

# WINCKLEY SQUARE TIMES

## Friends of Winckley Square

The guided walks and the talk we organised for **International Women's Day** on 8th March were all a great success – all very well attended. We are so pleased that so many people are interested in history and in particular Winckley Square. The photograph above is of our Tour Guide Judy starting the Edith Rigby Trail. Thank you to all our volunteers who helped make these events happen and thank you to St Wilfrid's Church and Lune Street Methodist Church for their support – both are great venues for our talks.

As we are now on the 17th issue of the newsletter we decided to include a quiz. Please email me if you like this idea and we will make it a regular feature.

**Guided Walks** We planned to continue walks throughout the Spring and Summer but we have decided not to start them until the Corona Virus is no longer a threat. If our walks commence before our next Newsletter in June I will post the dates on our website and on our Facebook, Twitter and Instagram pages

**'The Women of Winckley Square' exhibition** at the Harris Museum and Cardinal Newman College in March was a great success. If you missed it, you will be able to see it at the **Avenham Pavilion** once the Corona Virus threat has gone.

**Website Update** Since our last newsletter we have added to the Heritage section of the website **James German**, Liberal, political activist, philanthropist and Mayor of Preston 1850 at the age of 29.

Also added is **Louisa Frances Walsh** the first Headteacher of Preston High School for Girls which opened in 1878 on the corner of Chapel Street and Winckley Square. Louisa was the victim of public vociferous bullying by Rev. Beavan, Headteacher of Preston Grammar School for Boys.

We are very grateful to Jane Hamby and Susan Douglass who researched these two people. If you would like to join our research team, please do contact me. Enjoy browsing! [www.winckleysquarepreston.org](http://www.winckleysquarepreston.org)

*Patricia Harrison*

Chair of Friends of Winckley Square

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## Meet Dot Wilkinson

I have lived in the Preston district all my life. I was born in the Preston Royal Infirmary in May 1948; making me one of the earliest babies born in the NHS. My parents were both from local farming families and, when they met, my mother was working as personal secretary to Dorothy Heaton who was the first, and only, female solicitor in Preston. Her office was 17, Winckley Square and mum thoroughly enjoyed working for such a dynamic and determined woman, so much so, I was named Dorothy after her! I am delighted that Dorothy Heaton is one of the women featured on our FoWS website.

I went to Penwortham Girls Grammar School, leaving the year after the Beatles performed at the Public Hall. I think the Beatles concert is more memorable than my leaving day!

Several of my friends attended the Winckley Square Convent School, and after we all left school we would regularly meet up at the Cedarwood Cafe on Winckley Street to catch up.

This was a hub of youth activity in the 60s and is now the Café Bar.

After marrying Pete and having two sons, I trained and became a yoga teacher and Complementary Therapist before becoming a late starter in higher education; taking a degree in Literature, Philosophy and History at Bolton University. I sat my finals the week of my 40th birthday, making the saying 'life begins at 40' a reality for me! I became a Therapist, Supervisor and Lecturer in Counselling, plus I trained as a Family Mediator in Ribblesdale Place.

Pete was one of the first members of FoWS and leads heritage walks. I became a Friend of Winckley Square and I thoroughly enjoy being involved with a great group of volunteers who run fabulous events and raise the profile of such a fascinating and attractive 'gem' in the centre of the city.



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](mailto:enquiries@winckley.org.uk)

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Friendsofwinckleysquaregardens



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





# Test Your Knowledge of Winckley Square

Photographs courtesy of Preston Digital Archive and Harris Museum, Art Gallery and Library



Lady Frances Shelley



Nicholas Grimshaw



Ellen Cross



The Todd Sisters

If you need help answering the questions, visit our website:  
[www.winckleysquarepreston.org](http://www.winckleysquarepreston.org)

1. Match the quotation to the character from Winckley Square? Who was the father?

*"On his arrival at the fishmonger's he found himself forestalled, in the purchase of the finest turbot, by a Mr. Horrocks, a cotton spinner. This was too much for my father's sense of dignity. He pronounced Preston was no longer a fit place for a gentleman to live in and immediately rented a villa situated about six miles out of Liverpool – then a rising but still small town. The house stood on a beautiful hill overlooking the Mersey".*

2. He served as Guild Mayor twice in the 19th Century. In which years?

3. Person who accused the headmistress of Preston High School for Girls of walking in Avenham Park on Summer evenings with the Schools' Inspector Rev. Steele, talking in an 'earnest and excited manner'. What was the name of the headmistress?

4. Which of these sisters took the kick-off at Deepdale on Good Friday 1918 in the match between Dick, Kerr Ladies and Bolton Ladies? Who were her parents?

5. Widowed with six children under the age of 11. She oversaw the development of Winckley Square for more than 30 years. Which of her sons was Home Secretary twice?

6. A wealthy dentist who was twice exonerated when patients died in his dentist's chair. What was his contribution to Preston that he is most remembered for?

