

WINCKLEY SQUARE TIMES

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Friends of Winckley Square

We have lots of exciting events planned this summer (see page 4). All we need is good weather and YOU!

The events we ran in March especially on **International Women's Day**, were a great success. We are particularly proud that there is now a blue plaque dedicated to Beatrice Todd. Thank you to Mayor Neil Darby who unveiled the plaque which now sits proudly outside Service Care Solutions on Starkie Street. Richard Freye, Chris Musgrove and Paul Bradley welcomed guests and others watching the ceremony inside Service Care Solutions to view the FoWS **Extraordinary Women of Winckley Square Exhibition** and refreshments. It was a very enjoyable afternoon.

Beatrice was responsible for establishing the Sailors and Soldiers Buffet on Preston Railway Station which welcomed over 3.25 million guests between 1915- 1919. She had a major impact on the lives of people in Preston, Leyland and those who passed through Preston to and from naval warfare and the battlefields of World War 1. She concerned herself particularly with women and children's social, educational and welfare issues. She was the leader of the committee to establish the Preston Infant Welfare Voluntary Women's Association two years before Corporations were required to establish such Associations by the Government.

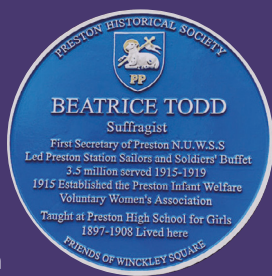
We look forward to seeing you at one of our events this year.

Patricia Harrison

Chair of Friends of Winckley Square

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Meet Keith Johnson

Having spent over thirty years studying local history my attention is often drawn to Winckley Square. It's a place where fascinating folk have dwelt, some of whom have had great influence in the development of Preston.

No doubt we have to thank attorney William Cross, who on returning from his legal studies in London was inspired by the magnificent parks and squares therein. After viewing the 'Town End Field' at the rear of St. Wilfrid's Church and approaching the guardians of Frances Winckley he purchased it in 1796 and built the first house on the corner of Winckley Street in 1799.

It became a place where dwellers such as architects, physicians and surgeons, lawyers and barristers, parsons and preachers, politicians and councillors, suffragettes and soldiers, masters and mill owners would all prosper.

Consequently, names such Thomas Batty Addison, John Addison, Samuel Leach, Thomas Miller, Richard Newsham, Rev. Roger Carus Wilson, Rev. John Clay, Sir Robert Charles Brown, Edith Rigby and Nicholas Grimshaw would be writ large in Preston's history.

It also became a place of great institutions such as the Winckley Club, the Literary & Philosophical Society, the Catholic College and the Convent of the Holy Child Jesus, all of which left their mark.

In producing my latest book 'Preston Reflections', I visited Winckley Square once more to stand where photographers of old stood to capture images from the same location as they did in the past. We are without doubt fortunate that the 'Friends of Winckley Square' continue to safeguard the landscape of the Square and ensure its fascinating history is constantly remembered and cherished. It's a pleasure to support the 'FoWS' and help unearth some snippets of local history.



Friends of
Winckley
Square



Interested in
volunteering?

Contact patricia@winckley.org.uk

@WinckleySquare

Friendsofwinckleysquaregardens

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

RICHARD NEWSHAM 1798-1883

MODEST GENTLEMAN AND MAJOR BENEFACTOR

by Vicki Dixon



Richard Newsham Donor of Fine Art Collection to the Corporation of Preston
Harris Museum and Art Gallery

Most people with an interest in the history of Preston have heard of Thomas Miller Junior and many are aware he was a collector of fine art. Less well known is his contemporary and fellow art collector Richard Newsham. Both lived on Winckley Square but left quite different legacies for the people of Preston. Here Vicki Dixon (née Newsham), Richard Newsham's 1st cousin 5 times removed, shares part of Richard's story. A fuller version will appear on the FoWS website later in the year.

Family Background

Richard's maternal grandfather, Peter Hopwood, was a gold and silversmith based in, what was then, the Bull Hotel between the Bull Yard and Bolton's Court. Richard's father, Richard Snr, was an early investor in Horrockses cotton manufacturing business (founded 1791). He later became a partner in the firm 'Pedders, Newsham, Lomax and Denison', the then well-known "Old Bank" of Preston. He was an alderman and four times mayor of Preston.

Richard Newsham Jnr. was the younger son of Richard Snr and Margaret. He was born on 16 May 1798 in Fishergate, Preston (the site of the house was later the Gas company showrooms and is now the entrance to St George's shopping centre).



