

TWINCKLEY SQUARE TIMES

Friends of Winckley Square

For the first time this year we participated in the **Preston Arts Festival** in October by offering talks and introducing new guided walks. They were all a great success. In total over 300 attended our events as well as substantial numbers who visited St Wilfrid's Church over a three week period to view our Exhibition of **'Extraordinary Women of Winckley Square'**.

Thank you to all who participated, to our wonderful band of volunteers and to Artistry House for facilitating the **Big Draw**. With the proceeds we were able to make donations to three very good causes.

We are very proud to have been awarded the **Britain in Bloom North West Award** once again. I am sure you will agree the Gardens look more and more beautiful as the plants become more mature.

We have had a very busy 2019 with many more people visiting the Gardens and joining our events. We intend to finish the year with the best Christmas Concert yet!

What Next?

Don't miss our **Winckley Square Christmas Concert** on Sunday 1st December. Come along and join in the carols around the Christmas tree with mulled wine, mince pies and much, much more... see page 3.

Thank you for all your kind comments about the work we do and for your donations that facilitate our events and the production of this newsletter.

We wish you all a very **Merry Christmas and Happy New Year** and hope we will be seeing you in **2020**.

Patricia Harrison

Chair of Friends of Winckley Square

Email: patricia@winckley.org.uk

www.winckleysquarepreston.org

Issue 15 | December 2019/ January 2020

Meet Ian Williams

I grew up in Preston and have always loved the Winckley Square area of the city, so when the opportunity came to live in the area I was delighted. I've been living round the corner from Winckley Square for four years. It's wonderful to be on the doorstep of Winckley Square and Avenham and Miller Parks and also close to the shops and restaurants, of which there are many excellent ones.

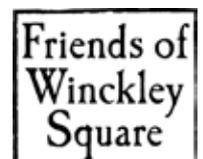


It's been great to be involved with the Friends of Winckley Square as I'm really interested in discovering more about the history of the area and I have just started researching some of the occupants of the area through the ages.

I'm also passionate about the regeneration of our heritage and getting the whole community involved. The events which the Friends organise now bring hundreds of people together at different times during the year. I enjoy helping out at the events and am really looking forward to the Christmas Concert this year. I'm also the treasurer of the Friends and appreciate very much the donations we receive to support our work.

In my spare time I enjoy playing the piano and organ, and singing with Preston Cecilian Choral Society. I enjoy teaching at OneSchoolGlobal – Lancaster Campus in the beautiful Lune Valley.

Interested in volunteering to help at events, joining our **Research Group**, or being placed on our mailing list to receive newsletters and details of events? Please email enquiries@winckley.org.uk



@WinckleySquare

Friendsofwinckleysquaregardens

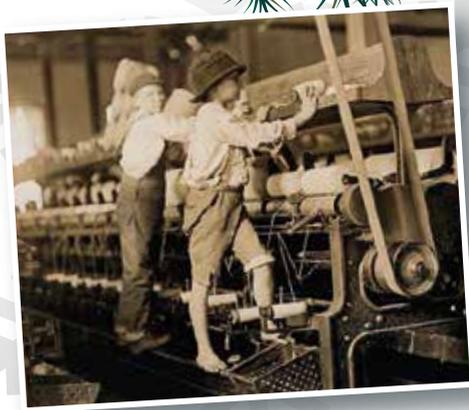
We love seeing your photos of the Square; tag **#friendsofwinckleysquare** on Instagram.

GHOSTS OF CHRISTMAS PAST!

200, 100 and 50
years ago

by Peter G Wilkinson

1819



Museum of Childhood

Winckley Square at this time was still in the development stage. William Cross had married Ellen Chaffers and moved to Red Scar. The Addisons moved into the Cross house, then 7 Winckley Street (now number 11) and from this time became one of the most prominent society families in Preston. This was the year of the Peterloo Massacre but it also marked the passage of the Factories Act by Home Secretary Robert Peel which restricted the working day for under 16s to a mere 12 hours!

At Christmas George III 'blind deaf and mad' was close to death at Windsor Castle. The Regent Prince George was ready to take the throne and the country wondered whether his estranged wife Caroline would become Queen.

1919



Peter's Grandparent's family (Seed).
His mother is on the left.

With George V on the throne and the Great War a recent memory, Winckley Square celebrated Christmas in the usual grand manner. An affluent part of Preston and still mainly residential, the Rigbys, Browns, Catteralls et al would have celebrated Christmas with aplomb! However, not all Preston was able to "Push the Boat Out". The town was still dominated by the textile industry, although it was on the wane.

Like a lot of large working class families, Christmas was two days off work, religious celebrations and a little bit of leisure time. On Christmas morning, my mother, the eldest girl of 10 children, went to visit Shepherd Street Mission. She was given an apple, orange, nuts and sweets in a paper bag. There was no spare money for Christmas presents!

1969



Photo: Michael Goldsworth

By 1969 most of Winckley Square was taken over by educational and commercial users. Apart from caretaking staff, there were few families living on the Square. The beautiful and iconic east side of the square had been recently demolished. The Winckley Club (1967), Dr Shepherd's Library (1967), William Ainsworth's Italianate Villa (1969) along with The Preston Grammar School in Cross Street; all gone. As a recently married young man, I, like many of you, will remember the crib on the Flag Market, together with the coloured lights and the Christmas tree. Meanwhile the country was in the grip of the Hong Kong flu epidemic. Nearly 300 died in the UK in the week before Christmas.

