



Tela



The Magazine of The Friends of
Blackburn Museum & Art Gallery

Autumn 2022

This newsletter is completely FREE



Blackburn Bottom Lock by James Dolby

This lovely oil painting was purchased from the artist in 1966 and is currently on show in the Cottontown Gallery downstairs in the Museum.

Dolby (1909-75) studied at the Royal College of Art and taught at Bournemouth College of Art before the Second World War, during which he served in the Royal Navy. He became Head of Blackburn School of Art in 1947 until his retirement in the 1960s. He was an accomplished wood engraver, and there are good examples in the Blackburn collection.

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Programme 2022/23

Unless otherwise indicated, meetings are held on TUESDAY afternoons at 2 pm.

11th October: *British Textile Biennial 2023 - can the creation of cloth be a regenerative act - regenerating nature and people?* A talk by Jenny Rutter, Chair of Creative Lancashire and Co-director of Super Slow Way.

8th November: *ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING*, followed by a survey of progress and plans at the Museum by Rebecca Johnson, Museum Manager.

13th December: *One Thing Leads to Another* a talk by Ken Ford about how collections of one type can open up whole new avenues of interest.

10th January: *What are Museums for? The case of Lancashire Textiles*, a talk by Mary Searle-Chatterjee, retired Social Anthropologist based in Lancaster.

14th February: Jeff Cooper talks about *The Cave of the Golden Calf*, the London nightclub open from 1912 to 1914.

14th March: Cynthia Johnston makes a welcome return to talk on *The Nature of Gothic: Arts and Crafts connections between the Kay-Shuttlesworth Textiles at Gawthorpe Hall and Hart Rare Book Collections*.

11th April: Museum Friends John Turkington, Paul Mason & Janine Monaghan will talk about some of their favourite *Paintings in the Victorian Gallery*.

9th May: *Life and Death in a Northern Mill Town*: The excavations at St Peter's Graveyard, Blackburn carried out by Headland Archaeology.

13th June: *A talk by Museum staff about some aspects of their work*. Details to follow.

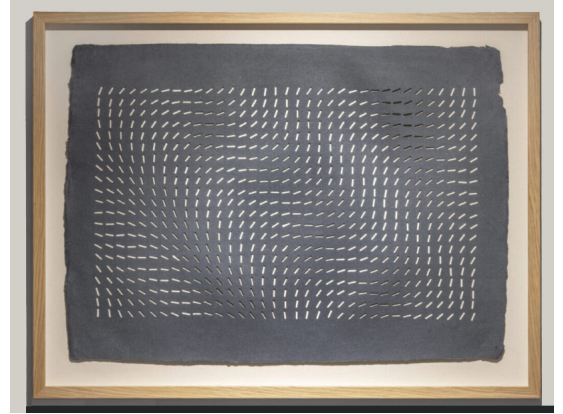
Saturday 17th June at 2 pm (provisional date) THE DAVID SHIPWAY LECTURE, on a subject to be announced.

Sunday 28th June, 2-4 pm (provisional date): Mike and Dot Millward invite members and guests to the FRIENDS GARDEN PARTY at 36 Parsonage Road, Blackburn. Confirmation and details to follow.

NOTE: Details of the Coffee Morning and outings will be announced as soon as available

MUSEUM NEWS

This September, the museum is pleased to be loaning out the two recently acquired works by artist Bharti Parmar to the Craft Council Gallery, London. WARP AND WEFT [illustrated] and GOSSYPIUM HIRSUTUM will be on display in the new temporary exhibition 'Cotton: labour, land and body'. The exhibition seeks to explore how cotton has shaped the relationship between Britain and South Asia, and will feature work commissioned by the British Textile Biennial 2021. The exhibition runs from 21st September 2022 to 4th March 2023 and entry is free. For more information and opening times, please visit the Craft Council Gallery website.



We are also excited to introduce our first Pinterest boards this month! We will be using Pinterest as a way to share images and information about items in our collection. Hannah is working hard to take some great new pictures of some of our objects and we will be regularly updating our boards, so please keep checking! Visit Blackburn

Museum and Art Gallery's Pinterest page here: <https://www.pinterest.co.uk/blackburnmuseum/> .

Our first ever Art Open launches this Autumn! In August we put out an open call to all artists, amateur and professional, to get ready to submit their work for what promises to be an exciting and diverse art show. We are excited to be showcasing all kinds of local creativity from painting to prints to sculpture. We are thrilled to have artist and ceramic sculptor Halima Cassell on this year's judging panel, as well as our own Anthea Purkis and Leader of the Council, Cllr Phil Riley. The Art Open opens on Saturday 1st October, with the official prize giving at 2pm. The exhibition is on until 7th Jan 2023 and will be open 12-4.45pm Wednesday-Saturday. The Friends are supporting this event and members have been helping with the administration of entries.

