

WINCKLEY SQUARE TIMES

Stephen Riley, Preston Photographic Society



Friends of Winckley Square

What a fabulous summer we are having; reminiscent of 1976 for those of you old enough to remember! The Big Lunch on 3rd June was a great success and by popular demand **The Intercity Blues Band** is returning to Winckley Square on **18th August** to play at our **Spectacular Summer Saturday** for all ages. So come along and join the fun (*details page 3*).

Our enthusiastic researchers are continuing to unearth more interesting information about Winckley Square and its past inhabitants. **Susan Douglass** has written the second of our **Vote 100** articles on the Women of Winckley Square about the first Headmistress of Preston High School for Girls. There is only space for a short article in this newsletter but you will be able to read much more about **Louisa Frances Walsh** when our new website is launched in the near future.

Our Guided Walks are extremely popular and the high attendance shows just how interested people are in the History of Preston's only Georgian Square. Through the summer, with its lighter evenings, we are offering **Group Guided Walks** to organisations which might like to end a guided walk with a group lunch or evening meal. This has been very popular with Women's Institutes, Rotary, Local History Groups and businesses etc. For more information please contact me.

During the **Heritage Open Days 8th and 9th September** we will be offering new Guided Walks for the first time. Many of you have participated in the **Former Residents of the Square Walk** which introduces the early residents, some of whom built the first houses. We will also be offering Guided Walks on **Women of Winckley Square** and a walk dedicated to **Edith Rigby** (*details page 3*).

We look forward to seeing you in the Gardens this summer!

Patricia Harrison

Chair of Friends of Winckley Square

Email: patricia@winckley.org.uk

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Meet Steve Harrison

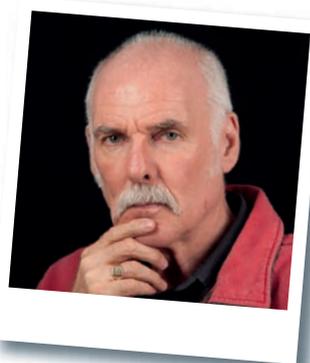
I spent 8 months at Horrockses, albeit in the womb. Mum was a weaver there.

We lived in Chaddock St then Library St, behind the Minster. I went to Parish School on Avenham Lane then to Deepdale Juniors.

While at Preston Grammar School my summer job, age 16, was on the docks, packing bananas. As a student I worked as the Assistant Fireman at Whittingham Hospital and then three summers as a bus conductor for Preston Corporation. Note the pattern; Horrocks/Docks/Whittingham/Bus Conductors - all gone!

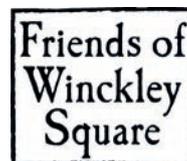
I taught initially in Preston and later returned as Senior Adviser/Inspector for Preston & South Ribble Schools.

Pat and I moved south, working as writers and publishers, but kept a base in Lancashire. We decided the place we wanted to live was Winckley Square. We bought an empty office building and converted it to our home. Trains, buses, shops, bars, theatre, restaurants, museum all on the doorstep. Plus PNE; **PRICELESS!**



Justine Harrison-Wood

If you are interested in becoming a **Friend of Winckley Square** or joining our **Researchers' Group** or being placed on our mailing list to receive newsletters and details of events, please email enquiries@winckley.org.uk



@WinckleySquare



Friendsofwinckleysquaregardens

Louisa Frances Walsh

First Headmistress of Preston High School for Girls (PHSG) By Susan Douglass

Louisa was born in Bedford in 1854; the fifth daughter of a Printer, Stationer and Newspaper proprietor. At 16, she became a governess, earning a small salary on top of her board and lodging. In the evenings she attended science classes and passed exams in Physical Geography and Magnetism & Electricity. She became Assistant Mistress at Norwich HSG and then Second Mistress at Exeter HSG.

In 1877, Louisa was appointed first Headmistress of the new Preston HSG, living in the school building overlooking Winckley Square. The school offered tuition in an extremely broad curriculum, both academic and in those studies deemed essential for a future wife and lady: Domestic economy, Drawing, Class singing, Harmony, Needlework and Callisthenics.

