



# WINCKLEY SQUARE TIMES

Squirrels' drey nest: Steve Harrison

## Friends of Winckley Square

We take many things for granted these days such as free education, free NHS and the right to vote for people we feel will best serve our interests nationally and locally. This was not always the case and 2018 is the centenary of the **Representation of the People Act 1918** which gave the vote only to those women who were householders over the age of 30 (40% of the total population of women in the UK). At the same time it gave the vote to all men over the age of 21 and men in the armed forces from the age of 19.

Women over 21 did not get the vote until 1928. **Vote 100** celebrates the Centenary of some women getting the vote. Exhibitions and events are taking place throughout the country during 2018. The Friends of Winckley Square will be working with other partners organising events in Preston.

Our newsletters for the rest of the year will include articles on Women of Winckley Square. We will be celebrating the lives of women you will have heard about e.g. Edith Rigby and women who you might meet for the first time. In this issue we look at when the **'Votes for Women'** fight began.

There is still time for you to view the **Inside Out Exhibition** at St Wilfrid's Church in Chapel Street. It shows the interiors of 8 houses on Winckley Square. The exhibition will shortly be moved to the Pavilion on Avenham Park.

*Patricia Harrison:  
Chair of Friends of Winckley Square  
patricia@winckley.org.uk*

## Meet Tim Lucas

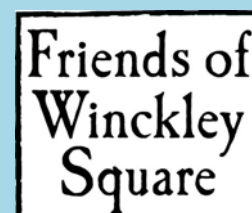
I became a Committee Member of Friends of Winckley Square Gardens last summer. Living in Ribblesdale Place I enjoy having the Gardens on the doorstep as a lovely place for dog walks and being able to use it as a quick and attractive route into town or to the station.



As a former teacher, who currently works in initial teacher education, I have a particular interest in how the Gardens can be used for educational purposes.

I design and write activities for the children's pages of the Friends of Winckley Square Gardens Newsletter and hope to encourage families to spend time outdoors together, learning about the history of the Gardens, and about the animal and plant life during the changing seasons.

If you are interested in becoming a **Friend of Winckley Square** you can be assured of a warm welcome. We are an active group with varied interests so I am sure you will fit in.



# Votes for Women

By Patricia Harrison

The organised campaign for women's suffrage was marked in 1866 with the first petition to Parliament. However, gender equality was debated long before 1866.

In 1792 **Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin** wrote *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*. She argued that the educational system deliberately trained women to be frivolous and incapable. That an educational system that allowed girls the same advantages as boys would result in women who would be, not only exceptional wives and mothers, but capable workers in many professions. A change that would benefit all society.

In June 1819 the first Female Union was formed by Alice Kitchen in Blackburn. Later that year there were Female Reform Groups in Manchester, Oldham and Royton. On 16th August a rally in Manchester was addressed by the radical orator Henry Hunt. When 60,000 protesters gathered on St Peter's Fields that morning few expected it to end in bloodshed.

At least 15 people were hacked or trampled to death and up to 700 injured when sword-wielding cavalry charged a peaceful rally calling for universal suffrage. Women were among the victims of the notorious attack. Mary Fildes, who was on the platform, was truncheoned by special constables when she refused to let go of her flag. She tried to leap to the ground, but a protruding nail caught her dress, leaving her suspended in mid-air. One of the mounted Yeomanry slashed at her and seized her flag.



A LANCASHIRE LASS IN CLOGS & SHAWL BEING "ESCORTED" THROUGH PALACE YARD.

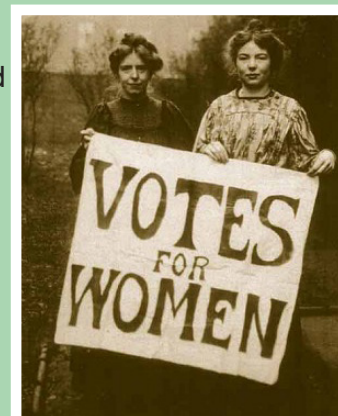
CHRONIC  
Take me back to Palace Yard, Palace Yard, Palace Yard.  
That's where I long to be, with the friends so dear to me.  
The tall policeman, smiling, blind, to gently take me by the hand.  
For 'Women's Rights' - anything we will dare - Palace Yard, take me there!

The 'Peterloo Massacre' remains the most infamous chapter in Manchester's history. However, it is now widely regarded as playing a key role in changing public opinion.

Photo credit:  
Museum of London

In 1897, various local women's suffrage societies formed the **National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies**, under the leadership of Millicent Fawcett. The NUWSS wanted the vote for middle class property-owning women. They believed they would achieve their end using peaceful tactics - non-violent demonstrations, marches, petitions and the lobbying of MPs.

By 1900 there was already evidence that many MPs had been won over. Several Bills in favour of women's suffrage gained considerable support, though not enough to pass. Some believed it was only a matter of time until women would gain the vote.



Emmeline Pankhurst, who had been a member of the Manchester suffragist group, grew impatient with what she saw as the middle class, respectable, gradualist tactics of the NUWSS. In 1903 she decided to break away and set up the **Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU)**. The motto '**Deeds not Words**' was adopted, marking a deliberate departure in the methods to be used in the fight for female suffrage.

Historians debate the effectiveness of the different groups in the struggle for women's suffrage. Some argue that the influence of NUWSS has not been given enough credit. Membership of this organisation remained high throughout the period. Many women, alienated from the suffragettes because of their militancy, switched allegiance to the suffragists.