New roof update.

Earlier in 2022 the Museum was awarded £365,000 in grant funding towards a new roof from the MEND (Museum Estate and Development) fund which has been matched by £100,000 from Blackburn with Darwen council. Work on preliminary surveys has begun and a timetable is in place for the delivery of the works. The aim is to be on site from early 2023 to build scaffolding and infrastructure with the main body of works taking place from April through to September. We will close the Watercolour Gallery from the end of March although hope we can keep the main body of the building open throughout the works. The Watercolour Gallery will reopen with the British Textile Biennale in October 2023. The full programme of works, internal and external will be complete for us to celebrate our 150th birthday in 2024.

Margaret Panikkar 1931 - 2022

With great sadness I report the recent death of Margaret Panikkar, a former Museum Friend and great contributor to local history and culture. I last saw Margaret in April this year when helping her find a home for her extensive research into Woodfold Hall, about which she probably knew more than anyone. At the time she was her usual lively and engaging self, but she was clearly tying up loose ends.

Margaret was an amazing person, orthoptist, historian, mathematician, birdwatcher, silversmith and expert in church silver, traveller, linguist (including medieval Latin), and much more - she was for example, a leading world authority on cheese presses. I remember her as confident but never patronising, generous with her learning, quiet but excellent company.

Long standing members will remember her splendid talk to the Friends about 20 years ago on The Sudells of Woodfold Hall, which she followed up by leading a visit to Woodfold, at the time still an imposing ruin.



Mike Millward



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Members enjoying themselves in previous years

Friends visiting the Chapterhouse at Cockersand Abbey with Brian Marshall and Dennis Kellet in 2007 *[left]*

and

Carols in the Art Gallery at the Christmas Party in 2010 *[below]*



Museum Friends website

We have been awarded a grant by Blackburn with Darwen Arts Council towards the upgrade to our website, Janine Monaghan is looking after this project, and will welcome comments or suggestions from members.

The final Saturday morning Café Concert of the year takes place on Saturday morning 8th October at St Silas Church on Preston New Road

The Company of Voyces from Preston

Coffee and biscuits from 10.15 with the concerts starting at 11.00a.m and lasting around 40 minutes. There is a £5 admission charge which goes to church funds and includes refreshments.



LAS has a new series of talks (starting at 7.30 pm) plus our new address for our meetings which are now held at St Margaret's Church Hall, Ingol, Preston, PR2 3ZU, but in some cases, they will be held on Zoom. Please check the website or Facebook pages. New members warmly welcomed

Friday 21st October 2022. *Windy Harbour*. Mr. Fraser Brown, Senior Project Officer at Oxford Archaeology North.

Friday November 18th 2022. *Recent Excavations in the Wyre Area*. Mr. David Hampson, Secretary, Wyre Archaeology Group

R.E. Hart's Gift to a Stained Glass Window, St. Silas Church, Blackburn

The Dedication by Canon H.J. Smith

Transcribed from the original source – The Blackburn Times, Thursday 6th April 1950 by Philip Crompton



Although it was a wild blustery morning brilliant rays of golden sunshine invaded St. Silas Church on Sunday While Canon Harold J. Smith dedicated the new stained glass window, the gift of Mr. Robert Edward Hart in 1944, two years before his death. Mr. Hart was chairman of trustees and became a generous benefactor to the town generally. The largest of his many gifts to Blackburn was £35,000 towards the £64,000 paid by the Corporation for Witton Park the 400-acre former home of the Fielden family.

The window was the last big one to be designed by Mr. James H. Hogan an artist of almost world-wide reputation. Art director for Messrs. J. Powell & Sons, Whitefriars Glass Co., Harrow, Mr. Hogan died shortly after completing this design.

The window is best described as a missionary window. The main subject in the upper tier shows our Lord sending forth the disciples two by two to preach the word. In the lower tier the church's patron saint St. Silas is the dominant figure. On either side small subjects illustrate four incidents from his life when he was chosen to accompany St. Paul on his second missionary journey; writing a letter dictated by St. Paul; St. Paul and St. Silas stripped and beaten, and St. Silas released from prison.

In the four outside lights are depicted four of the great missionaries who played a big part in converting Britain, particularly in the north, to Christianity – St. Columba, St. Kentigen, St. Aiden and St. Cuthbert.