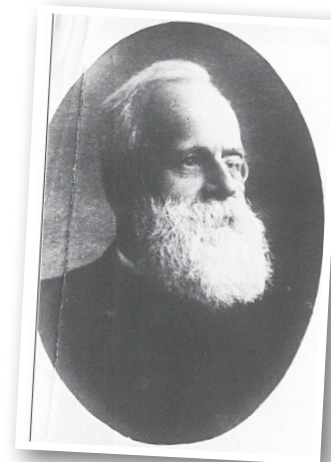
7. This mill owner, barrister and Mayor of Preston erected gates at the South East corner of Winckley Square to stop horse drawn carts passing in front of his property. How much did the Corporation pay him for a 7' 6" piece of his garden on which the statue of Robert Peel stands?



Nathaniel Miller



James German



Rev. Alfred Beaven Beaven





*The original wooden Tram Bridge: Preston Digital Archive*

# HIDDEN HERITAGE by Steve Harrison

The closure of the Tram Bridge across the Ribble has been met with widespread disappointment and dismay. It is part of our heritage as well as providing a superb route for cyclists, walkers, runners and families to enjoy the open air.



*The tram track ran along the bottom of the gardens of the houses on Ribblesdale Place: Harris Museum, Art Gallery and Library*

At the end of 1803 a tramway was completed which linked the Lancaster Canal basin in Preston town centre to the coalfields at Wigan via the canal network at Walton Summit. A double track plateway ran the five miles. Today we know the route as the 'Old Tram Road' and the bridge across the Ribble as the 'Tram Bridge'. The tramway was last used in 1859; its name lives on.

The 6 small or 4 large wagons (maximum load 2 tons) were hauled by two to three horses. A stationary steam engine was located where the Belvedere now stands. It pulled the loaded wagons up the steep south bank of the Ribble.



*Bridge abutment Garden Street: Steve Harrison*

A short distance along Garden Street, west of Winckley Square, you will see a stone wall which was another key part of the tramway. It's the abutment of a bridge which carried the 'Preston and Summit Tramway' over the Syke on its way to the canal basin in the centre of town.

When the wall was built Avenham Syke was an open wide stream. It was culverted in 1812, since when the Syke has been out of sight if not out of mind. It is not out of hearing. Stand by the junction of Mount Street and Garden Street and listen carefully.



*Map extract Rapkin 1852: Lancashire Archives*

The tramway was pivotal in providing coal for the rapidly developing mills of Preston. Without the tramway Preston would not have become the cotton town it grew to be. The route of the tramway is captured in maps and early photographs and its route to the city centre is still clearly identifiable. This wall is a key part of Preston's heritage.





Robert Pateson took photographs around Winckley Square circa 1852. These are held at the Harris Museum, Art Gallery and Library and are also available on Preston Digital Archive. In the 'Gallery' area of our website you will find some of these past images next to images taken by Nick Raponi who stood in the same position as the original photographers. It is interesting to see what has and has not changed over time.



South east corner

To view other images visit  
[www.winckleysquarepreston.org/gallery/now-and-then](http://www.winckleysquarepreston.org/gallery/now-and-then)

## Tony's Update!

**Crocus**

**Primrose**

**Hyacinth**

If you've been down to the Square recently, you may have been surprised! Not so much that Spring has sprung but what also has appeared, or should that be reappeared? Since the beginning of the year we have had a succession of pockets of colour around the Gardens. Some more obvious than others.

The primroses have persisted from the late autumn and have been joined by snowdrops, irises and now daffodils in their turn. In the beds around the Peel Statue we have tried hyacinths. Also, for the more observant, there have been cowslips and cyclamens dotted about. We are still awaiting a show of the bulbs planted with the Rotary Club as part of their Purple4Polio campaign, namely muscari (grape hyacinths) and blanda anemones. Keep your eyes open for them and the first of the Spring flowering shrubs.

**You may remember our first joint planting with Preston Rotary Club in 2017 which saw our resident squirrels systematically dig up all the 5,000 crocus corms planted. Perhaps it wasn't such a comprehensive victory for our furry tailed friends. This spring has seen the reappearance of a scattering of purple and not always where we planted them! So here's to the future.**

**We welcome volunteer gardeners. If you would like to help and get your hands dirty, please get in touch with [t.lewis@preston.gov.uk](mailto:t.lewis@preston.gov.uk)**

Photo: Paul Rushton

- Quiz Answers:**
1. Lady Frances Shelley née Winckley.  
Father - Thomas Winckley
  2. Nicolas Grimsshaw, Guild Mayor  
1802 & 1822.
  3. Rev. Alfred Beaven Beaven.  
Headmistress Louisa Frances Walsh.
  4. Ellen Cross née Chaffers. Son - 1st  
Viscount Richard Assheton Cross.
  5. Judith Todd. Parents James Todd  
and Beatrice Todd née Rickward.
  6. Nathaniel Miller. The Miller Arcade.  
7. James German. The piece of land was  
sold for £21.
- 14/14**  
 excellent come and do some  
 research for us!
- 10/14**  
 quite good come and do some research  
 for us to improve your knowledge!
- 5/14**  
 could do better if you did some  
 research for us!
- 0/14**  
 YOU DEFINITELY NEED TO DO SOME  
 RESEARCH TO HELP YOU REMEMBER.