

Palatine People

The newsletter of The Lancashire Society



Issue 7
Winter 2012





CHAIRMAN'S JOTTINGS

By Sid Calderbank

Welcome to the 7th edition of Palatine People, our infrequent publication of members' news, views and reports and a companion to our Facebook Pages and Website, the latter, by the way, currently under major reconstruction.

Summer and Autumn have been very busy in some areas, our performing members have been involved in retaining the coveted "War of the Roses" trophy, (the competition held this year at Fylde Festival, Fleetwood); in staging a very successful Music hall evening at St Peter's Club Chorley and in providing entertainment for both days of National Heritage Weekend at Bancroft Mill Engine Museum, Barlick. My thanks to everyone who volunteered for these shows, which help a great deal in raising the profile of our organisation.

Speaking of 'Raising our profile' we have, nationally, never been better known! Our "National Dialect Day" which we started in 2009 at Fylde Festival is becoming extremely popular – 2010 in Chorley, 2011 in Louth, Lincolnshire, this year in Morpeth, Northumberland and next year in Devon I am now regularly in contact with other dialect enthusiasts from as far apart as Cornwall, Devon, Norfolk, Lincolnshire, Yorkshire, Northumberland and the Lake District who have really taken to the idea of the event, now established annually on the third weekend in October. The old Lancashire Dialect Society's writing trophies are once again keenly contested and this year there were over a dozen entries for each of the three contests. It's good to see that, in both Lincolnshire and Northumberland, the local BBC radio and TV featured Dialect Day in their news reports and Morpeth even got on Radio 4!

Dialect Day is developing into a great weekend but it's perhaps not surprising to find, when you talk to people from other regional societies, that we are all in the same boat, the main cause of concern being declining and ageing memberships, unwillingness of people at all levels to 'get involved' and, perhaps most importantly, how to attract and retain interest from the younger generation. Lakeland have forged links with their Young Farmers Clubs and now hold annual dialect writing competitions for them, judged "bi' th'owd folk", Northumberland has always had a strong musical tradition and it was cheering, in Morpeth, to be entertained by an orchestra of 40 odd youngsters. Lincolnshire get support from the poet Benjamin Zephaniah, who lives in the area and, of course, loves words and language and our

“The Noise We Mek!” project has enabled us to take performances and workshops into local schools. Our recent contacts with UCLan students of history, English and media are also heartening.

So let’s all continue trying to keep our old traditions alive. Song, music, dance and dialect, food and drink, each County is rightly proud of it’s own but, as we know only too well in industrial Lancashire, ‘Unity is Strength’, and, if we work together then perhaps “ the rising tide will lift all the boats”.

SID

“THE NOISE WE MEK!”

...is the title of our Heritage Lottery Fund Project.



This three-year project, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, has several distinct elements.

Overall, we are following the canal from Burscough to Blackburn, studying and recording the variety of dialects and accents found along the route as it passes from agriculture in Burscough, through coal production in Wigan, to markets in Chorley and cotton manufacture in Blackburn. This gives us a snapshot of the industries that made Lancashire the centre of world manufacturing during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

With the project drawing to its conclusion in March 2013, things have been moving on apace with Mark and Barbara handing over the recordings that they’ve been making to archivist Chris Pollington who is processing all the recordings into a format suitable for passing to the North West Sound Archive at Clitheroe Castle. We also have a new webmaster in Martin Bradley who is preparing an updated website which in part will be a portal to all our various recordings in the Cloud. Martin was instrumental in developing the iwigginese app that you can download and listen to phrases in Wigginese and English and was keen to get involved in the Society and we are pleased to welcome him on board. By the time you read this the revamped website will have been uploaded and as time goes on we should be able to listen to dialect poems read by various people and read the text on the screen. This is only

one of our goals that we are bound to do under the Heritage Lottery Fund grant award.