At the base of the window in the central position is the coat of arms of the diocese. Of two shields in a large piece of tracery, one is emblazoned with the symbol of atonement and the other with the symbol of resurrection. Angels in the windows base are shown a scroll inscribed "The gift of Robert Edward Hart 1944"



AN INSPIRATION

For the service of dedication, the choir and clergy moved in procession to the back of the church grouping themselves round the window.

In his sermon Canon Smith, vicar of the church from 1912-1918 said: "I am very glad to be here today to see the window. It is a worthy addition to the church. I am confident that all of you feel a deep gratitude to Mr. Hart for this splendid gift – it is a pity that he could not see it. When I was Vicar here, he used to read the lessons for me, and I found him a man of simplicity who throughout the course of his life fought a great fight. He conducted his large business with honour and integrity, and I am sure that this is one of the names that will have been written in the Book of Life.

Canon Smith also remarked that Mr. Hart's family were interested in the work of the propagation of the gospel, and it was very fitting that the new window should describe missionary work. St. Silas Church has always been very keen on missionary work. He called upon the young people to take up the work which still remained for succeeding generations to do. If they wanted a life of adventure, they most certainly would find it in the foreign fields particularly in Communist over-run China and India split by the racial feuds etc.

Canon Smith added "I pray that this new window may ever be an inspiration to you and to others to follow in the steps of the Master and to walk in the way of the Saints carrying the Gospel of good news all over the earth".

The service was conducted by the vicar, the Rev. A. Gordon Walker. Also present was the Rev. W. Horne, father of the Mayor (Coun. R.H.G. Horne). Owing to illness the Rev. H.J. Graham, who was vicar previous to the Rev. A. Gordon Walker was unable to attend

Sir Ernest Marsden FRS, of Rishton

Patrick Gavin



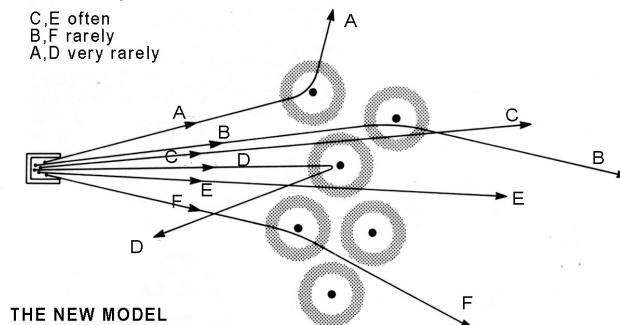
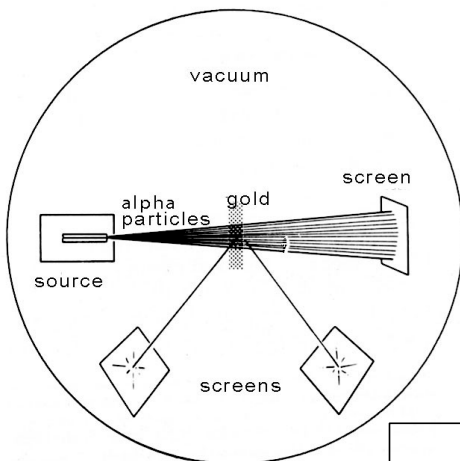
Ernest Marsden is famous for one of the great experiments of Physics, the “Geiger and Marsden Experiment”, which paved the way for the understanding of the Atomic Nucleus. Marsden (1889 – 1970) was brought up in Rishton and a plaque on the house in Hermitage Street commemorates him. He attended Queen Elisabeth Grammar School, Blackburn and went on to Manchester University. While still an undergraduate he joined Rutherford’s (later Sir Ernest Rutherford) group working on the new science of Nuclear Physics. The atom was then thought of as having outer negative electrons and the corresponding positive charge, protons, somehow inside. Hans Geiger, (1882 -1945) after completing his Ph.D at Erlangen University, joined Rutherford’s group. In 1909 Rutherford suggested to the pair an investigation: α (alpha) particles were to be fired at a

very thin piece of gold foil to examine penetration. Many particles did pass through, some were deflected to the side, and amazingly a few bounced straight back: Rutherford realised that this must be an electrical “elastic collision” when “little one hits big one”. He concluded that in fact the positive nucleus must occupy only a tiny fraction of the volume of an atom: the atom is mainly empty space.

Marsden’s later career was mainly in the organisation and development of science, first in England and then in New Zealand. He did not perform any more significant experiments. Geiger returned to Germany and continued with research. His name is famous on account of the “Geiger Counter”, used to detect and measure radioactivity.



1971 USSR stamp showing Ernest Rutherford with the scattering diagram



Two diagrams showing (left) Geiger and Marsden’s experiment, and (right) The new atomic model proposed after the experiment



YOUR SOCIETY STILL NEEDS YOU!

