

WINCKLEY SQUARE TIMES

Friends of Winckley Square

On page 4 you will find our walks and talks for the spring and summer. Some of the guided walks go beyond the Square. You can see Steve, one of our tour guides, in the photo above in front of the obelisk with a group of UCLan Postgrad students in 2022.

The world comes together for **Women's History Month** in March each year to celebrate women's achievements and reinforce a commitment to women's equality. We are delighted that on March 8, **International Women's Day**, Mayor Neil Darby will be unveiling a blue plaque to commemorate the life of Beatrice Todd who established the Sailors and Soldiers Free Buffet on the railway station. It served over 3 million guests between 1915-1919.

We organise lots of guided walks and talks throughout the year but **on one day only** Elaine Taylor leads **'The Regency Promenade'** which ends with afternoon tea in the beautiful gardens of Overleigh House. This walk takes place twice on 11th June. Elaine is a leading garden historian. In this edition she has written a fascinating article about **'Avenham Walk'**. You can find more of Elaine's writings in the 'Gardens' section of our website.

On 6 March I will be giving a talk for Preston Historical Society **'Three Winckley Square Women who shaped Preston'**.

All the details of our exciting programme of walks, talks and performances are on page 4. You can find all our events and book a place on [Eventbrite](#) or contact me if you have difficulty booking.

We look forward to seeing you at one of our events this year.

Patricia Harrison

Chair of Friends of Winckley Square

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Issue 27 | March/April 2023

Meet Elaine Taylor

Plants and flowers have always enriched my life, from the early days when I used to gather wildflowers in the summer holidays and press them in blotting paper. Once my own children started school, I learned the art of flower arranging and went on to discover the exciting world of competition in shows.

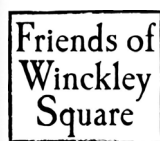


Membership of the Hardy Plant Society has brought more opportunities to play with plant colours and textures, and to make many friends along the way. The summit of enjoyment was forming part of the team which built an exhibit at the Chelsea Flower Show in 2008 when the group won a Silver Gilt medal.

A chance encounter with a leaflet advertising a garden history course led me into a whole new world of beautiful and dramatic gardens – playing with colours and textures on a grand scale. Monday nights were my weekly highlight for 5 years. Visiting historic gardens has become an absorbing pastime, and again brings new friendships. I am able to pass on my enthusiasm when garden owners/managers seek advice on a restoration project, some having been financed by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Membership of Lancashire Gardens Trust keeps me at the heart of this fascinating applied art. Lancashire has a treasure trove of designed landscapes – they deserve to be better known.

I like to keep up-to-date by giving talks to garden and history groups, and conducting walks in parks and gardens. The Friends of Winckley Square **'Regency Promenade walk'** I lead each year is a joy, especially having access to private gardens which are normally closed to the public.



Interested in volunteering?

Contact patricia@winckley.org.uk

 @WinckleySquare

 [Friendsofwinckleysquaregardens](https://www.facebook.com/Friendsofwinckleysquaregardens)



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

AVENHAM WALK

by Elaine Taylor



Tony Worrall

“ At Preston a really enjoyable perambulation ... can be made. It is to explore the streets around Winckley Square. Preston is lucky to have a square, not only so large, but also on such attractively undulating terrain. To have this quarter so near the centre is the rarest of advantages. ”

Sir Nikolaus Pevsner,

The Buildings of England: North Lancashire, Penguin 1969

Lancashire has a strong Georgian heritage: this period saw the developing ports in Lancaster, Liverpool and Preston; the canals which connected them to the coal mines; the growing spinning and weaving industries. The 18th century also saw the creation of Lancashire's many beautiful parks in the new English Landscape style, built by ambitious owners who were keen to surround their stately home with a landscape in the latest fashion. Croxteth (Liverpool), Astley (Chorley), Towneley (Burnley) and Lathom (Ormskirk) are just a few of the attractive parks which ornament our county and which survive. But some retain earlier features, which the owner may have wished to save from the axe when their older, unfashionable garden was destroyed.