In 1878, the governors lauded Miss Walsh for her 'tact, energy and ability', stating that she had more than fulfilled their expectations. By July 1880, the school was up to capacity with 119 girls; a small number entered successfully for Oxford local examinations. The governors heaped high praise on Miss Walsh:

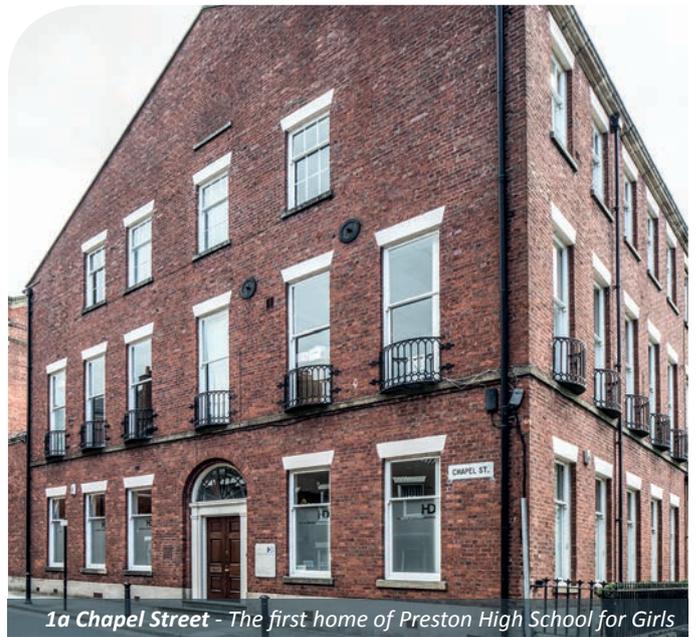
'(they) had the greatest satisfaction in having secured the services of a lady who had a thorough knowledge of the mode of training youth... who, almost to the injury of her health, took so much interest in her work that her whole life seemed to depend upon the advancement of the children of the school'.

However, a disagreement between Louisa and the Rev. Beaven, Headmaster of Preston Grammar School (for boys), was reported in great detail in the Preston Guardian on the 19th August 1882.

Rev. Beaven had arranged private tuition for PHSG girls without consulting Miss Walsh, slighting her professional fitness. Rev. Beaven's tone was sarcastic and superior; he questioned Miss Walsh's qualifications, implying she was of a lesser social and intellectual culture than him. He said she had been seen walking in Avenham Park on Summer evenings with Rev. Steele, (honorary secretary of the Girls' school) talking in an 'earnest and excited manner'.

PHSG had a regulation:

'no pupil will be allowed to enter for a public examination without the consent of the Headmistress. When private instruction is required in preparation for such examinations, it will be given by teachers of the school staff.'



1a Chapel Street - The first home of Preston High School for Girls

Nick Raponi, Preston Photographic Society

Rev. Beaven declared that he was not in the least concerned if Miss Walsh's rule was obeyed. He even made a personal attack on Rev. Steele with a snide insinuation as to his motives:

'I cannot help expressing my surprise that a gentleman whose gallantry leads him to commit himself to the indiscriminating championship of a lady with whom he has no ties ... Perhaps, however, it is too much to expect (him to) resist the temptation to occasionally condescend to the part of Romeo'

This undermining and humiliating public spat was followed in February 1883 by her resignation.

In September 1884, Louisa became Headmistress of Devonport HSG but resigned after 2½ years 'consequent upon her marriage'.

Although she was no longer working, she still recorded her occupation on the 1891 census record as 'Headmistress High School'. Louisa died on 5th April 1909 at the age of 55 years.

Rev Beaven continued writing to newspapers - commenting, correcting, bemoaning and complaining on all manner of subjects. He would have done better to concentrate on living within his means. In 1887 and 1893, he nearly came to grief through non-payment of debts. He was pushed out by the Council in 1898. Under him numbers had fallen from 137 in 1882 to 32 in 1898!

WHAT'S ON

Spectacular Summer Saturday

Saturday 18th August
2.30pm - 7.30pm

Following the great success of the Big Lunch back by popular request is the Intercity Blues Band. So come along RELAX and enjoy the MUSIC.

LIVE MUSIC

PIMMS ON THE PARK

FOOD AND DRINK

POP-UP BAR



Organised Games for Children

2.30pm - 5.30pm

Family friendly activities to test your family's imagination and have fun! Join our mini adventure, chasing foxes, putting out fires and saving the Preston lambs, just your standard Saturday really! Ideal for families with children aged 2-9 yrs.

FREE! 3 sessions available, please book to ensure a place:
www.eventbrite.co.uk or contact jfletcher@cardinalnewman.ac.uk

Heritage Weekend

Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th September



Heritage Open Days is England's largest festival of history and culture. Every year in September locations across the country throw open their doors to celebrate their heritage, community and history.

