

WINCKLEY SQUARE TIMES

Issue 29 | Autumn 2023

We had a very busy summer in the Gardens; we were really lucky that the sun shone for all our events. Both jazz concerts in June :- Jazz Ensemble: Young Jazz in the Square and Jazzin' the Park were very successful with hundreds of people having a wonderful time. For the first time in August, we were able to organise a spectacular free event: - **'Gala in the Gardens'** with great performers. This would not have been possible without the financial support of our sponsors. Read all about it on page 4.

In July Winckley Square Gardens received both the **2023/24 Green Flag** and the **Green Heritage Site Awards**. Friends of Winckley Square, Peter and Dot Wilkinson, received them at the ceremony in July. A special FoWS thank you to Tony our Winckley Warden for his tireless hard work all the year round. Avenham & Miller Parks, Ashton Park. Fishwick Local Nature Reserve, Haslam Park and Moor Park also received the Green Flag Award.

Well done to all the parks teams and volunteers!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

7th December: Get into the Christmas Spirit and spend a Christmassy afternoon with the FoWS; music, singers, a vintage lantern presentation and a new talk by Susan Douglass **Three Georgian Christmases in Winckley Square 1813, 1824 & 1836**. I advise you to book early to be guaranteed a place.

10th December: Our annual **Twinckley Christmas Concert** in Winckley Square. This **FREE EVENT** is a wonderful way to be entertained in the company of friends and family.

Both events are now on Eventbrite
www.eventbrite.co.uk

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Patricia Harrison

Chair of Friends of Winckley Square

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www.winckleysquarepreston.org

Meet Glenn Cookson

I am lucky enough to live just off Winckley Square so I'm able to enjoy the incredibly beautiful and well-maintained gardens daily with my best mate, Henry my dog.

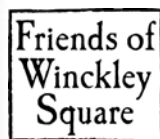
Born and bred in Avenham, I consider myself to be a very proud Prestonian!

Educated just a stone's throw away from the Square, I attended St Augustine's Primary School, Christ the King High School and more recently have just completed a Law degree at UCLan.

As an organisation, FoWS add great value to Preston. The City has much to offer and is steeped in a rich history that is celebrated by FoWS. For me, Winckley Square is the jewel in Preston's crown. In terms of levelling up with our Northern counterparts (like Manchester and Liverpool), I think we have a way to go. That is why I was delighted to have joined the Friends and to play my part as a volunteer.

Being proactive and community focused is important to me. Recently I led the campaign to save the 200-year structure, 'The Old Tram Bridge' on Avenham Park. The PCC bid to the Levelling Up Fund, 'Active Preston', was successful. A replacement bridge was included along with the regeneration of Preston parks... watch this space!

In these tricky economic times, giving back to the community is important if you are able. I am enjoying being able to support organising the **FREE** Winckley Square events **that all the family can enjoy**, the latest being 'Gala in the Gardens'. It is incredibly rewarding being part of an enthusiastic team, and I would encourage anyone to become a Friend of Winckley Square!



Interested in volunteering?

Contact patricia@winckley.org.uk

@WinckleySquare

Friends of winckleysquaregardens

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

JOHN DALTON 1747-1837

FROM DALTON SQUARE TO WINCKLEY SQUARE

by Victoria McCann

In the last newsletter Vicki Dixon wrote about Richard Newsham who lived at 1, Winckley Square. This month we meet John Dalton who was the first owner of the 6th House to be built on the Square. Victoria McCann, Archivist at Lancashire Archives, has explored the Dalton papers including the diaries & pocket ledgers of John Dalton and one diary left by his wife Mary. These are available to view at the Archives.



