant class, as well as lawyers and other professional middle class occupations, led to increased demand for smaller books for domestic usage and

private prayer. Finally, as the first universities were founded in places like Paris, Oxford and Cambridge, demand grew in these places for manuscript books as teaching aids.

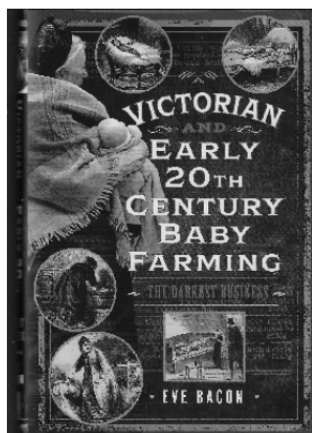
During Brian's talk, his wife distributed many examples from his collection, so that the audience could examine the beautiful lettering and illustrations he was explaining to us; the room was full of interested murmurs and reactions. Video, as well as audio excerpts, from various sources added to our enjoyment, as when musical notation of the time was screened as cathedral choir recordings were played - a lovely experience. The end of the talk was met with warm enthusiastic applause and a wide range of questions on various issues including details of production, mediaeval pencils, Brian's e-Bay habit, the prevalence of reading in the Middle Ages, the production of manuscripts after the advent of printing and the reuse of manuscripts.

Talk report by Julie Broadbent.

Victorian and Early 20th Century Baby Farming

a book review by Ian White (W73)

This book is useful for family historians and social history researchers examining the Victorian business of "baby farming", a practice abused by notorious murderess Amelia Dyer and others of her like. From 1834, the Poor Law Amendment Act required every parish with a workhouse to set up a board of guardians; no longer would parishes be able to give financial support to those unable to support themselves. The destitute were to be taken into the workhouse, including mothers and their illegitimate children. Children over twelve months were separated from



their mothers, whose only option was to put their children in the workhouse, while working in jobs that paid too little to support them and their children.

Workhouses were reluctant to accept children from outside their own parish; as a result, an abundance of children required accommodation elsewhere. Dickens drew attention to this situation in his reference to infant Oliver Twist being placed with Mrs. Mann, a baby farmer, who took children from the workhouse, feeding them barely enough for survival to retain as

much money as possible for herself. The 1834 Act's bastardy clauses also stopped the requirement that fathers paid for the keep of their illegitimate children, leaving many women vulnerable to poverty. In 1861 the Offences Against the Persons Act made abortion a criminal offence for both mother and abortionist, leaving many women little choice but to rely on the seemingly kind women who agreed to care for the children.

Innocuous newspaper advertisements tempted many women to pay a premium to have their children adopted into caring loving families, not realising that they were handing the baby over to someone only interested in the money. The growth of the railway system, and Gladstone's Railway Act of 1844 (allowing third-class travel at a maximum cost of a penny per mile) made the transfer of a child from mother to baby-farmer easier, cheaper and far more anonymous than had previously been previously possible.

The "system" was only effectively stopped by the 1939 Adoption of Children (Regulations) Act, which required adoption societies to be registered; the last two clauses of the Act finally made the abominable practice of "baby farming" a thing of the past.

Eve Bacon has put together an extremely interesting account of a nefarious industry of which little is currently known, details of a number of well researched cases, the roles of the midwife, coroner, children's home, fraud, cruelty, manslaughter, murder

and the fight to protect the vulnerable. Did one of your ancestors survive a baby farmer, or had they found a good family to provide the love and care a child needed? The book has a number of fascinating revelations of essential use to us family historians. The author followed a career as an English teacher, indulging her love of social history as a re-enactor showing the lives of ordinary women living in various historical eras; eventually becoming fascinated with the Victorian period, she has also impersonated Queen Victoria. At the other end of the social scale, she developed a character-led talk on Amelia Dyer.