Over the last year The Friends of Winckley Square have been running regular Guided Walks. Hundreds of people have attended resulting in many requests to offer additional walks. So for the very first time we will be offering three different walks:

- 1. Former Residents • 10am, 12 noon, 2pm and 3.30pm**
Hear the stories of the former residents – famous and infamous.
- 2. Extraordinary Women • 11am and 1pm**
To mark Women's Suffrage we will offer, for the first time, a walk dedicated to extraordinary Women of Winckley Square.
- 3. Edith Rigby • 10.30am and 2.30pm**
Takes you beyond the Square to where she was born and married and (perhaps) committed one of her militant acts.
- 4. Inside the Railing and Beyond • Saturday, 11am**
The Layout of the gardens has changed over time. Learn about the Gardens' history.



*Henrietta Miller
- The Miller
Album: Harris
Museum, Art
Gallery & Library*

The Winckley Square exhibition of the insides of eight of the grand houses will also be available to view.

Walks start in the centre of the Gardens.

FREE
Donations are welcome to support our projects.

Guided Walks

Wednesday 1st August • 2pm
Sunday 19th August • 2pm

Would you like to discover more about your local heritage? Then join us for a guided walk led by one of the Friends of Winckley Square.

Group bookings:

We also offer group bookings to clubs, societies and businesses. If you have a group of friends or colleagues who would like a dedicated guided tour these can be booked in advance. You might want to incorporate lunch or, if an early evening walk, dinner in a local restaurant.

To discuss arrangements please contact patricia@winckley.org.uk



The Italian Villa corner of Winckley Square and Cross Street - Courtesy of Preston Digital Archive

Everyone is welcome on all walks but places need to be booked through Eventbrite www.eventbrite.co.uk or contact patricia@winckley.org.uk • 01772 254395

Access: Guided walks can be adapted to avoid steps. Partial wheelchair access. Please contact in advance patricia@winckley.org.uk

Photographs: Tony Lewis

Tony's Update!

Greetings... Warm? It's not only me wilting in the Gardens!

One thing the weather has highlighted is the great variations in the natural moisture content across the Square. This is evident in the differences in the colour of the grass areas and in the planting. Plants recently introduced are at risk so we ferried the odd barrel or two of water on to the Square from Avenham Park.

Turning brown is a survival mechanism of grass. It enters a semi-dormancy state triggered by high temperatures and lack of water. As long as there is not too much wear and damage to the crown then it should grow back once moisture levels increase. We can also see just how efficient the largely unseen drainage that was installed as part of the restoration works has been. Just to remind you, it DID look like this on the 22nd June... honest!

We are also seeing differences in wetness across the individual planted borders leading not only to some of the planting not working across different areas of the Gardens but even within the same border! Over time, as the plants become established and develop better root systems then these effects will be mitigated. In some cases plants have to be moved. The old adage Right Plant Right Place is so true. We will see a continual evolution within the planting around the Gardens as it develops its own unique character with plants being moved and spaces filled in as necessary.

Before the heat took its toll, we saw the gardens progressing with colour, form and structure. The colour was relatively short lived with the plants shedding flowers and leaves to conserve water. They will be back and there is always the chance of intense colour, even if it only lasts for a day.

We have started the next layer of planting by introducing shade tolerant plants into the challenging part of the border in the SW corner under the Holly tree. These are a mixture of plants (Cherry, Laurel, Christmas Box, Carex and Euonymus) new to the scheme as well as those that have been replanted (Aucuba & Mahonia). Being mainly evergreen they will give an all year structure and backbone to the planting through which we can interweave further colour and seasonal interest as time goes by.

Finally, those of you in the Gardens around the 14th July would have noticed a heady sweet smell in the air, particularly the central oval. This was produced by our Common Lime trees.

Something is always happening. If you would like to help and get your hands dirty, then please get in touch t.lewis@preston.gov.uk



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Do you know anything about Dorothy Heaton?



MISS Dorothy Heaton

– Preston solicitor

Born in 1914, Miss Heaton started practising as Preston's only woman solicitor in 1936, later building up her own firm: Dorothy Heaton & Co. at 17 Winckley Square. Public spirited, she was Commandant of the Women's Auxiliary Police Corps Preston in 1939.

Do you remember her?

Please share what you know of her.

Please contact: email@susandouglass.co.uk

Are you interested in getting involved, becoming a Friend of Winckley Square or you would like to know more about what we do?

Please email patricia@winckley.org.uk or call 07813 213629.