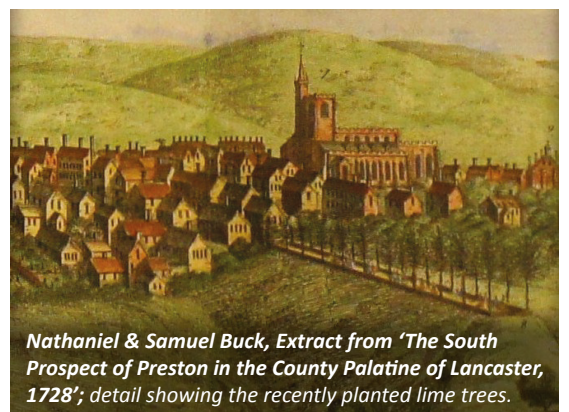
Towneley Park has retained its straight avenue: Wordpress

Avenham Walk – Its Origins

The long avenue of trees was a favourite feature; in Stuart England it brought the owner and visitor straight to the front door often via the carriage courtyard, and was a wonderful, grand approach. The most frequently planted species were lime, elm, oak, beech and sycamore, all but the last being native trees in Britain. Avenham Walk is an avenue of lime trees which dates back to at least 1696, in the reign of William III (right).



National Trust Images



Nathaniel & Samuel Buck, Extract from 'The South Prospect of Preston in the County Palatine of Lancaster, 1728'; detail showing the recently planted lime trees.

In the archives of Preston Corporation, now the City Council, a document records that in 1696 the municipal authorities entered into negotiations with Alderman Lemon (an ancestor of Thomas Winckley) for the purchase of land to form a promenade. In the following year a Deed of Conveyance was signed with this description:

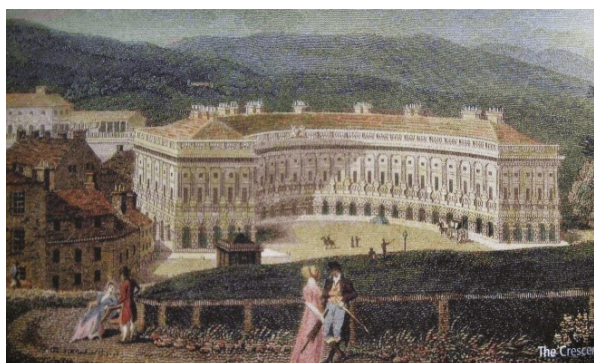
All that little close or parcel of land lying and being in or upon Aenam alias Avenham, commonly called or known by the name of Aenam Walk ... containing by estimation about half-an-acre of land.

A. Hewitson, *A History of Preston*, 1883

The sum of £15 was paid. In 1697 it was planted with lime trees and a gravelled walk was formed with seats for the use of the inhabitants, who started their promenade in Fishergate; they then crossed Syke Fields to reach Avenham Walk. Repairs were noted in 1707 and again in 1736; records noted that

The ladies, who took great advantage of the walk, subscribed £10 towards repairing it, and this sum was supplemented by £10, voted by the Corporation.

It was clearly a much appreciated place, for in Georgian society the promenade was a place to see and be seen. This custom was widespread in London and was spreading into the provincial towns and spas such as Bath, Cheltenham and Buxton.



The Crescent, Buxton, 1798;
a promenade on The Slopes above the spa town.

Extending the Walk

Avenham Walk was extended several times. Originally 150 yards long and 16 yards wide (137 m x 14.5 m) it was widened on its east side on land belonging to Dr. Bushell, then in 1844 on its west side where a retaining wall was built in front of The Colonnade. A year later it was lengthened with 2 lower terraces in the direction of Frenchwood and the river valley. It was noted in 1882 that the lime trees, estimated at over 190 years old, were in need of attention as several of them showed signs of dilapidation and decay. However the writer affirmed that few towns possessed such a beautiful prospect. William Pollard, *A Handbook and Guide to Preston*, 1882.



Bushell Place, Colonnade, & Avenham Walks, Preston

A Promising Opportunity

The popularity of this promenade is easy to understand. It is situated on a ridge, and this leads to the stunning prospect over the valley of the Ribble, a great amphitheatre of turf dipping down to the river. Indeed, in fine weather the promenade was continued along the river bank, as shown in the painting by Jenkinson. It is no coincidence that the land between Fishergate and Avenham Walk was seen by William Cross and his colleagues as a promising opportunity, a place for Preston's society and their elegant houses.



D. Jenkinson, Preston from Penwortham, 1822

Spring & Summer Events

We are delighted to be offering **Guided Walks and Talks** starting in March, which is Women's History Month. We have two walks in April as part of **Preston Arts Festival** which is 15 – 30 April.

Many of you came to Steve's talk last year on **Scandalous stories**. It was so popular we repeated it. On May 22 he will talk about **MORE Scandalous Stories from Winckley Square**.