Priced at £25.00 ISBN 978 1 03611 056 7

Published by Pen and Sword Books www.pen-and-sword.co.uk

A Sale at Moor Hall, Aughton

Chester Chronicle, 14 June 1793

HOUSHOLD [*sic*] FURNITURE. TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION, By Mr. POWELL and SON, On the premises, on Tuesday the 25th of June inst. 1793, and the following days, at Moor-hall, within Aughton, near Ormskirk, in the county of Lancaster, late the residence of CHARLES STANLEY, Esq. deceased;

ALL the Houshold-furniture, Plate, Linen, China, and other valuable effects; consisting of mahogany four-post and tent bedsteads, moreen, harrateen, and other hangings; good goose-feather-beds, matrasses [*sic*], blankets, quilts, and counterpanes; Turkey and Scotch carpets, pier and dressing-glasses, mahogany chests-of-drawers; dining, pier, and Pembroke tables; ten mahogany chairs and a sophia [*sic*], covered with crimson moreen; several hundred ounces of plate, a wardrobe of houshold [*sic*] linen, and a variety of table and tea china; a quantity of pewter, two large marble

slabs, an eight-days clock in a mahogany case, useful kitchen-furniture, brewing-vessels, and casks.

The sale to begin each morning at ten o'clock.

Editor's Note - Moreen is a type of heavy fabric, usually made from wool or a blend of wool and cotton, and often used for upholstery or curtain fabric. Harrateen was an eighteenth-century furnishing fabric made from linen or wool, typically used for curtains or bed hangings.

*"If you cannot get rid of the family skeleton,
you may as well make it dance."
George Bernard Shaw, Immaturity (1930)*

Who Was Kathleen? A Possible Answer

by Wendy Moores

I was born in Ormskirk, and my grandmother lived in Queen Street, Ormskirk, but my parents lived in Ford, Litherland, in a rented house on Criddles Estate (built by a treacle manufacturer).

The rents were collected regularly by Mr. Jack PORTER; he had a disabled daughter (I think her name was Sylvia), who was pushed about in a wheelchair when we played out with other



children. The PORTERs lived in a house on the estate next door to the FORD family, on Pankhurst Avenue. Mr. CRIDDLE had housed many of his workers on the estate just off Sefton Road, Ford.

As there was no room at the local school, I was sent to a private school in the home of two retired teachers. We were taught to write in copperplate handwriting on special lined paper, and great care had to be taken to make each letter perfectly shaped.

We were later educated in ex-Army huts in Sterrix Lane, Netherton with fifty children in a class. Much later, we were taken on two double-decker buses to the new school, Aintree Davenhill, in Aintree Lane, Old Roan.

I passed the 11 plus exam, and was sent to Waterloo Park Grammar School for Girls in Haig Road, Waterloo. I would have needed to get two buses from Ford, with a delay in the timings, so I cycled on my bike across Rimrose Valley referred to as "*The Whabbs*", and often had to wait at the swing bridge over the canal for the team of canal boats to pass before I would help to push the wooden bridge back into place so that I could cross into Waterloo. I then cycled through the nearby estate to reach the back gate into school and the bike sheds.

The headmistress of Waterloo Park Grammar School was Miss Kathleen M. JAGGER. She was a very strong character and ruled with very strict discipline. She held herself stiffly and upright, shoulders held back. She would stand at her office window every day during arrivals and departures, and woe betide anyone who wasn't wearing their uniform correctly. They would be called to her office and made to stand waiting in a queue outside her door.

When she took our class one day because our teacher was ill, she called me out to the front of the class and berated me for my "*fussy handwriting*", insisting that all my strokes should be straight and upright, without a loop in sight. I was frightened at what she might do if I forgot and left a loop somewhere! When I got home and was doing my homework, my mother wanted to know why I wasn't using "*my*

beautiful" handwriting. Then my mother was angry because she said she had paid especially so that I would have a good education, and she loved my handwriting, and she would go to see Miss JAGGER herself! I was even more frightened by then at the possible outcome. Would I be blamed by both sides? Well, my fearless mother did come to school, and I kept out of the way in case of any fallout. But Miss JAGGER won the day!

I have a photograph of the whole school - pupils and teachers - taken in May 1957 with Miss JAGGER seated in the centre. Obviously a much later photo than in Issue 95, but the same hairline is there.

