

# TWINCKLEY SQUARE TIMES

Stephen Riley: Preston Photographic Society

## Friends of Winckley Square

The beautiful photograph of Winckley Square at Christmas was taken by Stephen Riley who sadly passed away earlier this year. He was a brilliant FoWS and he is greatly missed

As we have exceeded 50,000 deaths in the UK from Covid 19 alone I believe most families will be glad to see an end to 2020 and hope we will soon have better news about what 2021 might bring.

Whilst all our events were cancelled from March, many of the FoWS have continued to be busy giving talks on Zoom instead of in person. We are offering a number of different talks which are proving to be very popular.

Naturally we are sad that our Christmas Concert can't go ahead as planned on 6th December but, not to be beaten, FoWS have produced a **Virtual Christmas Offering: A Winckley Christmas Cracker**. The filming started in October and in order to do a festive introduction a Christmas tree was erected in our house. I'm pretty sure neighbours think we have gone mad! We really hope you enjoy it.

So instead of a glass of mulled wine and mince pie in the Gardens at our concert why not watch this instead of the Wizard of Oz at Christmas? You can read about it on page 2.

Thank you for all your kind comments about the work we do. We wish you all a very **Merry Christmas and Happy New Year** and hope we will be seeing you in 2021.

*Patricia Harrison*

*Chair of Friends of Winckley Square*

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## Meet Julie Cornwell

I'm from Preston and grew up in Deepdale, Ribblesdale & Fulwood. When I left school I wanted to do something different before looking for a career, so a great pal of mine and I decided to apply to be au pairs in Germany. Off we went without a word of German! It was a great experience. We grew up quickly, we saw Europe and my friend found the love of her life (British soldier serving in Germany). I had to wait until I got back to Preston but I'm glad I did. I've been married to Gary for 36 years and we have two sons. One working in London and the other in Saudi. We lived most of our married life in Ashton and then Fulwood and recently moved to Walton-le-Dale.



I've worked in the NHS for over 36 years. Like lots of organisations you have to get used to change. Often you can predict what might be round the corner but Covid defied any possible anticipation. I lead a team of 65 staff and we've always been together in shared spaces. Covid put a stop to that. Some of the team feel positive about Working from Home but I really can't wait for us all to be back under one roof. Roll on that vaccine!

Gary and I joined the Friends of Winckley Square soon after it was formed. We're glad we did. We love the Preston area and it's great to be involved in something that brings people together to have a good time.

Last Christmas at our Carol Concert we had John Gillmore from Radio Lancashire hosting the event. John had to leave early to host another one- so I took over as MC. I can now add to my CV 'Understudy to Gilly'. It gave me a taste for showbiz. However, as this year's concert is off because of Covid I'm going to have to wait to give it a second go- but I'll be back in 2021!

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)

Friends of  
Winckley  
Square

@WinckleySquare

Friendsofwinckleysquaregardens

We love seeing your photos of the Square; tag [#friendsofwinckleysquare](https://www.instagram.com/friendsofwinckleysquare) on Instagram.



# A WINCKLEY CHRISTMAS CRACKER!

*The Alternative Christmas Concert  
from the Friends of  
Winckley Square*

Our virtual Christmas concert, 'A WINCKLEY CHRISTMAS CRACKER', will go live on 6th December on YouTube. We will link to it on our social media pages and I will send a link to everyone on my mailing list.

## *Christmas Carols*

Ian Williams of FoWS leads the Midge Hall Singers with help from Preston Methodist Voices in a Zoom performance.



## *Our Scottish Bagpiper*

It wouldn't be a Winckley Square Christmas without Kenny to greet the festive season.



## *The Ghosts of Christmas Past in Winckley Square*

share their stories of their Christmases - happy and gruesome. Roles are played by FoWS who will soon need their Equity Actors' Cards.

## *Star of the Show*

It's really a secret but Santa had to visit the Gardens early this year as he needed help with new technology.



## **Disclaimer**

No false beards or moustaches were used in this performance.