As you can see opposite, June will be our busiest month with a repeat of the trilogy of Susan's talks '**A House Through Time**', but this time in the evenings as requested by those who can't make afternoon events. The walk **Regency Promenade** is being run twice on 11 June. Be sure to book early as both sold out very quickly last year.

As part of the **Preston Jazz and Improvisation Festival** 1–10 June we are delighted Winckley Square will once again be alive with the sound of Jazz on 3rd and 10th. Last year it was a huge success.

Guided Walks start in the centre of the Gardens unless stated otherwise.

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

Book in advance
£4
plus Eventbrite fee

On the day
£5
unless stated otherwise

Walks and Talks Prices

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

6 March

7.15pm - 8.30pm

Talk Pat Harrison

Three Winckley Square Women who shaped Preston

Part of the Preston Historical Society annual programme. It will focus on the lives of Ellen Cross, Cornelia Connelly and Beatrice Todd.

8 March

2.30pm - 3.30pm

Guided Walk Susan Douglass & Pat Harrison

Women who made a difference: Slavery, Suffrage, Poverty

On International Women's Day we will celebrate the lives of women in the past who campaigned for equality. All are women associated with the Winckley Square Quarter.

19 March

2pm - 3.15pm

Guided Walk Steve Harrison

Former Residents of Winckley Square - famous and infamous

Starting with the vision for the Square and the first house in 1799 we will encounter real people who made history.

22 March

2pm - 3.30pm

Performance by Judy Beeston

An Afternoon with Edith Rigby

Come and meet Edith Rigby, a formidable woman, fiercely committed to her principles, who dedicated her life to fighting for women's rights.

Venue: Central Methodist Church, Lune Street

16 April

2pm - 3.30pm

Guided Walk Steve Harrison

Preston the Jerusalem of Temperance

2022 was the 190th anniversary of the 'seven men of Preston' signing the first total abstinence pledge, initiating the influential Temperance movement.

Meet at 2pm in front of the Blue Bell Pub in Church Street.

19 April

10am - 12 noon

Guided Walk Judy Beeston

Edith Rigby Tour

Take a step back in time in the footsteps Preston's most famous suffragette. There is an opportunity to stop for refreshments during the Guided Walk.

21 May

2pm - 3.15pm

Guided Walk Pat Harrison

Extraordinary Women of Winckley Square

Learn about the lives of some of the Extraordinary Women associated with Winckley Square who broke boundaries.

22 May

7pm - 8.30pm

Talk Steve Harrison

MORE Scandalous Stories from Winckley Square

If you think TV is full of sex, violence, poverty, intrigue and double dealing why not come to the talk and hear even more in the company of others who share a love for our local heritage?

3 June

2pm - 4pm

Performance

Jazz Ensemble - Part of Preston Jazz & Improvisation Festival Chill, bring a picnic, enjoy the music, drink real ale or a chilled wine from the Friends of Winckley Square pop-up bar.

6 June

7pm - 8.30pm

Talk 1 of 3
Susan Douglass

A House Through Time: 5 Winckley Square, TALK 1 of 3 talks

Due to popular demand this trilogy of talks is being repeated in the evening. Inspired by the BBC series, Susan tells the story of 5 Winckley Square from when it was built by Thomas Miller to the present day.

10 June

12 noon - 7pm

Performance

Jazzin' the Park - Part of Preston Jazz & Improvisation Festival

A full day's Jazz is back in Winckley Square after being hugely successful last year.

11 June

12.30pm - 2.15pm & 3pm - 4.45pm

Guided Walk
Elaine Taylor • £8

A Regency Promenade & afternoon tea in the garden of Overleigh House (afternoon tea included in price)

Walk in the footsteps of former residents who would promenade through Winckley Square, along Avenham Walk and into Avenham Park.

20 June

7pm - 8.30pm

Talk 2 of 3
Susan Douglass

A House Through Time: 5 Winckley Square, TALK 2 of 3 talks

A golden nugget of information in a 150 year old newspaper article, a chance discovery of an unknown document in Lancashire Archives; one sentence in an obscure e-book; a family photograph album. These sources helped reveal the stories of long-dead occupants.

Not necessary for you to have seen Part 1 to enjoy part 2.

18 July

7pm - 8.30pm

Talk 3 of 3
Susan Douglass

A House Through Time: 5 Winckley Square, TALK 3 of 3 talks

The final talk on the 'Miller Mansion' brings our story to an end. If walls had ears, they would tell interesting stories of what 'Winckles' got up to in the house that remained largely unaltered. **Not necessary for you to have seen Parts 1 & 2 to enjoy part 3.**

