

WINCKLEY SQUARE TIMES

Friends of Winckley Square

This is our first newsletter of 2022 and we are planning a year of exciting events in the Gardens. Our Christmas Concert was 'back to normal' and was a huge success. Thank you for all your support especially all the businesses and individuals who donated fantastic raffle prizes. Thanks to our great entertainers – St Stephen's Choir – Christmas carols resounded around the Square for the first time in two years. The Inbetweeners – one of our favourite groups entertained us with well-known songs and **SPARK!** wowed us all with their choreography, drumming and light show.

We are delighted to be offering **Guided Walks and Talks** starting in March, which is **Women's History Month**, so our emphasis is on the Women of Winckley Square. We are offering new walks as well as the old favourites.

In the last issue, of the newsletter Keith Johnson wrote a very moving article 'Christmas Day in the Workhouse' which intertwined the George Sims poem with events over the years in local workhouses at Christmas.

In this issue Steve Harrison outlines the dispute that raged in and around Preston as to how Poor Relief should operate. Key personalities included Thomas Batty Addison of 23, Winckley Square and Joseph Livesey who was born in Walton-le- Dale but, after marriage, lived on Church Street and later at 13, Bank Parade, just around the corner from the Square.

If you are interested in reading the historical articles in previous newsletters you can find them on our website

www.winckleysquarepreston.org/newsletters

Patricia Harrison

Chair of Friends of Winckley Square

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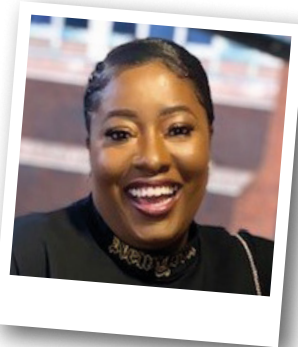
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Meet Josephine Adeoba

I was born in Nigeria and moved to the UK (Manchester) when I was 8 years old. I lived, was schooled, and worked in Manchester. I felt Mancunian. I say 'felt', because my partner, Michael, and I moved to Preston just over a year ago. We've both loved every minute of it, and now feel very much Prestonian. We intend to establish roots in Preston.

I studied health and social care, as I have a passion for caring for others and get a great deal of satisfaction, from people doing better with my Intervention. I am an aspiring entrepreneur with a vision to have my own care business in the near future. A fun fact -: *I was in a church choir before moving to Preston, so I'm quite capable of melting hearts with my voice (some may disagree).*

We were introduced to FoWS by our lovely neighbours, Mark and Lorraine. Michael and I volunteered for our first event with FoWS last September – The Heritage Weekend, when we ran 10 guided walks, a talk and an exhibition- all in one day. We were impressed with the sense of community, togetherness and overall camaraderie of the Friends group. Our next volunteering event was the Christmas Concert, which was unbelievable, hundreds of people came. It was really hard work, but worth it because visitors are really appreciative of what the FoWS do. We decided to immerse ourselves into every aspect of what it means to be Prestonian, and to participate in everything to do with FoWS. Including bringing ideas to the table, to encourage people to support the cause. I feel honoured to be part of this community.



Interested in volunteering? Or being placed on our mailing list to receive newsletters and details of events Please email enquiries@winckley.org.uk

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

THE NEW POOR LAW IN PRESTON

by Steve Harrison

A new Poor Law Act was passed in 1834. It was intended to replace the long-standing system of poor relief based on local parishes. It required local relief schemes to be replaced with the construction of large central urban workhouses where the poor would be accommodated. It was known as 'Indoor Relief' as poverty would be alleviated by the recipient being inside a workhouse.

The existing parishes were combined into Poor Law Unions, and these were required to erect workhouses to serve the needs of the area covered by the Union. Outdoor relief (topping up someone's income while they remained living in the local area) was to be phased out and replaced with Indoor relief (placement in the workhouse). From the start it was clear that the new workhouse was to be an institution where the conditions should be lower than a lowest class labourer could enjoy from his earnings.

