



WINCKLEY SQUARE TIMES

Beautiful even on a wet winter's day

Friends of Winckley Square

A Happy 2018 from the Friends of Winckley Square. We look forward to this year with great enthusiasm. February 2018 is the 100th anniversary of the Representation of the People Act 1918, which allowed some women over the age of 30 to vote for the first time. December 1918 was the first UK general election in which women voted.

To commemorate this we would like to feature '**Women of Winckley Square**' in our newsletters this year and so **ask for your help**. The history of the Square has mostly been about the lives of rich men. We would also like the history of women recording. If you have lived, worked or been educated on the Square **we would like to hear from you**. Or you might have a mother, a grandmother or remember a teacher. Please share your memories and photographs with us.

If you are interested in **local history research** we are running a number of research skills' sessions in partnership with Lancashire Archives, the Harris and the History dept. UCLAN so please come and join us.

The **Inside Out Exhibition**, which shows the interiors of eight of the houses on Winckley Square, was so popular it was displayed for three months at the Harris Museum. It has now been transferred to St Wilfrid's Church in Chapel Street. We are very grateful to the 'outreach grants' led by the History team at UCLan who helped us.

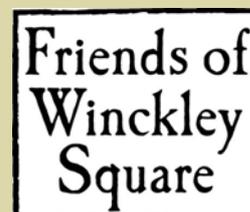
*Patricia Harrison:
Chair of Friends of Winckley Square
patricia@winckley.org.uk*

Goodbye Paul 1950-2017

It is with great sadness we have to announce Paul Swarbrick died on 14th December. He was one of the first members of the Friends of Winckley Square. Since joining the FoWS he has, with his partner Gill, given so much of his time and made a significant contribution to our work. Paul's wonderful photography is part of our **Inside Out Exhibition**.

We have so much to thank Paul for, he has written extensively on all manner of Preston's history, nostalgia and events. He made a significant contribution to the small team of historians who were instrumental in the successful Heritage Lottery Fund Grant to renovate Winckley Square Gardens.

Paul was an enthusiastic member of Preston Historical Society, a Prestonian, proud of his city, its history and its values. We have all lost someone who was highly regarded and loved in equal amounts.



@WinckleySquare



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squaregardens

Keep up-to-date with what's happening!

Issue 4

James Todd | 1863 - 1931

James Todd was a leading Liberal. His wife fought for women's suffrage. They had a guest who James made clear was a 'women's suffrage agitator' on his census return of 1911. He was featured in *Mayfair* magazine as a man of fashion as well as a national figure in business. He supplied munitions and aero engines during WW1 to the British, French and Italian governments and was a major investor in three of Preston's major mills.

Ever wondered who has spent the most time on Winckley Square? If we count dead and alive then the honour belongs to James Todd. His offices were initially at 12 Winckley Street, then 3 Winckley Square and subsequently 7 Winckley Square until his death. His ashes were placed in the front wall of what is now Naphthens Solicitors at No 7. There they remain, marked by a simple stone plaque reading 'J.T. 1863-1931.'

James was to become one of the richest men in the area. The family's rise from poverty to riches took only two generations.

His grandfather, James I, worked mainly as an unskilled labourer. His father, James II, in 1851 lived at 13 Percy Street and worked as a rope maker. James II's wife Judith was a winder. By the time our James (James III) was born in 1863 the family lived at 19, Lune Street and James II was a manufacturer of sack and rope.

In 1881 James III was an articled clerk. The Institute of Chartered Accountants was established in 1880 and in the early 1880s James was a partner in a Chartered accountancy firm, Blakey & Todd. He became sole owner in 1886 and J. Todd was established. So he entered a profession that was about to become vitally important to the world of business at just the right time.

James was certainly successful. He established branches of James Todd Chartered Accountants in Preston (Head office), Blackpool, Manchester, Chester and London. In the current offices of James Todd & Co in Preston there stands a tallboy which was used by James.

*There is one thing I find very odd,
That the eminent business man Todd,
Should spell if you please,
His name with two'd's,
When one is sufficient for God.*

It has drawers dedicated to offices in Moscow, Paris, Turin, London, Manchester, and Blackpool. He was involved in dealings in pre-revolutionary Russia. The Paris & Turin connections reflect his arms dealings with the French and Italian governments.

James was Chairman of STD Motors, an Anglo-French company specialising in cars and aero engines, best known for Sunbeam cars. He lived the highlife. Having married (aged 44) Beatrice Rickward (aged 31) they moved to Penwortham House and subsequently, as the family grew, to Farington Lodge.

