



Pendle & Burnley  
Branch

# The Gazette

Issue 59 July 2015

[www.lfhhs-pendleandburnley.org.uk](http://www.lfhhs-pendleandburnley.org.uk)

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## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**6th September**

**LFHHS Lunch**

**Waddow Hall, Clitheroe**

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**19th September**

**Family History Fair**

**King Georges Hall, Blackburn**

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**7th November**

**Branch Open Morning**

**Barnoldswick Library**

## 2015 PROGRAMME

- 19th Aug      **"Lady Randy" Winston Churchill's mother**  
Pat Osborne
- 16th Sept     **"Wills and Probate Records"**  
David Lambert
- 30th Sept     **Practical Evening**
- 21st Oct      **"Who was my uncle Bilsbarrow?"**  
Tony Foster
- 18th Nov      **"Grandmother's Letters"**  
Alan Crosby
- 2nd Dec      **Christmas Party and Local Quiz**  
arranged by Andrea Smith

**Printed copies of the programme are available**

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### **Branch Contacts:**

#### **Family History Queries**

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#### **Secretary**

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#### **Gazette Editor**

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#### **Branch Website**

[www.lfhhs-pendleandburnley.org.uk](http://www.lfhhs-pendleandburnley.org.uk)

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**SOCIETY ANNUAL LUNCH 2015**

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2015

12.00 for 12.30pm

£21

Waddow Hall, Clitheroe

Menu

Starter. Salmon Fishcake served on a bed of Rocket with Tartar Sauce

Main Course. Breast of chicken with a petit onion and smoked bacon sauce

Vegetarian - Homemade Mozzarella and Mediterranean Vegetable Wellington

All served with seasonal vegetables.

Sweet. Seasonal Fruit Pavlova (gf)

Tea or Coffee

Full details and a booking form were in the May edition of Lancashire Magazine or is downloadable from the Society website

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**DROP-IN FAMILY HISTORY HELP SESSIONS**

**Thank you to the volunteers that helped with these sessions at Colne Library.**

**These sessions will restart in September.**

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**Change of address**

Would you please ensure that the Secretary is informed of any change of address – **including email address**

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**Saturday 19th September  
LFHHS Family History Fair  
10.00am to 4.00pm  
King George's Hall  
Northgate Blackburn BB2 1AA**

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**Note that Colne Library now closes at 6.00pm on Wednesdays. Access for meetings will now be by the back door on the car park after 6.45pm.**

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**GAZETTE** – Editor – Arnold Slater

Articles for the **October 2015 Gazette** by the **end of September** please.

Please send articles to Editor at [lfhhs-pendleandburnley.org.uk](mailto:lfhhs-pendleandburnley.org.uk) or by post to the Editor,  
c/o 6 Sussex Street, Barnoldswick, Lancashire BB18 5DS

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**Open Morning**

**7th November**

**at Barnoldswick Library**

**9.30 – 12.30**

**volunteers needed**

## **QUERY CORNER**

**Arthur Edmund PLATT** (b 1932) and  
**Sydney PLATT** (b 1934)

Arthur and Sydney Platt were evacuees sent to Trawden from Hulme near Manchester about 1939/40.

They may have attended Trawden school during their temporary stay in the village.

Were you at school with them?

Do you know where they were billeted?

Any information about them would be appreciated by Arthur's son.

Please see Jean if you can help.

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### **Visit to Samlesbury Hall**

The venue for the May outvisit this year was Samlesbury Hall with its distinctive, original black and white exterior, situated halfway between Blackburn and Preston. Twenty-three members of our branch met at the Hall for a guided tour. Our guide, Ken Beasley, appropriately dressed in Tudor costume, entertained us with his knowledge of the history of the Hall, beginning in the Great Hall, built in 1325 by Gilbert de Southworth. The first Samlesbury Hall was built on the banks of the River Ribble, but after it was destroyed in 1314 by soldiers loyal to Robert the Bruce, it relocated to its present site to escape raids by Scots and Border Reivers. Gilbert's great-grandson, Thomas Southworth was responsible for further extensions. He was also given the task of

demolishing Whalley Abbey and windows from the Abbey were put into his Chapel.

In the Private Parlour, built around 1530, we were shown evidence of Thomas's son, Sir John Southworth's strong Catholic allegiance. Above opposite doors wood carvings of Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon, with her rosary beads, face each other across the room. Sir John's eldest son was disinherited for converting to the Church of England while another son was hung, drawn and quartered in 1654 for being a practising priest, and canonised in 1970 as one of the 40 Catholic martyrs of England and Wales. (St. John Southworth in Nelson is dedicated to him). When Lady Dorothy Southworth had the misfortune to fall in love with the protestant Richard de Hoghton, both families were appalled. Her brother killed Richard on the night the lovers planned to elope, Dorothy went insane, and her ghost is said to roam the Hall searching for Richard.