John Dalton
by James Longsdale
Lancaster City Museum

When we hear the surname Dalton, the first place many of us think of is Dalton Square in the heart of Lancaster. John Dalton, of Thurnham near Glasson Dock, owned land in Lancaster which he decided to develop as a residential square for the homes of the wealthy. Plots were sold from 1784. You might expect that John Dalton would have built one for himself, but he didn't. Instead, John Dalton was living in Preston, first at Avenham House and later he bought a plot from William Cross to build the sixth house on Winckley Square c. 1810. This house too has been demolished and in its place is Charles House, now apartments, but best known as the former Tax Office. The footprint of the site gives us some idea of the sheer size of John Dalton's home.



Avenham House, corner of Bairstow Street (now demolished).
Robert Pateson c. 1863: Preston Digital Archive

Dalton at leisure in Preston: based on his diaries

His main activities were hunting, shooting, dining and frequenting assemblies and clubs. He regularly attended the Preston Races and in 1826 the Preston Flower Show. For a short while he took up archery, even attending a meeting of the Society of Archers. His diaries span two Preston Guilds in 1782 and 1802. He was present at the opening of the Lancaster Canal and bought a boat from John Brockbank, shipbuilder of Lancaster. John Dalton also attended many balls including two held by 'Mr Horrocks'; one being so large that he noted that more than two hundred people were present. Living so near to Avenham Walk he regularly 'walks out' and also frequents many coffee houses, probably on Main Sprit Weind, as was the fashion.

He was a very social chap, dining regularly with the great and the good of Lancaster and Preston, including Richard and Robert Gillow, John Brockbank, Dr Rigby, the Bishop, Mr Horrocks, and on one occasion 'Lord North (PM 1770-82) and the Manchester gentlemen'. He dined with Miss Parker, the misses Gillows and the Duke of Hamilton of Ashton Hall. (This hall is near to Thurnham, it is now the home of Lancaster Golf Club.)

John Dalton, Family man

John Dalton comes across in his diaries as a family man. He had one son and five daughters. His son, also John Dalton, often appears in the diaries as 'JD' or 'my son'. His wife Mary Dalton, née Gage, is described as 'Mrs D' and his daughters as 'the girls'. He refers to travelling with Mrs D and the girls to take them to school in York or to Blackpool for the bathing. They travel with him on trips to London. Of his daughters, Lucy is referred to most often and as a companion on the boat or riding with him to Lancaster and going 'a bobbing' in the Lune. His daughter Charlotte experiences much ill health in childhood including smallpox and on returning from a trip to London, John writes that Charlotte looks 'shockingly thin'; she died soon after on 28 February 1802 and he writes 'my poor daughter Charlotte dy'd'. He also records the news of his father Robert's death while staying in Bath by writing 'at Bath - my father dy'd on Fri 22d, 1785'. He notes when his son is born and writes that 'Mrs D. Brought to Bed of J.D: ten minutes before five o'clock' on 23 January 1778. He also writes of his sisters and half-sisters and enjoys many visits from Sir Thomas Gage, his father-in-Law.

There is a stark contrast between the notes that John made in his pocket ledger and those of Mary. His factual and rather detached style differs from hers. She records when family are ill and what treatment they receive, 'My son had leaches'. She describes happy moments and lists the local women who have received charity. He notes that on the same day that his wife was giving birth, he also went out shooting.



Mary Dalton
by James Longsdale
Lancaster City Museum

Time and again we find that the early owners of houses on Winckley Square had 'country homes' on large estates. Life on the country estate could be dull and rather isolated, especially in winter. In the late 1700s Preston was still the social and legal heart of Lancashire.

The Dalton connection with Preston continued beyond John's death in 1837. His only son (also John) died childless, so the family estates passed to his daughter Elizabeth who did not marry and was the lady of Thurnham Manor until her death in 1861. As well as financing the building of a church at Thurnham she donated stained glass windows to St Walburge's, Preston.