He was well known for being driven in his grand Sunbeam by his chauffeur Moxham to his office at No 7 and to Preston Station for the London train. His barber would arrive from Lune Street to shave him in the bathroom at No 7. He was a JP, wicketkeeper for Preston Cricket Club, member of the Winckley Club and, as a Liberal, member of the Reform Club in London. He and Beatrice holidayed in Monte Carlo and lived in style.

In 1930 his world began to crumble. The whole board of STD was forced to resign. The Crash hit textiles and his shares plummeted in value. Even so he was at Haydock Races (where he was also on the board) when he had a fatal heart attack.

Text and photographs by Steve Harrison.

Many thanks to the current partners of James Todd and Co, Chartered Accountants of Adelphi Street for their help in sourcing material.

*In this issue is a short summary of the life and times of **James Todd**. A fuller account of all the Newsletter history sections will be available online at the Winckley Square website later in 2018.*



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. Just come along! Meet in the centre of the gardens.

Wednesdays 2pm **Sundays 2pm**
 ★ 7th February ★ 18th February
 ★ 7th March ★ 18th March

Free!



View of the south of 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



Interested in local research?

Why not join us and discover how to use the wealth of historical sources that are readily available?

Sign up to one or more research sessions we are offering free of charge at the Lancashire Archives, the Harris and UCLan.

Please contact Louise to book a place Tel. 07849069577 or email Louise.Mor@groundwork.org.uk

Places are limited!

Introduction to Using Historical Sources & Research Methodology.	Dr. Jack Southern Lecturer, Public History UCLan. TBC	UCLan, Livesey House, 6 Heatly Street	Tuesday 13th March 6.15pm - 7.45pm TBC
Using Newspapers for Research.	Andrew Hobbs, Senior Lecturer, School of International Journalism, Media and Performance.	The Harris Community History Library	Saturday 31st March 10am -12pm Confirmed.
How to use the Archives.	Lancashire Archives Jacquie Crosby Archives Service Manager.	Lancashire Archives	Tuesday 10th April 6.30-8.30pm Confirmed.
How to use Census Records & Online Sources for Family and House History.	Andrew Warmasley Community Heritage Researcher.	Lancashire Archives	Tuesday 24th April 6.30-8.30pm Confirmed.

Collecting Memories of Winckley Square

Are you interested in **sharing your memories** with us?

Or **collecting memories for us?**

Jack Southern's workshop is for people who would like to know more about the skills involved in **Oral History recording techniques.**

Tuesday 27th February Livesey House, UCLan, 6 Heatly Street,
6.15 - 7.45pm.

To book a place contact Louise.Mor@groundwork.org.uk



Tony's Top Tips!

Greetings!

What's happening in the Gardens? Truthfully, not a lot. I hope everybody enjoyed the show of the aptly named 'Christmas Roses' *Helleborus niger*.



Most of the work this time of year is about keeping things tidy and looking forward to the flush of colour in the Spring. November saw, with the help of the Rotary Club, 5,000 purple crocus corms planted as part of their **Purple4polio campaign**.



Unfortunately our furry tailed friends have chosen to help - digging them up and, hopefully, redistributing rather than eating them. So we will see what March brings.



You may have noticed the piles of brash, broken branches and twigs, and leaves around the base of some of the trees?

These are not nests or dreys for our fat squirrels! Rather than removing green waste we are trying to find a way of utilising it and obviously conventional compost heaps would look out of place.

The brash helps to stop the leaves from blowing away. The leaves will rot down and provide better growing conditions in areas that are struggling for future planting as well as forming a habitat for all sorts of bugs which in turn will provide food for our slowly returning bird populations.



If you would like to look out for and record bird species in the Gardens I would be really interested in your sightings, as we are building up a picture of our bird population. So, please keep your eyes and ears open and let me know your findings
t.lewis@preston.gov.uk

First Winckley Square Christmas Concert

What a wonderful concert this was. So many people came to join us despite the chilling weather. A great time was had by all. Thankfully the mulled wine, mince pies and hot chocolate kept Jack Frost away and kept a smile on everyone's face! It was a really happy occasion. The sound of carols around the Christmas Tree rang out across the Square. Friends greeted each other with Christmas spirit. We certainly intend to make this an annual occasion!



One Voice in full swing!



Richard Kosik & Stephen Riley
Preston Photographic Society



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