



THE WINCKLEY SQUARE TIMES



Photo: Helen Thompson

Friends of Winckley Square

Thank you to all our readers who responded so positively to our first edition of THE WINCKLEY SQUARE TIMES. The rain did not prevent many of you coming to the Square to enjoy the activities we ran during August and September.

The Guided Tours during the Heritage Weekend were a great success. So much so, we intend to offer them regularly throughout the year.

The Inside Out Exhibition proved to be of real interest and will be exhibited again soon.

Many people shared with us their memories of Winckley Square during the Heritage Weekend. I would love to hear from you if you have a story to tell – perhaps wedding photographs in the Gardens – when the Register Office was in Guildhall Street. Or if you were educated in one of the schools and have tales to tell about school life.

We have had a number of queries about where the name Winckley Square came from. So in this issue we answer that for you. If you have questions or suggestions as to what you would like to read in the newsletter please contact me via: Louise.Mor@groundwork.org.uk.

Patricia Harrison
Chair of Friends of Winckley Square

Meet Peter Wilkinson

I am one of the 'Friends of Winckley Square' Tour Guides. I love Winckley Square and have watched it change over the years.

I was born in PRI on August 30th 1947 (PNE beat Middlesbrough 2-1), lived and went to school in Penwortham. My O levels from Penwortham County Secondary Modern helped me start my apprenticeship with the NW Gas Board (12th Sep 1963, the day before The Beatles appeared at the Public Hall).

My grandma lived in Manchester Road. I took the train to Preston from Cop Lane Station and walked through Winckley Square to Grandma's. I passed my motorcycle & car test, both taken from 18, Winckley Square! My early hobbies included potholing, water skiing, sailing and sub aqua and later Aeronautical Archaeology- digging up old plane wrecks. See Time Team 'Bombers in the Mars'.

I am an archival advisor at the National Gas Archives, Warrington; Archivist for the Preston Historical Society and Chair of the Friends of Hurst Grange Park.



History Investigators

Winckley Square is named after Thomas Winckley who once owned the land where the Gardens now stand. Thomas was an attorney and a landowner. His ancestors were Lords of the Manor of Winckley Hall in the Parish of Mitton (near Whalley) both before and after the Norman Conquest in 1066.

In 1785 Thomas Winckley married Lady Jacintha Hesketh (née Dalrymple), widow of Major Thomas Hesketh. She already had 5 daughters and one son. They lived in a separate house in Preston after she married Winckley. Frances Winckley, the only child of Thomas and Jacintha was born in Preston in 1787 in a large house on the south side of Fishergate; between Cannon Street and New Cock Yard.

At that time Preston was the winter residence of the Lancashire nobility. The town consisted of not much more than Fishergate, Friargate and Churchgate (Church Street). Lord Derby Lived in Patten House, Church Street.

The population of Preston mid to late 18th century was c. 6,000. From the rear of the homes on Fishergate the views looking south would have been picturesque, overlooking countryside and farmed fields leading down to the River Ribble. Avenham Walk (Top Walk) had been laid out in 1685 for the gentry to stroll along. It had gravel paths and lime trees for shade.

Preston was growing with the erection of textile factories. As a result gentry were no longer content to live in the centre of town. William Cross bought Town End Field from Winckley. This map shows the first houses built on the Square and Town End Field turned into gardens. William later bought the fields south of the Syke which are now part of Winckley Square Gardens.

His vision was the creation of a Georgian square similar to those he had seen in London; a square with gardens surrounded by magnificent 3 storey houses.

In order to achieve this anyone buying a plot had to agree to stringent conditions that assured the Square would remain a 'high class' residential area.

William built the first house for himself on the east corner of Winckley Street and Winckley Place (now Winckley Square).

Winckley became disenchanted with Preston due to the erection of factories in and around Preston. Frances describes in her diaries how this came to a head when he paid his early morning visit to the fishmonger. He found that John Horrocks had beaten him to the finest turbot. He declared that 'Preston was no longer a place for a gentleman' and moved just outside Liverpool overlooking the Mersey.

He died before the move was complete. Frances inherited her father's fortune when she was 6 years old. Thomas Winckley had 2 illegitimate sons but the family name Winckley died with him.

Starkie Street on the south side of the Square is named after his mother Margaret Winckley (née Starkie). Cross Street is named after William Cross.

To find out more about the history of Winckley Square why not come along and enjoy a Guided Tour?



Photograph: Shakeshaft 1808

Greetings!

A lot has happened since the last newsletter.



All the wet weather has kept the Square green and kept me busy cutting grass!