More controversial is the role of the WSPU. Some argue that its activities were crucial in keeping 'The Cause' high on the political agenda; others believe that its violent tactics actually delayed votes for women by its "irresponsibility" in attacking private property.



# Guided Tours

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.  
**EVERYONE is welcome but you do need to book a place through Eventbrite or contact [louise.Mor@groundwork.org.uk](mailto:louise.Mor@groundwork.org.uk)**

**Wednesdays 2pm      Sundays 2pm**

★ 4th April

★ 2nd May

★ 22nd April

★ 20th May

**Free!**

Donations are welcome to support our projects.



The Italian Villa, south corner:  
Cross Street and Winckley Square.  
Courtesy of Preston Digital Archive

## Group Bookings

If you have a group of friends or colleagues who would like a dedicated guided tour these can be booked in advance.

It is also possible to incorporate viewing the **Inside Out Exhibition** in a local café with lunch. To discuss arrangements please contact: [patricia@winckley.org.uk](mailto:patricia@winckley.org.uk)

## *Edith Rigby - Artist in Schools Project*

As part of the **Vote 100** celebrations Groundwork and the Friends of Winckley Square are working with schools to develop a puppet theatre about the life of Edith Rigby.

The theatre will be performed in Winckley Square and at the Harris Museum in September for **Heritage Open Weekend**. Artist Rebecca Atherton is working with children from **English Martyr's, St Augustine's, Ingol CP** and **Christ the King Secondary** schools to create the puppets and write a script telling the story of the suffragette movement in Preston.

As part of their research children from English Martyr's visited the Harris Museum, Winckley Square and the statue of Lord Derby in Miller Park. Edith Rigby was blamed for tarring and feathering the statue in 1913 because Lord Derby's son had opposed giving women the vote.

There was no proof that Edith had done this but the person who tarred the front of her house on Winckley Square thought so. Edith was proud to be associated with it and did not have the tar removed!



## *Memories and memorabilia*

Thank you to all those who have contacted us to share your memories of Winckley Square. **We would still like to hear from you** if you have lived, worked or been educated on the Square. We really want people to share their **memories and photographs** with us. We have trained interviewers interested in hearing your stories, so do get in touch. On our new website we hope to have audio recordings of personal memories.

A big 'Thank You' to everyone who has attended our research courses at UCLan and the Harris Museum they have been very successful and well received. It's been a joy to meet people of similar interests. Due to the level of interest we hope to run more of these in the future.



## Tony's update!



If you go down to the Square today.....and are on the lookout for lots of purple crocus then sorry you will be disappointed.

Our furry tailed critters have been busy finishing off the few that they missed in the Autumn, as well as having a right go at the polyanthus, completely removing all the flowers!

Anybody know a recipe for squirrel pie? Seriously, this is now something we will have to consider with regard to future planting.



Crocus bulbs, yum yum!

**No! not the pie,** but finding plants that can survive the rigours of the Square, whatever form they take.

All part of what makes gardening such a challenge and so... rewarding.

We will be having a good look at existing plants some of which seem to have struggled throughout the last year. So, we will start by moving plants around to try and make them happy. You may have noticed that we have started to add our next level of planting into the Gardens with the introduction of grasses, initially around the steps at the Winckley Street entrance. These will add movement and winter interest into the Gardens.

A theme further enhanced by the use of red stemmed dogwood. Some of these are rooted cuttings of a couple of years ago, taken from the planting on Avenham Park, and the others are just fresh cut stems stuck into the ground, which is all there is to taking cuttings!



Their main purpose is to discourage people from taking a shortcut, known as a desire line, through the border, interestingly this was how the public paths on the Square were originally formed during WW2 when the iron railings were removed to support the war effort. This allowed the public to take the shortest route. I like the idea of plants for free.

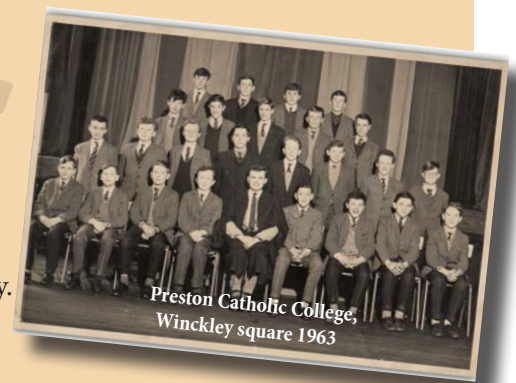
Also, as part of our ongoing plans we are growing plants on, either from cuttings or seed to populate the Gardens in the future, so there is a lot happening behind the scenes.

**We are very grateful to our volunteer gardeners. If you are interested in helping out in the gardens please contact me. [t.lewis@preston.gov.uk](mailto:t.lewis@preston.gov.uk)**

## Why not become one of our History Investigators?

Our new Community History Project encourages people to explore local archives and learn new research skills. We need volunteers who are interested in local history to help us find out more about the Heritage of Winckley Square. Our intention is to create a rich body of knowledge, inspired by the Square's remarkable history, for a new website for all to enjoy.

Please contact Louise if you are interested in joining us to research themes such as: the story of a house over time, women of Winckley Square, education, children and play etc...



**If you are interested in getting involved, you can email [louise.mor@groundwork.org.uk](mailto:louise.mor@groundwork.org.uk) or telephone 07849 069577.**