*The production was written and performed by the FoWS and produced by STUDIO RTR, a Creative Video Production and Independent Television Company based in the North West.*

*FoWS would like to thank  
Preston City Centre BID  
and WSCIC for their  
support and encouragement  
in all that we do.*



# CHRISTMAS PRESENT

I saw the Ghost-of-Christmas Past  
Glide by our lighted tree.  
Her arms were filled with dolls and toys,  
And all were meant for me.  
I sensed the rustle of her skirts.  
Her blouse was trimmed with lace,  
And when she turned to smile at me  
She wore my mother's face.

Just as this vision slipped from sight  
I heard my daughter call.  
Wild footsteps clattered on the stair;  
Shrill giggles filled the hall.  
She burst into the gift- filled room  
And squealed in glad surprise  
And all the Christmases-to-come  
Were mirrored in her eyes.

How swiftly fly the rainbow years,  
Like splintered shafts of light,  
As fragile as the gentle ghosts  
Who whisper in the night.  
I draw my child into my arms  
And hold this moment fast  
Against the time my face will be  
Her Ghost-of-Christmas Past.

By Lois Duncan

(from 'All Christmas' for poems and much more)

We are delighted to announce that once again The RHS and North West in Bloom have recognised the work we do, especially during these very difficult times.

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



*Date for your diary*

**PRESTON**  
**jazz**  
&  
**IMPROVISATION**  
**FESTIVAL**

As yet we are unable to have any definite plans for events in the Gardens, but we have a provisional date to be part of Preston Jazz & Improvisation Festival in 2021. The date for **Jazz in Winckley Square is Saturday 5th June 2021**. Every year the festival is a huge success and last year Winckley Square was used for the first time as a venue. It proved to be a great venue for acoustics, for enjoying the music and to eat and drink outdoors on a lovely summer's day. We are hoping to make this an annual event.



# Welcome to Preston's Wonderful Winckley Square

Website  
Update!

## Publications of Interest

Because of Winckley Square's place in the social, political and educational history of Preston there is a steady stream of publications which explore aspects of Preston's past in which Winckley Square features prominently.

*'A Portrait of Winckley Square'* was published in 2018 and rapidly sold out. It contains a series of essays on the Square from leading local historians.

More recently two shorter works have been published that might be of interest.

In 2019 Richard Ainscough's *'The Winckley Club'* appeared. It was written to mark the 175th Anniversary of the club which is still in existence. It charts the founding of a society of Preston's leading lights with the aim of building a 'News room and Billiard Room' on a plot of land on the east side of the Square. Richard tells the story of both the society and of the building that it first occupied. It's a fascinating tale which gives insights into the social lives of the wealthy and influential; including the poor reputation of officers from Fulwood Barracks who would disappear on a new posting without settling their bills. Also listed are the stocks of alcohol the club held, including one entry for 29 gallons of Glenlivet whisky. Abstemious the members were not! You can read this at Lancashire Archives.

Earlier this year David (aka Charlie) Billington's monograph *'A Very Preston Affair: the tale of a School and a Square .... and of some that were there'* was published. Charlie was Secretary to the Preston Grammar School Old Boys Association and when the Association took the decision to close (more than 50 years after the closure of the school) he drew on his research of the history of the school. His particular focus is the period from the school's time near Stonegate and its move to Cross Street and later Winckley Square, when the Literacy & Philosophical Society building on the Square was added to the school by the Corporation. Images of the architecture of the school will surprise many who don't know this history. Stories of some of the characters involved with the school shed light on Preston society in the 19th and 20th Centuries.

All proceeds from the book go to St Catherine's Hospice. Copies are available from the author who can be contacted on **07950 142907** or [captainvolvo@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:captainvolvo@blueyonder.co.uk) Cost £7.50 + £2.50 postage.



## Thomas Duckett

A recent addition to our website is the Thomas Duckett story. He became nationally renowned as a portrait sculptor and was probably best known in Preston for his statue of Robert Peel which stands on the east side of Winckley Square; welcoming people who approach from Cross Street. In his lifetime Thomas Duckett achieved great success but also experienced great sadness and the loss of those near to him.