



TWINCKLEY SQUARE TIMES

Christmas edition...

Stephen Riley: Preston Photographic Society

Friends of Winckley Square

A year has gone by since the newly renovated Winckley Square Gardens opened and it is six months since our Friends of Winckley Square group was established. A lot has been achieved in 2017 and we are delighted that so many people enjoy the Gardens. It is a great achievement to end the year with the **North West Britain in Bloom Outstanding Award** which I accepted on behalf of all the organisations and volunteers who made this possible.

We are celebrating the end of 2017 with a **Christmas Concert** in the Gardens on 10th December. Please come and join us and sing along with the **One Voice Community Choir**. We began our regular **Heritage Guided Walks** around the Square in November and have two guided walks each month planned until March. So please join us. The December walks are 6th & 17th at 2pm. We are also offering group walks to businesses and organisations.

People have contacted me to share their memories and photographs of the Square. I'd love to hear from you if you have a story to tell or if you would like to join our Friends group. We wish all our readers a very Merry Christmas and hope to meet you in the Gardens at an event in 2018.

Patricia Harrison:
Chair of Friends of Winckley Square
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Meet Rebecca Bruneel

After moving here for university from London four years ago I totally fell for Preston and its unique charms, lots of which can be found in Winckley Square.

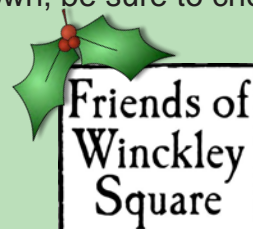


I studied Digital Marketing at UCLan and whilst there spent three years volunteering at St Wilfrid's Parish soup kitchen on Chapel Street.

I became a Friend of Winckley Square when I lived in Robert House on the south side of the Square and felt proud to live in such a beautiful area, rich with Preston's history.

I wanted to help spread the word about it; so I got involved with designing this newsletter.

A highlight for me since becoming a Friend has been our **Inside Out Exhibition** which has proved to be of real interest and is exhibited in the Harris Museum until January 2018. This is a great opportunity to step through historic doors into some of Preston's fascinating buildings and landmarks. If you're in town, be sure to check it out!



Christmas Traditions: Origins

Georgian - 1714-1837
Regency - 1795 to 1837
(Sub period of the Georgian era).
Victorian - 1837-1901

The houses around Winckley Square were built for Preston's gentry during the Georgian and Victorian periods, the first built in 1799 for William Cross on the east corner of Winckley Street and Winckley Square. He sold to the Addison family in 1813. In her diary Mrs Agnes Batty Addison recorded many social engagements around Christmas time, which give us an idea of society life around the Square.

December 1820

10th - Dinner Party of 12
27th - Mr Aspden's Rout



January 1821

5th - Party of ladies at home
18th - At Mrs Fieldings'
19th - Party of Gentlemen
29th - Mrs Gorsts'

The Victorians had the biggest influence on how we celebrate Christmas today. Before 1837 nobody in Britain had heard of Santa Claus or Christmas Crackers. No Christmas cards were sent. The wealth and technologies of the industrial revolution in the Victorian era changed the face of Christmas forever.

Decorations had been used to decorate homes with evergreens since medieval times but the tradition became much more elaborate thanks to the Victorians. They gave us wreaths, ivy ribbons, tree ornaments and mistletoe balls. By the 1880s, decorations were mass produced.



Gifts had traditionally been given on January 6th but moved as Christmas became more important to the Victorians. At first, gifts were modest - fruit, nuts, sweets and small handmade trinkets hung on the Christmas tree. When giving presents took centre stage and gifts became bigger, they moved under the tree.

Turkey Henry VIII is said to be the first monarch to dine on it at Christmas. The tradition was mostly goose on the Christmas table until the Victorian era. A famous Christmas dinner scene appears in *A Christmas Carol*, where Scrooge sends Bob Cratchit a large turkey.

Crackers Invented by Tom Smith, a London sweet maker in 1847. He wrapped his bon bon sweets in a twist of fancy coloured paper, but this sold much better when he added love poems, paper hats, small toys and made them go off BANG!