The Daltons and their ancestors were well known as a recusant Roman Catholic family (recusants are those who never accepted any religious authority other than that of the Roman Catholic Church, despite persecution at times). At various times the Daltons lost their estates and faced imprisonment. Thurnham Hall contained a Priest Hole where a travelling priest could hide. The priest would say mass in secret with the family. One travelling priest, Rev James Swarbrick, was imprisoned and sentenced to death but died in Lancaster Castle before he could be executed.



Priest hole Thurnham Hall hidden at the back of the fireplace. A priest would hide on the narrow seat unable to stand in the pitch black without making a sound: John Burke



The diaries and cash books, or rather Kearsley's Gentleman and Tradesman's Pocket Ledgers, dating from 1777 to 1778, 1780, 1782, 1785 to 1788, 1790, 1793 to 1803, 1808, 1825 to 1826 and 1831 are an account of the daily activities of John Dalton of Preston and Thurnham, esq. They are a fascinating insight into the life of a Georgian Gentlemen living in Preston but spending a large part of his time at Thurnham and Lancaster, as well as travelling more widely.

John Dalton was not only key to the development of Georgian Lancaster and the survival of the Catholic faith there, but he was also central to the life and development of Georgian Preston.

Lancaster and the slavery connection

John's father, Robert Dalton, sold the land on which the Quay, used for the slave trade at Lancaster, was constructed. In the late 18th Century Lancaster was the fourth most important slaving port in Britain after London, Liverpool and Bristol. John Dalton mixed with the leading Lancaster families many of whom benefited financially from the slave trade. Among those he befriended were the Gillows (fellow Catholics) who traded in slaves and imported wood for their magnificent furniture.

The Last slave ship to be built in Brockbank's Shipyard.



The Trafalgar Watercolour Painting, by John Emery 1806: Lancaster City Museums.



Crest in a stained glass window: Steve Harrison

Worth a visit

Thurnham Hall is close to Glasson Dock and a 30-minute drive from Preston. The former Hall is now part of Thurnham Hall Resort, but the main Hall can be visited and contains the Lemon Tree Restaurant and Bar and useful information booklets about the history of the house.

Close by is the Roman Catholic church of Sts. Thomas and Elizabeth. The architect was Charles Hansom, brother of Joseph Hansom who designed St Walburge's Preston. The land for the church was given by John Dalton along with farmland, the rent from which was to sustain the priest. As the church website makes clear, that income no longer keeps a priest (and never did)!

Friends of
Winckley
Square

Gala in the Gardens

WINCKLEY SQUARE, PRESTON
Sunday 6 August



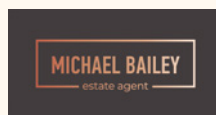
Sponsors



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DAVID COX
ARCHITECTS



In August the FoWS organised '*Gala in the Gardens*'. We wanted to put on a free event for people to enjoy without worrying about the cost. Our volunteers give guided walks and talks all the year round to raise funds to enable us to run events, but we wanted the Gala to be something special, so we approached Preston City Council and local businesses for sponsorship. On behalf of the hundreds of people who had a wonderful time on a lovely summer's day, we would like to thank:

- ♥ Preston City Council
- ♥ Frank Whittle Partnership
- ♥ Fifteen Winckley Square
- ♥ Michael Bailey Estate Agent
- ♥ Business Utilities Group
- ♥ Moore & Smalley Accountants
- ♥ Cassidy & Ashton
- ♥ Service Care Solutions
- ♥ David Cox Architects
- ♥ Winckley Square CIC
- ♥ Freshfield
- ♥ Winckley Square Residences

♥ ♥ *Thank you!*



Just a few of our many FoWS volunteers who support events all the year round in so many ways. This includes Preston Photographic Society members who are always behind the camera! Including all the Gala photos - Paul Rushton. Thank you also to Mayor Yakub Patel and Geno and Hayley in the centre.

BECOME A
SPONSOR

If you would like to **SPONSOR** the Christmas Concert or Sponsor Friends of Winckley Square to help us continue our work, we would love to hear from you.

patricia@winckley.org.uk