As you will already be aware, our long serving Hon. Treasurer and Membership Secretary Jeff Cooper intends to retire at the AGM in November after many years service. **A REPLACEMENT IS NEEDED**, and members are asked to consider taking this on.

Jeff says “ It’s a very rewarding job! And puts one right in the centre of changes and developments.”

The task is responsible, but not difficult - no degree in accountancy is necessary.

Two Coddington Weddings

In the Victorian Gallery at Blackburn Museum are three portraits of the Lewis family: Thomas Boys, industrialist, collector and benefactor; Hillary, his wife; and Richard Boys, his son. They were all painted in about 1903 by Hillary, styling herself as Hillary Coddington Lewis. Impressed as I am, particularly by the self-portrait, I wondered if she had had any artistic training. Online I could find no such evidence or even any other examples of her work so I thought I would look into her background.



Presuming Coddington was her maiden name I looked for details of their marriage on the Lancashire Online Parish Clerks site and found that they were married at St. Mary' Parish Church (as it was then) on 26th June 1899 when she was 28 and he was 30. It stated that her late father, Albert, had been a Cotton Spinner which surprised me until I saw that Thomas' father was also down as a Cotton Spinner when I knew that he had been a mill owner. I later found out that in the actual register they both have '*Cotton Spinner & Manufacturer*' as their occupation.

I recognised Coddington as the name of the Blackburn M.P. at about that time. Was she perhaps his daughter? Then I remembered that in my copy of W. A. Abram's History of Blackburn a previous owner had folded a supplement to the Blackburn Weekly Standard from the 21st April 1894 covering the M.P.'s daughter's wedding. I fished it out and saw that Beatrice was described as his only daughter so clearly he was not Hillary's father. I studied it more carefully looking for a mention of her name.



On its 4 poster folio sized pages (approx. 20in by 30in) I've estimated that there are just over 11,000 words plus photographs and illustrations. Most of the first page tells the history of the wedding church: St. Margaret's, Westminster – next to the Abbey and across the road from the Houses of Parliament. Mr William Coddington M.P. '*would have preferred that the ceremony should take place in Blackburn, which is their home ...but his duties to his constituents required his presence in London*'. (A report on his re-election in

1892 stated that 'he has never ventured to address the House'!) His Blackburn home was 'Wycollar', which was demolished in the 1930s to be replaced by Wycollar Drive – although the lodge house still exists on Preston New Road. He also had a residence at 43, Grosvenor Square.



The second page describes the wedding followed by a list of approximately 500 guests who were invited. On the next page is a list of about 200 who actually attended the ceremony including Arthur Balfour, the future Prime Minister.

Astonishingly, this page also lists all the presents the couple received, printed in a very small font size. Most of the items were in silver: candelabra (7); spoon sets (6); photo frames; tea service, etc. The bride's parents gave a brougham and harness, household linen, antique silver tea-pot, painted screen, and cheque.

The fourth page is given over to the pedigrees of the bride and groom (Arthur Cayley from 'one of the oldest landowning families in Yorkshire'). William Coddington's father was William Dudley Coddington from Chester who had business links with Robert Hopwood, owner of Blackburn's Nova Scotia Mills. He married Hopwood's daughter Elizabeth in 1828 and assisted in running the mills. In 1853 Hopwood 'died very wealthy and each of his daughters had a handsome fortune'. Subsequently William Dudley ran Crossfield, Wellington and Ordnance mills and built a new home for his family - Wycollar. He and his wife had 6 sons: William (the M.P.), Robert, Charles, Richard, Frank and Albert – which was the name of Hillary's father. But nowhere did the name Hillary Coddington appear! A trip to the Library and an hour or so on the Ancestry website provided the family connection.

Albert Coddington had married Adeliza Hall in 1867. And there in the 1871 census was Hillary, aged 3 months, with an elder sister, Mildred, plus a servant and a nurse. I thought it would be easy to follow an unusual name like Adeliza but it didn't help when in 1891 it was transcribed as Adeylayer! By then she was a widow with four daughters living at home, including Hillary (aged 20). So why wasn't Hillary at her cousin Beatrice's wedding 3 years later? It became evident that the bridesmaid described in the newspaper as 'Miss Mildred Coddington' was Hillary's sister. Also, in the 'invited' and 'attended' lists is Adeliza, who was said to be living in Brighton – but no Hillary. Was she away at an art school? I don't suppose so, but even if she had been, one would have expected the sister of a bridesmaid to be among the 500 invited guests.