The Act was resisted in the industrial north where unemployment and associated poverty were often cyclical and linked to falls in factory demand due to factors such as conflicts, over which local people (both owners and workers) had no control. Many, such as the American Civil War, far from Britain. The preferred response to such temporary poverty was a mixture of a cut in working hours in the mill with incomes topped up by 'Outdoor Relief', thus enabling the recipients to continue to live as families in their own homes.

30 Year Heated Debate

Those who pressed for the new Poor Law to be implemented included some who argued that the current system simply enabled poor people to breed without working for a living and therefore added more poor, unproductive mouths to be fed at the expense of the ratepayer.

Thomas Batty Addison was the Recorder of Preston and a county magistrate who was a zealot in supporting the new Act across Lancashire. He saw the poor as architects of their own circumstances. Winifred Proctor quoted his views:



Thomas Batty Addison 1788- 1874:
Preston Crown Court

“

Many paupers were the slaves of debased habits, clothed in rags, covered in filth, and without funds to provide for the purposes of cleanliness. Their children were uneducated and were thus brought up ignorant of the duties which they owed to God and man ... He rejoiced to know that many places of worship were numerously attended, but he was painfully convinced that the congregations did not include many of the outdoor poor. On the contrary he too well knew that their filthy habits rather drove them to beer shops and gin shops.

”

Winifred Proctor: 'POOR LAW ADMINISTRATION IN PRESTON UNION, 1838-1848'

This article is well worth reading.
It includes a full list of the 28 townships
that would be included in the Preston Union.



Joseph Livesey: UCLAN Collection

Joseph Livesey was a social reformer, best known for his leadership of the temperance movement. He had made his money selling cheese and later developed other business interests including publishing.

One of the provisions of the new Poor Law that most outraged Livesey was the separation of family members on entry to the workhouse. His letter to the Preston Chronicle 4th March 1837 attacked the practice:

'every able bodied man who is sent to the workhouse, will have to be separated from his wife- and, the parents from their children...., the poor whom God hath joined, will, and shall, remain together.'

Livesey went on to describe the potential scene of:

'The men imprisoned on Preston Moor, their wives at Ribchester workhouse and their little darlings at Longton.'

In the Preston Union it seems every effort was made to keep families together. Outdoor relief was given to over 1,000 families in 1848 while only two nuclear families were placed in the workhouse.

The fight was bitter. The rhetoric unrelenting.

The Guardians of the new Preston Union proved unwilling to follow the demands of The Poor Law Commissioners, a body established to administer poor relief after the passing of the Poor Law Amendment Act 1834. The Commissioners pressed the Guardians to construct a large central workhouse but instead the Preston Union Guardians retained and adapted some of the smaller workhouses that existed prior to 1834.

The case against Indoor Relief was acknowledged by the Commissioners to have some merit. They accepted that depressions occurring in single industry locations, such as Lancashire, affected large numbers of people for whom there was simply no alternative work. From 1844, the Commissioners had the power to introduce Prohibitory Orders, which could be issued to assert that the able-bodied should not receive outdoor relief, but the Commission didn't use that power in the main manufacturing areas of Lancashire (apart from Ormskirk).

This local resistance, led by Joseph Livesey, delayed the erection of the large Preston Union Workhouse on Watling Street Road for 30 years.

It seems that the arguments for and against Indoor and Outdoor Relief did not move on much in that time. In 1864, the journalist Antony Hewitson, in a letter to the Preston Chronicle, seems to be echoing the views of Addison 30 years earlier when he wrote:

'One large workhouse would have a more deterrent effect than the honeysuckle fronted places we now have..... We do not wish to make workhouses like prisons, or chambers for the reception of disciplinarian horrors. But it is absolutely necessary that they should not be particularly pleasant places.'

Ultimately, the arguments against the new centralised workhouse failed. A new building was erected between 1865 and 1868 with a capacity of 1,500. It stands to this day.