Editor's Note - The 1939 Register shows a Kathleen M. JAGGER (b.3 May 1906) living at Cliff College, Sheffield High School, Curbar, near Sheffield, where she was employed as a high school teacher. Could it be the same Miss Jagger?

1780s Occupations in Catholic Registers

transcribed by Kate Hurst (H101)

Anyone who has tried to search for Catholic ancestors before the late eighteenth century will know that baptism, marriage and burial registers can be challenging to find. Prior to the 1791 Catholic Relief Act, believers were not officially permitted to have their own chapels, although some - such as St. Oswald's in Ormskirk (the forerunner of St. Anne's RC Church) - did exist, and registers were kept.

For a short period during the 1780s, baptism registers at St. Oswald's included not only the names and addresses of the child and their parents, but also the parent's occupation. The Editor would be interested to know whether any members can recognise an ancestor in the following list.

<i>Date of Baptism</i>	<i>Child's Name</i>	<i>Father</i>
7 November 1784	Ann HARDMAN	John
14 November 1784	Ann JUMP	James
5 December 1784	William BALSHAW	William
21 December 1784	Elizabeth SMITH	Thomas
9 January 1785	Elizabeth ROTHERAM	William
23 January 1785	Alice RYLANDS	James
10 February 1785	Elizabeth JOHNSON	John
13 February 1785	Robert CULSHAW	James
20 March 1785	Margaret LOWE	Ralph
27 March 1785	Ann HARRISON	Thomas
1 April 1785	Ann WOODS	Henry
23 April 1785	Martha MORRIL	William
5 May 1785	Mary HESKETH	John
8 May 1785	Jane BREWER	George
18 July 1785	John HALE	William
24 July 1785	Helen CHETHAM (CHEETHAM)	James
28 August 1785	Agnes MOORCROFT	Alexander
6 October 1785	William CROFT	James
26 October 1785	Ann WALSH	John
20 November 1785	William RIMMER	James
6 December 1785	Mary KERSHAW	Robert
21 December 1785	Thomas PARKER	Robert
24 December 1785	Elizabeth DOBSON	Thos.
29 December 1785	Mary FORSHAW	John
29 January 1786	Elizabeth ROTHERAM	William
29 January 1786	Elizabeth THOMPSON	Thomas
26 February 1786	Elizabeth BARRY*	Thos. SMITH

* "*Spuria*" (another word for illegitimate) was written beside Elizabeth's name.

<i>Mother</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Father's Occupation</i>
Mary	Latham	"the Collier profession"
Mary	Latham	Husbandman
Elizabeth	Ormskirk	Taylor [sic]
Elizabeth	Ormskirk	Black-Smith
Ann	Latham	Husbandman
Susan	Ormskirk	Watch-Maker
Margery	Scarisbrick	Husbandman
Ann	Bickerstaff	Taylor [sic]
Jane	Ormskirk	Husbandman
Jane	Aughton	Husbandman
Alice	Ormskirk	Shoemaker
Martha	Ormskirk	Glover
Ann	Ormskirk	Labourer
Mary	Ormskirk	Flaxdresser
Mary	Ormskirk	Stay-maker
Ann	Ormskirk	Shoemaker
Mary	Ormskirk	Hatter
Mary (nee LUCAS)	Bickerstaff	Husbandman
Margaret	Ormskirk	Bricklayer
Margaret	Aughton	Husbandman
Anne	Scarisbrick	Husbandman
Catharine	Lydiate	Husbandman
Catharine (nee CULSHAW)	Scarisbrick	Husbandman
Ann (nee KELSEY)	Aughton	Husbandman
Anne	Latham	Husbandman
Brigit	Bickerstaff	Husbandman
Ann BARRY	Ormskirk	Hatter