So I still have no further information concerning Hillary's undoubted artistic talent but at least I know that her uncle was Sir William Coddington, Bart. (He was knighted in 1896 and served as a Blackburn M.P. for 26 years from 1880.)

Hillary's wedding to Thomas Boys Lewis attracted much less attention in the press. The Blackburn Standard's 360 word report appeared on an inside page on 1st July 1899 under the headline: FASHIONABLE WEDDING AT BLACKBURN. Hillary was given away by her Uncle Frank and the bridesmaid was her sister, Phyllis, but there was no mention of her Uncle William being there. Mr Lewis's employees were given a holiday and 'in addition to receiving their wages, they will each be presented with a railway ticket to Blackpool'.

Ken Ford

The Long Lasting Legacy of Turton FC

by Ian Ferris

This is an article of two halves. The first concerns Turton FC, one of the most historic names in British football, then we continue with John James Bentley who was not only connected with Turton but in his time was described as “the most powerful man English football has ever known”.

The unlikely setting for the birth of a sport with a worldwide fan base of around 3.5 billion was a small village on the West Lancashire moors. Situated between Bolton and Blackburn, Turton describes a wide area, whilst the village by that name is now known as Chapeltown.

Turton FC was formed in 1871 and now plays in the West Lancashire League at Thomasson Fold in Edgworth [opposite page, top]. Their original ground [pictured below] is at the end of Tower Street in Chapeltown and is still in use by the Old Boltonians team giving rise to the claim that not only are Turton one of the oldest football clubs in Britain but their original ground is possibly the oldest football pitch in the world still in use.

Turton were at their peak until the early 1880's and as the Bolton historians Peter Swain and Robert Lewis have put it, 'The cradle of Association football in the North West of England centred on Bolton, Darwen and Blackburn, with Turton FC being the centre of innovation in the diffusion of the game.'

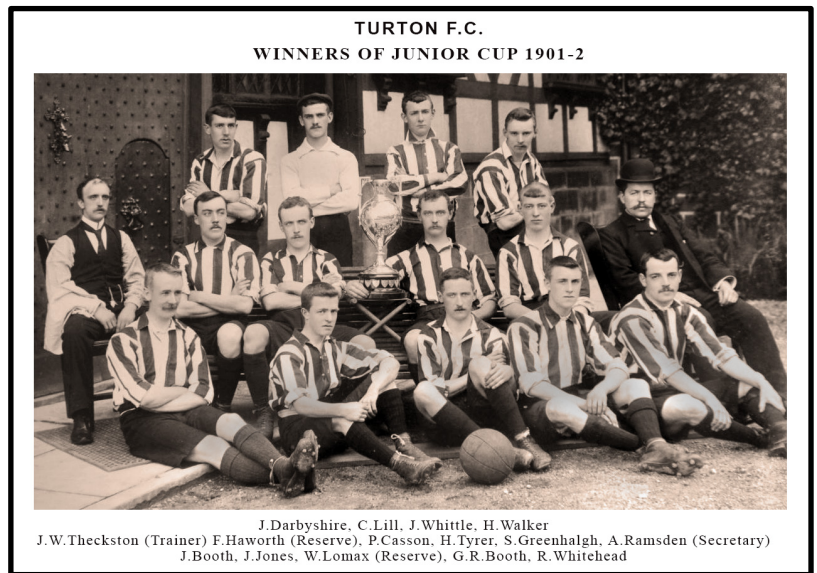
In 1870 John Charles Kay** returned to Chapeltown from Harrow School where he had enjoyed football and together with Mr W. T. Dixon [left], school teacher at St Annes, formed Turton FC following a meeting in 1871 at the Old School House [right]. There were initially 48 members paying a subscription of one shilling.

Their first match was away to Brookhouse in Blackburn, using the rules of the Harrow game which allowed for players to handle the cheese-shaped ball. Other fixtures around this time of 1873 included Accrington Stanley, Blackburn Rovers, Everton and Preston.

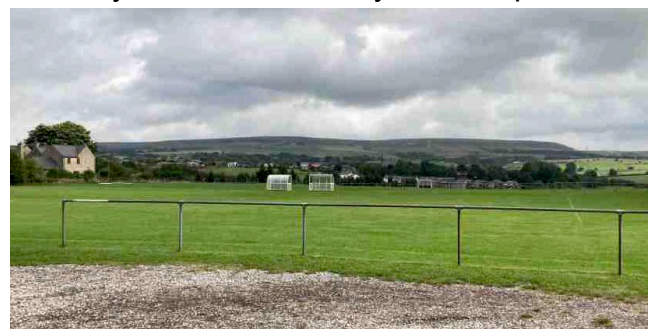
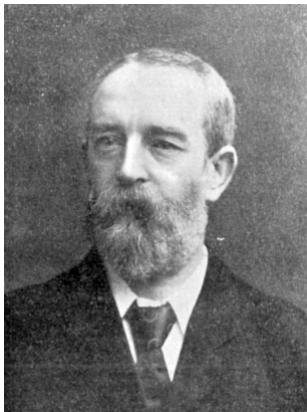
An attempt to unify the rules of the game was completed in 1863 by mainly London clubs which prohibited all but the goalkeeper from handling the now spherical ball. In July 1871 the FA Cup was introduced.