As the focus of the project was listening to people using the Leeds-Liverpool canal as a broad baseline, we have recently made a film with the help of students doing a media technology course at the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) at Preston. Over two days in October our Chairman Sid Calderbank and Historian Jack Smith met with the team from UCLan and together they filmed various scenes along the canal from Burscough to Wigan, Chorley to Blackburn. The 20 minute film will be uploaded to Youtube where everyone can have a look at it. Mark Dowding went along on one of the days and took film and photos of the shoot for the archive and some of the photos can be seen below.



Jack Smith and Sid Calderbank with the film crew from UCLan by the Wharf at Burscough. Jack points out that the old mill of H & R Ainscough further down the towpath would make a good shot. (see the front of this newsletter!)

Off towards Wigan and the team stop at the junction with the Rufford Branch





Wigan Pier - Probably the most famous place on the canal thanks to the music hall jokes of George Formby Sr.

Setting up a shot at one of the locks at Johnson's Hillock just north of Chorley



The end of the day and the film wraps with Jack and Sid walking towards Eanam Wharf at Blackburn

FOCUS ON THE MEMBERS



Andy Hindley

I am currently treasurer of the Lancashire society, but getting to this point involves many strands which have come together!

Probably most important to me is that my family came from what traditionally we called Lancashire, my father from Bolton and my mother from Manchester, although I was born and brought up in London until I left to go to

university at 18. I always considered that I'd been marooned in London, and identified much more with the North. I enjoyed visiting my grandparents, one set in Rochdale and my grandma in Manchester, for Christmas and New Year, until my teens.

I met and married Barbara who is a Mancunian and who is a Researcher in Linguistics.

I got interested in folk music from the age of 13, and started singing unaccompanied from that time, something I've continued to do part from a few breaks. I remember particularly my enthusiasm for the LPs Owdham Edge, Deep Lancashire and the Iron Muse which first exposed me to music from Lancashire. We got them from the public library. A couple of years after moving to Garstang we started to get back into folk music, when the kids began to be able to look after themselves! My recent involvement with Lancashire music was largely as a result of listening to Sid Calderbank at the singing sessions at the Black Horse in Limbrick. I am beginning to sing a few Lancashire songs myself, having lived for about 18 years in the North West.

I am a doctor and specialise in Cancer treatment. I was in New Zealand for a few years but decided to return to England. At that time I applied for 3 jobs but the one I wanted and eventually got was in a brand new centre being built in Preston, and I have worked there ever since. I think I wanted to come back to 'my roots'. Things have worked out well for me working at the Royal Preston and Blackpool Victoria Hospitals, with shorter stints in Lancaster, Kendal and Barrow, and for ten years I had a responsibility for cancer trials in Lancashire and South Cumbria, which I have recently handed over.

I got into the Lancashire society, largely because of Barbara's interest in the dialect, and my interest in folk music, and I've been very glad to take part in the Lancashire concert at the Fylde folk festival for the last 3 years, both on my own and as part of the group Nine-Tenths Below!

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

By Andrew Lomax

It has only come to my attention in the last couple of years exactly how ancient family names are. Variations in spelling over the centuries can prove some names go back as far as the Norman Conquest but many prove to be post 1066. Differences in my own name (Lomax) are Lomas, Lumox, Lummus, Loomis and Lummis.

The Lomax name apparently originates from a "lost" medieval village near to the town of Bury named Lumhalghs. The component elements of the name are believed to be the Olde English pre 7th century word "lumm" meaning pool, and reflected in the local term "lum" denoted a well for collecting water from a mine, plus "halh" meaning a nook or recess. It is estimated that some 3,000 villages and hamlets have disappeared from the maps in Britain and this is a good example. The demographics of the name are strictly Lancastrian with many Lomaxes found in Bolton, Rochdale and Bury. One of the oldest Lancashire names, it has been around seemingly forever.