THE GHOST OF RIBBLESDALE PLACE, PRESTON

Where are they gone
who lived in the street where I was born?
After the vans moved out
developers, accountants, insurance brokers
moved in with fresh paint
and prosperous copper name-plates.
No flowers or face at the windows.

The houses are still the same; fronts to the street,
gardened backs sloping to park and river.
But where are the two Miss Horrocks'
wearing lavender on a tidy lawn,
white-haired admiring hollyhocks?
And the jolly Miller sisters, privet-screened,
spilling Jokes across a crochet tablecloth?
And childless Mrs. Riddeall bidding children
to pancake parties?

At the leafy comer, hidden by a hawthorn,
the Sellers lived secluded -
she was tall, wore feathered hats, and died
when Benjamin, their pride, was killed in France.
The ladies of the Place
whispered among the tea cups and were shocked,
but not outraged as by the suffragette,
my aunt, who threatened nearby Winckley Square
with disrepute,
tarring Lord Derby's statue, planting bombs
in a flower-bed, burning the summer home
of a local millionaire.

She who seven times had been in gaol,
force-fed, beaten-up and bruised, had bled
fighting for their rights,
she who was shunned and asked to leave the Square:
Strangeways was her proper place, they said.

But what of our house, solid Number Nine
with my father's name half rubbed away in brass,
where X-rays sparked and crackled, and we two,
the noisy ones, were banished to the garden?
I see my younger sister in the grass
threading a daisy-chain
while I, impatient, spur the horse-on-wheels
down to the cherry tree
inside the high wall topped with jagged glass.
On fretful wet days, pressed to the nursery window
we looked down to the Ribble sliding slow
under the railway bridge, counted the trains
dragooned with sparks and smoking plumes, that roared
black thunder over the arches.

Here I linger, peopling the Place
with all who lived here, all who've made me me -
parents, aunts, and friends, and younger sister.

It's late; the lights flick on; the failing sun
touches the roofs and windows of the lost.
Shadows reach me waiting here alone
Among the living - it's I who am the ghost.

By Phoebe Hesketh (niece of Edith Rigby)



 #friendsofwinckleysquare

 @WinckleySquare

 WinckleySquareGardens

JOIN US FOR TRADITIONAL CAROLS AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE

SUNDAY 1ST DECEMBER
3pm – 6.30pm

Join us for traditional carols
around the Christmas Tree
with St Stephen's Choir and
other performers.

*Enjoy a mince pie, mulled wine,
real ale, hot chocolate, parched
peas, hot dogs and hot soup.*

Friends of
Winckley
Square



To find out more...

www.winckleysquarepreston.org



On Thursday 17th October, a beautiful Autumn day, Rotary Club members and Friends of Winckley Square arrived bright eyed and bushy tailed, to set up for the day's bulb planting event. Rotary members, Friends, staff from local businesses, the general public and five classes of local school children planted 2500 bulbs in the grass; mainly along the East side of the Square.

The aim was to raise awareness of Rotary's Purple4polio. Mayor David Borrow and Lancs TV came to support the campaign to eradicate this debilitating disease.



Steve Harrison

We now look forward to the Spring with anticipation and the appearance of a host of reticulata iris, grape hyacinths, and blanda anemones.



That is the one thing about gardening, there is always something to look forward to and plan for. This year we plant bulbs for a show next Spring, but that is not our goal. As we can expect newly planted bulbs to flower what we are looking for is actually a display of colour the Spring after that, some eighteen months away.

So our Spring success will not be whether this year's bulbs flower, but what happens to those we trialled last year too.

We welcome volunteer gardeners. If you would like to help and get your hands dirty, then please get in touch with t.lewis@preston.gov.uk

We are delighted to announce that once again Winckley Square Gardens has been awarded The Royal Horticultural Society and North West in Bloom Neighbourhood Award – Level 5 – Outstanding.



Congratulations to the staff of the PCC Parks Department, in particular Tony Lewis and the FoWS volunteers who keep the Gardens looking so beautiful all the year round.



Five of the Friends attended the award ceremony in Southport and three accepted the award. Left to right Elaine Whitby, Susan Douglass and Peter Wilkinson. Photo: Dot Wilkinson

Charities the Friends support

For the first time we participated in Preston Arts Festival and charged for some of the events in line with the Festival's pricing structure for talks and walks. St Wilfrid's Church and the Central Methodist Church provided the venues for our talks. We decided to donate some of the proceeds to three charities:

The Lancashire Women's Centre supports emotional well-being through group work, personal development courses and counselling.



FoWS Judy (left) presenting Shauna Vowles with our donation.

Luv Preston runs a Homeless Drop-in at St Wilfrid's Church providing a warm welcome as well as warm food and drink.

Buy a Bicycle Project, Carmelite India Fund – Chris Lloyd of St Wilfrid's Church raises funds to purchase bicycles for Dalit (formerly Untouchable) women in Bangalore to cycle to work in groups to keep them safe.