These new London Football Association rules were embraced by John Charles Kay and adopted by Turton FC in August 1874. The club were at the forefront of encouraging teams in the Bolton, Darwen and Blackburn areas to take up the new rules, including Christ Church FC who were to become Bolton Wanderers.

Dixon then decided a county league was needed and after meetings at the Volunteer Inn, Bromley Cross with Darwen FC and the Co-operative Hall, Darwen, the Lancashire Association of Football clubs was formed in 1878 under FA rules with Turton FC a member.



TURTON F.C.
WINNERS OF JUNIOR CUP 1901-2
J. Darbyshire, C. Lill, J. Whittle, H. Walker
J. W. Theckston (Trainer) F. Haworth (Reserve), P. Casson, H. Tyrer, S. Greenhalgh, A. Ramsden (Secretary)
J. Booth, J. Jones, W. Lomax (Reserve), G. R. Booth, R. Whitehead



** John Charles Kay was the brother of James Kay, last of the family to own Turton Tower, which had been bought and renovated by his grandfather James Kay, a wealthy linen manufacturer.

The Football League was formed in 1888 in Manchester but by now the village nature of Turton (pop. 300) left them at a disadvantage with the large towns and cities who could pay high wages to their professional players. Of the 12 original clubs half were from Lancashire but Turton FC was not amongst them and within 20 years they had become a local amateur team winning the Lancashire Junior Cup four times between 1899 and 1905.



But whilst their power as a club may have faded they had in John James Bentley [left] a future president of the Football League who influenced which clubs should join in 1888 and overall he dominated the rise and growth of professional football.



The son of a Chapeltown grocer, Bentley was born in 1860 and first played for Turton FC in 1878. Under the name "Free Critic" he wrote regular articles for the Bolton Weekly Journal "Cricket and Football Field".

Bentley was a player when Turton and Darwen formed the Lancashire County Football Association in 1880 and he captained Turton FC in 1881 when Sheffield Wednesday were the visitors for an FA Cup clash. Soon after he became secretary (1882-83) then treasurer of the club, no doubt because of his accounting background.

Bentley gave up playing in 1885 as his accounting business began to prosper, but in 1886 he left the business to pursue a career in journalism as Assistant Editor, and later Editor, of "The Athletic News". He became a regular columnist in the Daily Express, Daily Mail and "Football chat". His footballing influence was similarly on the rise and he was appointed secretary to Bolton Wanderers.

By now he was being described as "bold but extravagant, a genius who lived in the future, inspired by a vision of what football could become". It is even speculated that Bolton's strip of white shirts and blue shorts was based on Turton's colours.

In 1887 Bentley was approached by football administrator and Aston Villa committee member William MacGregor about the formation of a Football League. Bentley's influence over Lancashire football meant he had to be consulted if the venture was to be a success.

He became a founder committer member of the Football League and on McGregor's retirement was elected president until 1910 after which he became a life member of the Football League management committee and also vice-president of the Football Association.

Away from the politics of football Bentley was not quite as successful. He left Bolton as chairman to become the fourth full-time secretary of Manchester United in 1912 but his disinterest in running the team meant United went from title challengers to just avoiding relegation during his two year tenure. He remained at Old Trafford until retiring in 1916 due to ill health.

And yet throughout all his power and dominance over the professional game, particularly between 1895-1900, Bentley still retained a link with Turton FC and was president of the club into the 20th century.

Bentley was married with three children. He died in 1918 at Fairhaven, Lytham St Annes and is buried in the place of his birth at St Anne's churchyard, Turton.