<i>Date of Baptism</i>	<i>Child's Name</i>	<i>Father</i>
15 March 1786	James RIMMER	Charles
22 March 1786	John CULSHAW	James
21 May 1786	Helen LATHAM	William
11 June 1786	Alice RUFFLEY	John
24 June 1786	Elizabeth FORSHAW	Ralph
24 June 1786	Elizabeth FAZAKERLEY	Richard
24 June 1786	Mary FAZAKERLEY	Richard
12 July 1786	Ellen FAIRCLOUGH	William
25 July 1786	Margaret BARRY	Thomas
29 July 1786	Catharine POPE	Thos.
31 July 1786	Charles ASHTON	Richard
28 September 1786	Edmund COXHEAD	James
<i>undated</i>	James MOSS	William
22 October 1786	Mary CULSHAW	James
23 November 1786	Margaret SMITH	Thos.
9 December 1786	Jane BROWN	James
9 December 1786	Mary MOORCROFT	James
10 December 1786	Jane BREWER	George
25 December 1786	John RYLANDS	James
31 December 1786	Mary HARRISON	Thos.
20 January 1787	James SWIFT	William
14 February 1787	William SMITH	James
24 May 1787	Helen LATHAM	Thos.
1 June 1787	Helen MASCOW	Joseph
3 June 1787	Helen STOCK	James
8 June 1787	William JOHNSON	William
8 June 1787	Margaret JOHNSON	William
14 June 1787	James GOBBIN	James
17 June 1787	George COXHEAD	Thos.
17 June 1787	Elizabeth MOORECROFT	Alexander

<i>Mother</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Father's Occupation</i>
Margery (nee KERSHAW)	Lydiate	Miller
Elizabeth (nee BULLEN)	Scarisbrick	Husbandman
Mary	not stated	Shoe-maker
Mary (nee DRAWNING)	not stated	Husbandman
Mary	not stated	Husbandman
Mary	Aughton	Husbandman
Mary	Aughton	Husbandman
Elizabeth	Scarisbrick	Husbandman
Elizabeth	Ormskirk	Clock-maker
Helen	Aughton	Shoe-maker
Helen	Ormskirk	Weaver
Mary (nee BERRY)	not stated	Husbandman
Eliz.	Bickerstaf <i>[sic]</i>	Husbandman
Ann	Bickerstaff	Taylor
Elizabeth (nee KERSHAW)	Ormskirk	Black-smith
Mary (nee JOHNSON)	Ormskirk	Black-smith
Mary (nee GREENOUGH)	Ormskirk	Cabinet-maker
Mary (nee RYLANDS)	Ormskirk	Flax-dresser
Susan	Ormsk.	Watch-maker
Jane (nee ANDERTON)	Aughton	Husbandman
Jane	not stated	Daily Labourer
Alice	Ormskirk	Black-smith
Helen	Westhead	Shoe-maker
Cecily	not stated	Shoe-maker
Mary	Latham	Husbandman
Margaret	Aughton	Husbandman
Margaret	Aughton	Husbandman
Ann	Burscough	Shoe-maker
Ann	Bursco'	Husbandman
Mary	Ormskirk	Hatter

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FAMILY HISTORY KATE HURST

RESEARCH

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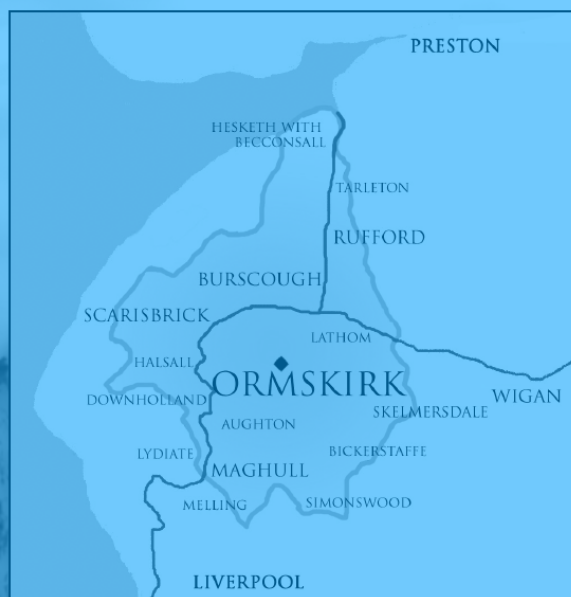
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