Preston Gas Company offices on Fishergate replaced the house Richard Newsham was born in.

He was baptised 27 June 1798 at St John's Parish Church (now The Minster). After Preston Grammar School and later Manchester Grammar School he entered the office of Messrs. Rawstorne and Wilson, solicitors, of Preston, with whom he later became a partner. Richard developed a serious interest in art in his early twenties, often visiting the Royal Academy in London.

Richard married Agnes Bowes on 25 August 1829 at St Mary's Church, Lancaster. Agnes was an heiress from Goosnargh. Richard retired from his profession as a lawyer and from 1842 was an active Magistrate and subsequently Deputy-Lieutenant of the county.

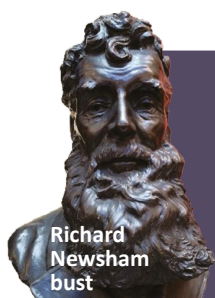
The censuses tell us that Richard and Agnes were living in 1 Winckley Square 1851 and he was a landed proprietor and fundholder with two domestic servants, Alice Bateman and Ann Hornewell. By 1861, Richard was a Magistrate and Deputy Lieutenant for the county, still employing Ann and Alice but also Margaret Bateman, waiting maid. By 1881, Richard was widowed, still employing Alice and Margaret, who by then were 59 and 42 years of age. It was uncommon for servants to stay with the same employer for so many years.

Already wealthy in his own right, in 1843 he inherited £50,000 from his father (£5 million+ today). This triggered a more ambitious collecting policy. He was an important patron to living British artists along with his friend and fellow art collector Thomas Miller Junior. None of Miller's collection was donated to the town.

The Newsham Art Collection and the Harris Museum and Art Gallery

In an article for the *Antique Collector* (issue 7/85), the late Stephen Sartin, Keeper of Fine Art at the Harris Art Gallery, describes Richard's fine art collection, that he bequeathed in its entirety to the gallery on his death. He says that Richard was described as 'a retiring man who shunned publicity' and that there are few contemporary accounts about his personal life. He goes on to say that there are:

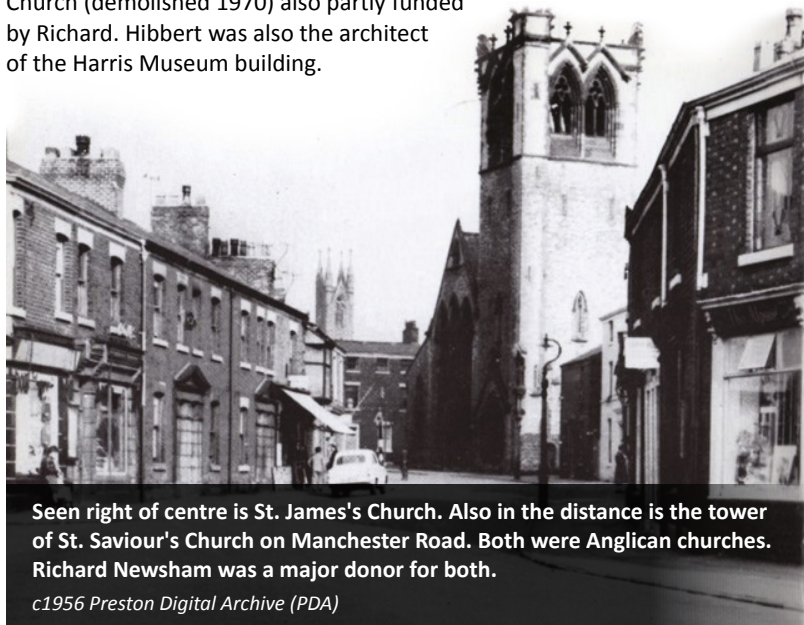
numerous brief references to his charitable donations in the local press. He built schools and churches at his own expense, gave funds for the relief of unemployed cotton operatives during the cotton famine at the time of the American Civil War, as well as contributing to numerous other causes. Such gifts were said to have amounted to £25,000, well over £2 million pounds today "a costly pastime" he once remarked with gentle humour.



Richard Newsham bust

Richard bequeathed his fine art collection to the town, which became the basis of the fine art collection in the Harris Museum and Art Gallery. A bust of him remained on display until the current temporary closure.