[Left] *The History of Turton Football Club* By W T Dixon, 1909



NOTE: Photo credits: Turton Local History Society, except the two pictures of the football grounds (Ian Ferris) and the 1901-2 team photograph (Lancashire Museum Service)

CHARLOTTE BRONTE AT WHALLEY

From a Welcomer's Notebook by Norman Thorpe



The year is 1850. The Vicar of Haworth, more accurately described as the “Perpetual Curate”, the Rev'd Patrick Brontë, is a widower who has now also lost four daughters and a son through various illnesses. He is living in the parsonage at Haworth with his one surviving daughter Charlotte. His three younger daughters are the authors of successful books but have concealed their authorship by the use of pen names. This concealment is about to end. As the books had become more read and enjoyed by the public in general, the desire to know who was their author had increased. Charlotte was receiving an increasing amount of mail, through her publishers. In a letter to her great friend from schooldays, Ellen Nussey of Birstall, Charlotte wrote “Martha came in yesterday puffing and blowing and much excited – 'I've heard such news' she began – 'What about?' 'Please ma'am you've been and written two books – the grandest books that ever was seen – my father heard it at Halifax and Mr Greenwood and Mr Merrall at Bradford – and they are going to have a meeting at the Mechanics' Institute and to settle about ordering them.' 'Hold your tongue, Martha, and be off.' [Martha's father was a stonemason, and also the Haworth Sexton from 1835 to 1855 when he was succeeded as Sexton by his

brother William. Martha was employed at the parsonage from 1843 to 1861, when Patrick died. Mr Greenwood was the Haworth stationer from whom the sisters used to buy their writing and drawing materials.]

The truth was out: The Bradford Observer of 28th February 1850 reported, “It is understood that the only daughter of the Rev'd P. Brontë, incumbent of Haworth, is the authoress of *Jane Eyre* and *Shirley*, two of the most popular novels of the day, which have appeared under the name of Currer Bell.”¹

When the books, including *Wuthering Heights*, arrived at the Mechanics Institute, there was such a demand for them that those who wished to borrow them had to draw lots. The lucky reader could borrow the book for two days and then was fined one shilling a day for retaining the book, a large sum for say a workman earning only twenty shillings a week.

The first tourists began to appear in the town. One man arrived early afternoon at the parsonage and asked to speak to Patrick. He was shown into the parlour and wine was sent for. He spent about an hour in talking to Patrick “in a loud vulgar key.” Charlotte asked Martha who the visitor was: “Some mak' of a tradesman. He's not a gentleman I'm sure.” Later Charlotte was having a cup of tea with her father and she asked who the visitor was. He was the Vicar of Batley, the Rev Andrew Cassels. His aim had been to invite Patrick and Charlotte to stay with him at Batley. Martha's comment on finding his identity was that he “looked no more like a vicar than she did!”

Another man and wife who called at the Parsonage had more success. They were Sir James and Lady Kay-Shuttleworth who lived at Gawthorpe Hall, Padiham. They had written at least twice to Charlotte to invite her to stay at Gawthorpe, but she had always declined their invitation. So they had come to Haworth to invite her in a face to face invitation made by Lady Kay-Shuttleworth with the backing of Patrick who was sure it would do Charlotte good. Dr James Kay was born in Rochdale in 1804 and had qualified as a Medical Doctor at Edinburgh. Through his professional contacts with poor people in Lancashire, he had become more and more involved in social work, particularly in Education. He introduced the positions of “Pupil-teacher” and “Qualified Teacher”. He founded the teacher training college of St Mark and St John in Chelsea. He laid down the principles which governed the work of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools. He had retired through ill health caused by overwork from his position as the Secretary of the Committee of the Council on Education. In recognition of his work, he was made a baronet by Queen Victoria, and when he married into the Shuttleworth family he changed the name by deed-poll to Kay-Shuttleworth.

When Lady Kay-Shuttleworth made her invitation, Charlotte was initially slow to accept. She had hoped her father would help her to refuse the invitation, but found her father agreed with it and thought the break would do her good. So she accepted, and agreed she would come. We know the essential events of her visit because the letter of thanks she wrote afterwards to Lady Kay-Shuttleworth still exists in a private collection. It says, “My visit to Gawthorpe Hall has left me certain images – certain pictures pleasant to contemplate: your grey, stately hall fills one page of my mental sketch book, Whalley Abbey another, Mytton Hall a third, the tombs of the Sherburns a fourth and old Pendle dwells in every background.”²

Charlotte met Sir James and his Lady at Haworth Parsonage on Friday the first of March; she accepted an invitation to come to Gawthorpe the following Wednesday, the 6th. Charlotte caught the train at Keighley on the line via Skipton through Earby, Colne, Nelson, to Burnley Central where Sir James met Charlotte with a carriage to convey her to Gawthorpe to meet Lady Kay-Shuttleworth, their four children and their German governess. The Gawthorpe Hall building itself was very much to Charlotte's liking. As it is now a National

Trust property you can visit it and see if it's to your liking as well.