We were told about the Samlesbury witch trial of 1612 when Jane Southworth, widow of the disinherited John, along with two others, was accused of witchcraft and tried at Lancaster Assizes. However they were acquitted when the main witness, a 14-year old, admitted that Christian Southworth, a Catholic priest, had told her what to say. He'd wanted to punish them for converting to Protestantism.

In 1678 the hall was sold and later became a pub, then a girl's boarding school, until in 1862 Joseph Harrison bought it and started renovations. But the financial burden proved too much for him and he shot himself, conveniently providing another ghost for the hall. His footsteps have been heard in the Long Gallery and ladies have felt someone stroking their long hair.

The Hall was threatened with demolition in 1924, but money was raised by public subscription and the Samlesbury Hall Trust now manages the hall.

After the tour we enjoyed tea and scones in the Chapel, and could wander at leisure through the rest of the rooms and grounds with a greater appreciation, through Ken Beasley's talk, of how the religious tensions of past times played a major part in the history of the Southworth family and left their mark on Samlesbury Hall.

Sylvia Marshall

## More Methodology by Rod and Diana Moorhouse

We have a very clear photograph of the war memorial which stands outside Hartshorne parish church in South Derbyshire. My wife's great Uncle, a Grenadier Guardsman who fell on the Somme, is among the list of those remembered.

We recently noticed the name of another soldier on that list who might also have been a relative. The surname of this private soldier is in Diana's family tree; it was the maiden name of her Great Grandmother, the mother of the Grenadier Guardsman, previously mentioned. After a thorough search of census records we were able to confirm that she had a nephew born locally in the September quarter of 1898 [*free BMD*]. He was the oldest son of her brother. We then needed confirmation that this nephew was the soldier listed on the war memorial.

Using the Ancestry web site we found a medal roll index card for a Private soldier with the same surname and Christian names. The card provided us with the name of his regiment, the battalion in which he served and his regimental number. Armed with this information we next searched for his army records in the hope that these would confirm that this soldier was our relative.

We also hoped to find more about his personal details, including the date when he enlisted. Sadly no records could be found!

We wrote a letter to an archive of local newspapers known as 'The Magic Attic'. This enterprise is run by volunteers and is housed at Sharpe's Pottery Museum in Swadlincote. We asked whether they had any obituaries concerning the death of our soldier, but none could be found.

It seemed that the only avenue left was the Commonwealth War Graves [CWG] web site. A search confirmed that our soldier, aged 20, serving in the 6th Battalion of the Lincolnshire regiment, as stated on his medal card, had died in Belgium on the 6th November 1918 - only five days before the Armistice. The website also provided the names and address of his parents. So now we had confirmation that the soldier named on the medal roll index card was the one listed on the war memorial.

Our soldier was just under 16 years old at the start of the war in August 1914. Many boys managed to enlist at this age but it seems unlikely that he was able to join his Battalion when it was formed in August of that year. The Long, Long trail website tells us that this Battalion was sent to Gallipoli in July 1915.

We then looked for any clues which could confirm that he might have taken part in this campaign. So e.g. was there a Gallipoli star awarded to those who took part in this campaign? A search

online soon established that there was no specific star medal issued for Gallipoli but instead the 1914-15 star was awarded to all British and Empire forces who had served in any overseas theatre of war up to 31 December 1915; this award included those who had fought in Gallipoli. Our soldier's medal roll index card told us he was awarded the British and Victory medals but no stars! The Long, Long Trail website also informed us that in February of 1916 the survivors of his Battalion were withdrawn from the fighting in Gallipoli and moved to Egypt. Late that year they embarked for France landing at Marseilles on 8th of July. The Battalion was then engaged in various actions on the Western Front which continued throughout 1917 and into 1918 ending the war in Belgium near Aulnois north of Maubeuge.

According to all the information we were able to find we have to conclude that our soldier enlisted at some time after 1914. Once trained then perhaps he joined 6th Battalion of the Lincolnshire Regiment on the Western front some time after its arrival there in 1916?

According to the CWG website our soldier is buried in the Roislin Communal Cemetery in Belgium. Maps and Pictures of this remote village cemetery can be found on Google Earth.

This investigation demonstrates the difficulties of searching for facts about our relatives and then validating these with absolute certainty. In this case there is so little information on the soldier's medal roll index card – no address, no date of entry to a theatre of war and no note that he was killed in action.

It is also unfortunate that his Army records cannot be found and so we are left wondering about those fascinating personal details e.g. his physical features or his occupation, which would help to provide a clearer picture of his life before the Great War.

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## FUTURE TRIPS

It has been suggested that next year's trip could perhaps be on a Wednesday.

If you have any suggestions please talk to Mary Jackson.