Richard was a major benefactor to churches and to church schools. He was an Anglican (Church of England). He was instrumental in the funding of St James' Church, which stood on the corner of Avenham Lane and Knowsley Street. Richard paid for the tower and the single bell that hung there. The church had inscriptions to Richard's parents and to Richard's wife Agnes. Anthony Hewitson devotes six pages of his 'History of Preston' to St James' Church. Richard Newsham was still alive when Hewitson was writing. The architect was James Hibbert who was also responsible for the nearby St Saviour's Church (demolished 1970) also partly funded by Richard. Hibbert was also the architect of the Harris Museum building.



Seen right of centre is St. James's Church. Also in the distance is the tower of St. Saviour's Church on Manchester Road. Both were Anglican churches. Richard Newsham was a major donor for both.

c1956 Preston Digital Archive (PDA)

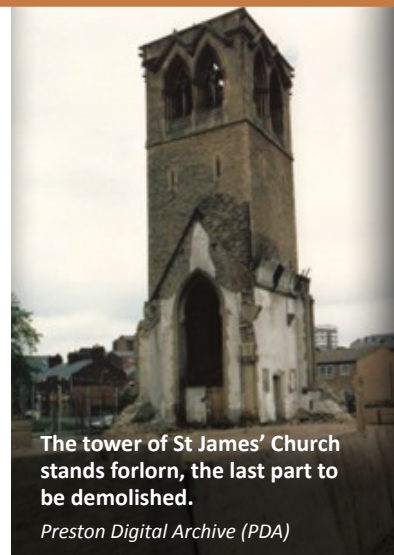
Richard Newsham Jnr died at 1 Winckley Square, 14 December 1883 aged 85 years, after five days of bronchitis, three years after his beloved wife Agnes died 22 December 1880, aged 75 years. They are buried together at St Mary the Virgin church in Goosnargh.



Richard and Agnes' grave monument

By 1891, 1 Winckley Square was listed as housing nine Roman Catholic Priests and three lay brothers. It remains part of St Wilfrid's Presbytery today.

St James' church was demolished in 1985. The photo shows the tower that Richard had erected to commemorate his late wife, it housed a single bell. This photograph captures the ephemeral nature of memorials. When erected, Richard Newsham might have hoped it would stand for centuries as a reminder of his wife.



The tower of St James' Church stands forlorn, the last part to be demolished.

Preston Digital Archive (PDA)

Our fine art collection was founded in 1883 with Richard Newsham's bequest to Preston of his remarkable Victorian art collection. He purchased work of the most esteemed artists of his time, commissioning paintings by artists like William Powell Frith and David Roberts. He regularly made purchases from the Royal Academy exhibitions and in this way acquired some of the most well known images of the day, such as *Royal Family of France in the Prison of the Temple* by EM Ward and *In the Bey's Garden* by JF Lewis.

Harris Museum and Art Gallery

Spring & Summer Events

Many of you came to Steve's talk last year on **Scandalous Stories**. On May 22 he will talk about **MORE Scandalous Stories from Winckley Square**.

Susan's trilogy of talks '**A House Through Time**', is in the evenings, as requested by those who can't make afternoon events.

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

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

On the day

£5

unless stated otherwise

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

Young Jazz in the Square
A showcase of the next generation of music makers living in Lancashire. Bring a picnic and enjoy something chilled from the FoWS 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
The "finale" of Preston Jazz & Improvisation Festival is back in Winckley Square. Chill, bring a picnic, enjoy the music, drink real ale or a chilled wine from the FoWS pop-up bar.

11 June
Guided Walks
Elaine Taylor

A Regency Promenade & afternoon tea in the garden of Overleigh House
On one day a year only and I am sorry to say both walks are full. I know that will disappoint some of you. To reserve a place for next year email Patricia.

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.**

Tony's Update!

Spring has Certainly Sprung! While the planting in the Gardens is by its nature seasonal, with always some points of interest no matter the time of year, notably through the winter with Christmas Roses, flowering, yes you've guessed it, in December. It is not until the days start to become longer that the Square puts on the first of its floral displays, with the increased Profusion of Spring colour namely primroses, snowdrops, crocus, iris and daffodils. This year, our furry friends permitting, will see the addition of purple hyacinths kindly donated by the Friends and Preston Rotary Club as part of the international Purple4Polio campaign.

While sometimes perceived to lack colour, although green is a colour, it is through the winter months that the evergreen planting provides form, structure and interest in the Gardens, especially with the low sun providing a dramatic play with light and shadows. The same planting also providing a theme and backbone around which the transient seasonal colour can flow. Saying that, there is always some colour to see no matter the time of year, it just may not be so obvious, namely cyclamen, Christmas box and Winter honeysuckle.

Photos: Tony Lewis