The Poor Law Board had for many years endeavoured to induce the Guardians of the Preston Union to build a new workhouse, which the Guardians always resisted on the ground that they had good and sufficient workhouses. Hansard June 12, 1857





Walks & Talks March 2022

Guided Walks start in the centre of the Gardens

Talks/performance take place at Central Methodist Church, Lune Street

Women's History Month takes place in March. It is a celebration of women's contributions to history, culture and society. In the 21st century having a month dedicated to women's history might seem unnecessary, in reality it is often still a battle to get this aspect of the historical discussion acknowledged. Key women's stories along with the stories of ordinary women are often overlooked in favour of the grand sweep of history or the male experience of an event.

This year's theme **"Providing Healing, Promoting Hope,"** is both a tribute to the ceaseless work of caregivers and frontline workers during this ongoing pandemic and also a recognition of the thousands of ways that women of all cultures have provided both healing and hope throughout history.

It seems appropriate therefore that many of our walks and talks in March celebrate the lives of the many women of Winckley Square who fought for the rights women have today e.g. the right to a university education, to vote, to work, join the armed forces ... the list goes on.

Talk: Scandalous Stories from Winckley Square <i>Speaker: Steve Harrison</i> <i>This is a Preston Historical Society event.</i>	7th March 7pm for 7.15pm - 8.30pm
Talk: Pioneer Women of Winckley Square <i>Speaker: Susan Douglass</i>	9th March 7pm for 7.15pm - 8.30pm
Guided Walk: Women's Rights not Plights <i>Tour Guide: Susan Douglass</i>	15th March 2pm - 3.15pm
Guided Walk: Former Residents of Winckley Square <i>Tour Guide: Peter Wilkinson</i>	16th March 2pm - 3.15pm
Guided Walk: Extraordinary Women of Winckley Square <i>Tour Guide: Patricia Harrison</i>	20th March 2pm - 3.15pm
Guided Walk: Edith Rigby Trail <i>Tour Guide: Judy Beeston</i>	26th March 10am - 12 noon
Guided Walk: Former Residents of Winckley Square <i>Tour Guide: Steve Harrison</i>	30th March 2pm - 3.15pm

£4
per person

You can just turn up but to be assured a place please book on Eventbrite www.eventbrite.co.uk
Problem booking? Contact patricia@winckley.org.uk

A Big Thank You

2020/21 have been difficult for most of us. Although we have run very few events in the Gardens the FoWS have been 'working behind the scenes' researching new walks and talks, writing and performing for our video and since July 2021 giving guided walks for, pre-booked groups.

Thanks to businesses and individuals who supported us in 2021 by donating funds and giving raffle prizes:

- Anne Desforges
- Barristers Chambers: 15 Winckley Square
- Farleys Solicitors
- Freshfield
- Glenn Cookson
- Hedley & Co Stockbrokers
- Keith Johnson: Local Historian
- Lorraine And Mark Palmer
- Michael Bailey Estate Agent
- Preston BID
- Roberts & Stone Architects
- Vincents Solicitors
- Winckley Square Hotel
- WSCIC

Ross Taylor, Operations Director Walker&Williams – First Class Aparthotels with Ross Cullen of FoWS receiving a donation of a night's stay at the Winckley Square Hotel and a meal for two at 263 Restaurant. The donation was auctioned and the winner was Tarquin Scott of Overleigh House, East Cliff. His very generous bid was made in the name of his parents, N Keith Scott CBE and his wife Dorothy who passed away in 2015 and 2013 respectively.

Keith and Dorothy met at the Art School in the late 1940s and married in 1951. After a couple of years at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston they returned to Preston in 1955 taking up residence at 24 Ribblesdale Place. As their family grew they moved to Overleigh House in 1964 which remains in the family to this day.

Tarquin believes that the improvements to the Square's landscaping, ongoing maintenance by Tony, FoWS heritage tours and events would have been much appreciated by his parents.



Dorothy and Keith, 2007, in San Francisco taken by their Goddaughter, Mel Bebbington (née Ratcliff) who lived for many years at 4 Ribblesdale Place.