On Thursday Charlotte, his Lady and Sir James had a day's outing visiting Whalley and Mitton. I am sure pre-arranged because several of the places they mentioned, such as Whalley Abbey, were private property. But the owners would know each other in two ways: as local neighbouring landed gentry and as Members of Parliament or as Men involved in Parliamentary affairs. They would be happy to welcome the author of the books which were the current general topic of conversation.

At Whalley Abbey the owner at the time was Mr John Taylor, formerly of Moreton Hall; he was one of the parties in the legal action in 1833 to decide who had the right to use of the box pew known as the Kage. As well as looking at the Abbey, it is very probable that they visited Whalley Parish Church and saw the misericords and the stained glass of the East Window.

At Mytton she would be welcomed by John Walshman Aspinall of Little Mytton Hall. Charlotte was now a well-known and popular author. She mentions in her letter of thanks, seeing the tombs of the Sherburns, so she definitely visited All Hallows, Mytton, and it would be a major social gaffe for Charlotte to visit Mytton All Hallows and to appear to avoid the gentleman who was the churchwarden or held the advowson. The same would apply at Whalley.

The names are spelled just as Charlotte did.

Notes: 1. Quoted in "The Brontës" by Juliet Barker p 627
2. Juliet Barker p 628

Illustrations: *Previous page:* Charlotte Brontë, portrait by George Richmond, 1850 (National Portrait Gallery)

Above: Whalley Abbey in 1800, engraved by Basire after J M W Turner for Whitaker's "History of Whalley"



A Local Curiosity from Philip Crompton



For some time, I have curious about the large yellow letters and numbers – EWS & 500 – painted on the wall on Buncer Lane. They are on the left when driving from Witton, just after the fixed speed camera.

I noticed a few weeks ago there was, partially obscured by the undergrowth, a plaque giving more information. I stopped to have a look.

The letters EWS stand for Emergency Water Supply and were put up in 1939 in

preparation for the second world war. German air raids had been identified as a real threat targeting industrial UK towns and cities, including Blackburn, even before the war started. Presumably the 500 stands for the volume of water stored at this location. The water was intended to fight fires if normal supplies became disrupted.

The Rotary Club organized and funded the restoration of the painted letters and numbers. The plaque, also provided by the Rotary Club, is dedicated to the Auxiliary Fire Service and Civil Defence. It was unveiled by the Mayor of Blackburn in 2012.

Does anyone know if there where other similar sites in and around Blackburn and Darwen?



COMMITTEE MATTERS

We are looking for additional committee members and are able to co-opt new recruits at any time, pending formal election at the next AGM.

The Museum staff encourage us to be involved in their new projects and for us to contribute to their plans for the forthcoming year.

Membership of the committee is not onerous. We meet in the Museum at 6.30 pm on a Tuesday four times a year. We need the stimulus of different interests and different areas of expertise to keep the Friends active and effective.

Please join us. - contact Mike Millward (Secretary) secretary@fobmag.org.uk or 01254 245254 to find out about becoming a member of the committee.

Valerie Miles, Chairman

Unfortunately the committee meeting planned for 14th September had to be postponed at very short notice owing to an emergency. The meeting will be rescheduled in the near future.



On the right is an Imperial Roman gold aureus of Octavian, 28 BC, one of only two known to exist (the other is in the British Museum).

The obverse (front) shows the laureate head of Octavian facing right. On the reverse, the emperor is shown seated holding a scroll.

Octavian was the great nephew and adopted son of Julius Caesar and with Mark Antony and Marcus Lepidus, defeated Caesar's assassins at the Battle of Philippi in 42 BC. In subsequent conflict with his former allies, Octavian exiled Lepidus in 36 BC and defeated Antony at the Battle of Actium in 31 BC.

As Caesar Augustus he ruled the Empire from 27 BC until his death in AD 14, and is considered one of the great leaders of human history.

This coin is featured on the new Blackburn Museum Pinterest web page (see Museum News, p.2). It is one of more than 1800 Roman coins in the Hart collection at Blackburn Museum.

Committee Members

Jeff Cooper, Hon Treasurer and
Membership Secretary
Joy Heffernan, President
Rebecca Johnson, Museum
Manager, ex-officio
Bruce Kitchin, Member
Gillian Mason, Member

Valerie Miles, Chairman
Mike Millward Hon Secretary & Newsletter)
Janine Monaghan, Member
Robert M Svarc, Member
John Turkington, Member (Programme, Outings)
Mary Waters, Member
Raymond Watton, Member

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The Friends of Blackburn Museum & Art Gallery is a registered charity.
It was founded in 1982 with the aim of promoting and supporting the Museum
Subscriptions for the year are: Individual membership £10
Guest fee for individual lectures £2