With the help of the volunteers we are keeping the borders tidy and have been rewarded with some late summer colour to brighten things up, including a lot of repeat flowering from plants that were cut back earlier in the year after they had finished a first flowering.



Photographs: Tony Lewis



One of our new trees, an almond, flowered in the spring and has set fruit.



Squirrels are responsible for additional planting in the borders.

The Red Admiral is widespread in Britain but is more likely to be a migrant from North Africa and Central Europe.

Milder winters has led to a small resident population in the South of England.

It is unmistakable with black velvety wings intersected with striking red bands and a splatter of white spots.

Sighting of the Red Admiral can continue well into November on sunny days and sightings are often reported through to February when almost all other species of butterfly are unlikely likely to be seen.



A colourful visitor

Heritage Weekend September 9th / 10th September

Despite the poor weather the Heritage Weekend was a great success. We ran 8 Guided Walks around Winckley Square and over 140 people attended. Under umbrellas, at times, they listened to our enthusiastic volunteers tell the stories of the people who built the first houses and the history of the key people who had a significant influence on the Preston we live in today.

We are planning a further series of guided walks so if you would like to join one please just turn up, there is no need to book.

*Winckley Square Guided Tours
Winter programme - Free of charge!*

Wednesdays 2pm

- ★ 1st November
- ★ 6th December
- ★ 3rd January
- ★ 7th February
- ★ 7th March

Sundays 2pm

- ★ 19th November
- ★ 17th December
- ★ 21st January
- ★ 18th February
- ★ 18th March



A group enjoying a guided tour of the square.

Group Bookings

These need to be booked in advance. It is also possible to incorporate viewing the Inside Out Exhibition and afternoon tea or lunch if you wish.

To discuss arrangements please contact Louise.Mor@groundwork.org.

Inside Out Exhibition

We have been inside 8 of the buildings on Winckley Square and taken photographs. You can see the exhibition if you book a Group Guided Tour the viewing of the exhibition can be part of the tour. The exhibition will also be exhibited throughout the year. Contact Louise for details.

Inside Charnley House



Stair-window next to service wing where there are back stairs to the attic.



Original skirting.



The wall between 2 bedrooms has been removed to create offices.



The bottom door of the fire says 'KEEP ASHPIT CLEAR'.

The cellar was once a hive activity where servants cooked, washed clothes, ate etc.



Stone flagged floor.



Storage.

- In 1840s Paul Catterall bought a plot of land where he built 13 Winckley Square. His brother was his neighbour at number 15.
- The plans for the house, dated 1845, give us some idea of how families lived then.
 - Ground floor: Parlor (sic), Nursery, Library, Butlers' Pantry, Kitchen, Scullery, Pantry.
 - Side building now 13a: Well, Bog (toilet not attached to the drains emptied by night-soilmen) probably used by servants.
 - 1st Floor called 'Chamber Plan': 6 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, 1 dressing room, 1 W.C., 1 Chamber maid's room.
 - Attic: 4 bedrooms, central closet.
 - Cellar: Wash room, lower kitchen, Wine cellar, 5 other rooms. Coal was delivered at the rear of house to the cellar.
 - Yard: 3 stables, Coachhouse, Bog.
- 1844 Paul Catterall was a magistrate and cotton manufacturer employing 500 men. In 1851 he lived here with his wife, 5 children and 4 servants.
- In 1856 he erected a 5 storey factory in Rigby St off New Hall Lane. It burned down in 1875 resulting in £26k damages. It was rebuilt using fireproof building techniques.
- In 1911 the house was occupied by his daughter Harriet and her son Charles.



Charnley House has been used as offices for many years. It was bought and refurbished sympathetically in 2018 by Farleys Solicitors.



A grand entrance with ionic columns.



Bell pull to call servants.



The meeting room.



By the end of the 1800s radiators had been introduced into homes.



Marble tiles.



Door sidelights.



Friends of Winckley Square @WinckleySquare

LOTTERY FUNDED

BID

Lancashire County Council

Preston City Council

Friends of Winckley Square

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The Great Art of Light and Shadow Winckley Square Saturday 28th October 12 noon to dusk.



Share your stories of Winckley Square and help create a performance with light and shadow puppets. EVERYONE is welcome to enjoy a day of drawing and live performance led by Preston based artists as part of **The Big Draw Festival**.

The event begins with drawing inspired by the rich architectural heritage of the Square, with early evening light and shadow performances that bring to life the hidden histories and stories of the characters who once lived here.

FREE activities for children and people of all ages!

Want to become a Friend?

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Friends of Winckley Square
squaregardens

Designed by Rebecca Brunel



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