A Georgian 'Gentry' Christmas was very much about parties, balls and family get-togethers. Food played an important part. The Christmas season ran from December 6th (St. Nicholas Day) to January 6th (Twelfth Night). Christmas Day was a national holiday.

A Christmas tree in the house was a German custom and apparently brought to the UK in 1800 by Queen Charlotte, wife of George III. It became a British tradition after the Illustrated London News printed an engraving of Queen Victoria, Prince Albert and their children around their Christmas tree in 1848.

Image courtesy VintageHolidayCrafts.com



What's on in Winckley Square?

Winckley Square Guided Tours Winter programme - Free of charge!

Come along and find out about the history of the houses and the people who lived in them.

Wednesdays 2pm

- ★ 6th December
- ★ 3rd January
- ★ 7th February
- ★ 7th March

Sundays 2pm

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

Group Bookings need to be made in advance.
We can help arrange afternoon tea or lunch at a local restaurant and viewing the Inside Out Exhibition.

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



Home of Thomas Miller Courtesy of Preston Digital Archive



**FREE
event!**

Christmas Concert in Winckley Square 10th December

Special Christmas concert in Winckley Square by One Voice Community Choir, Sunday 10th December runs from 2.30pm to 5.30pm.

The sound of carols will ring out across Winckley Square around the Christmas tree. The concert will be signed, so deaf members of the community can join in the festive celebrations.

Shadow puppets will be on display for children and there will be mince pies, mulled wine and hot chocolate available to keep you warm.



**One Voice
in action!**



Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th December

Join us for a Magical Christmas in Winckley Square Gardens. After the huge success of 'Tales of Oz' Events Live bring you something extra special this Christmas. You can enter the magical city full of Cheeky Elves, Mrs Christmas and The Great Man himself, Father Christmas.

Father Christmas will be waiting in his living room with a special gift for all his little visitors. There will also be a chance to meet the elves in their workshop, have a photo taken in Santa's sleigh, and many more special surprises. Tickets are required for this event with a choice of three times.

Book your tickets online via Skiddle!

10am-12pm 1pm-3pm 4pm-6pm

Saturday 16th Skiddle - Winter Wonderland Saturday

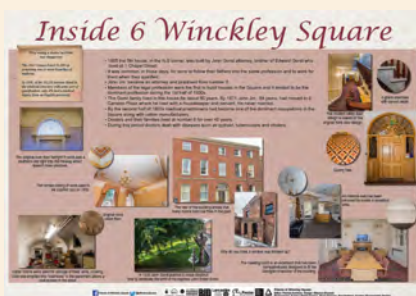
Sunday 17th Skiddle - Winter Wonderland Sunday





In November Winckley Square Gardens was awarded The North West Britain in Bloom Outstanding Award, Level 5 (the highest level.) This award links to the three RHS key aims which are: Horticultural excellence, Community involvement and Environmental friendliness.

Inside Out Exhibition Harris Museum November to January 2018



The Friends of Winckley Square went inside eight buildings on the Square to take photographs. We show how 19th Century buildings are used in the 21st Century as homes and work places. Enjoy our exhibition.

Rotary PolioPlus Programme

Since 1985 Rotary has paid for the immunisation of 2.5 billion children. Today polio is present in only 3 countries – Afghanistan, Nigeria and Pakistan.

In November the Preston Rotary Club planted 5000 bulbs in Winckley Square Gardens, helped by volunteers and pupils from English Martyrs' Catholic Primary School. You might like to see the interviews of the children and adults on **That's Lancashire TV**.

Mayor Brian Rollo, who suffered from polio as a child, gave his support. The carpet of purple crocuses next Spring will remind us of this noble cause.



Staff from Harrison Drury Solicitors planted bulbs at lunchtime.

Want to become a Friend?

Contact Patricia or Louise our Project Officer

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Follow us online!



@WinckleySquare



Friends of winckley square gardens

Designed by Rebecca Bruneel