I was fascinated with the above and did a little internet research. First found in Lancashire where they held a family seat from very early times, it is thought that the ancestors of the bearers of Lomax predated Duke William of Normandy and the Battle of Hastings in 1066 A.D. These early Lomax's could prove to be those originating in Pilsworth, since a Richard Lomax (born 1688) married Rebecca Heywood in 1715 and inherited the Clayton Hall Estate at Clayton-Le-Moors. One would assume that this Lomax held previous nobility to become involved with such a large standing family. The Lomaxes held possession of the Estate all the way through to 1925.

Of course my line couldn't possibly have any links to the Lomaxes of Clayton Hall? I am very confident that we are not! Tracing my family history has gone back to the 1700's with little change over the centuries to the present day in the way of social standing and occupations, a truly working class family if there ever was one. It has proven easy for me to investigate my family because we're all in Wigan back then and still we remain today.

Regards
Andrew Lomax (Wigan)

REFERENCES

- (1) www.surnamedb.com
- (2) www.houseofnames.com
- (3) www.grimshaworigin.org
- (4) Pollard's History of the Lomaxes 1978

An evening at St Peter's Club, Chorley, September 13th 2012

Jack Smith and Barbara Morgan organized an evening for the members at St Peter's club in Chorley recently. The evening was a great success enjoyed by an enthusiastic audience. One young lady asked us at the end where she could learn to clog dance as she was so taken by the dancing that was being performed that night!

Those taking part were Sid Calderbank, Joy Hunter, Mark Dowding, Peter and Barbara Snape, Nine Tents Below (two of them anyway with a bit of help from the other performers!), Jack Smith and Wigan Seven Stars Clog Dance team.



Bits and Pieces

The Lancashire Society concert at Fylde Folk Festival was another successful afternoon. This event has become a regular fixture at the festival at the Mount Hotel where people can drop in and perform a spot if time permits.

Members of the Society took part in what has become another annual fixture over the last few years – The War of the Roses. This year the event took place at the Fylde Festival and was once again keenly contested by two top teams representing the Red and White Rose counties. After 2 hours of sparring, the judges declared that the winning team was the Red Rose county so congratulations to the team who consisted of Sid Calderbank (Captain), Stanley Accrington (who received a field promotion to Sergeant), Peter and Barbara Snape and Mark Dowding.



The Yorkshire Captain attempts to bribe the judging panel only to find that the Lancashire Captain had got there before him!

Sid and Stan look on as the Yorkies have a go at singing a love song



Sid rattles his dad's bones to Mark's rendition of "A Weaver's Song"

The Society has recently been contacted by a couple of people regarding dialect material. One person is the Granddaughter of Tommy Thompson who was a writer and broadcaster in the 1930s and 40s. She is interested to know if there are any recordings available of her Grandfather. It has transpired that she has a number of scripts of his radio programmes and has sent us a list of material. After making enquiries, I found that Bernard Wrigley had recorded many of Thompson's short stories and broadcast 10 programmes on Radio Lancashire. Bernard is sending us copies of these recordings for the society archive and we are going to undertake a project to record more of these stories and shows once the HLF project has finished.

By total coincidence, another person has offered us a collection of dialect books of her late father's for our library. There are a number of books by Tommy Thompson amongst them as well as Waugh, Laycock and others.

Society chairman Sid was invited to a ceremony at Farington nr Leyland recently to dedicate a garden to the cotton industry. After a service at the church we walked in procession down to Mill Street where a time capsule was buried and a sculpture of a shuttle was unveiled by various civic dignitaries. Afterwards in the Conservative club, Sid gave a brief talk about the effects of the Cotton Famine in Lancashire in general and Farington in particular.



The time capsule is about to be buried by the Mayor, Joan Langford and Mike Otter. Amongst the artifacts in the capsule is a copy of a performance of "The Lancashire Cotton Famine" written by Sid

Sid stands by a token cotton bale on the cart with the shuttle sculpture in the background



Sid with the Mayor of South Ribble Colin Clark and local historian Joan Langford

SOCIETY EVENTS and MEMBERSHIP

Palatine People is published by The Lancashire Society at least twice a year and is dependant on members sending in articles for publication.

Any articles for consideration should be sent to the secretary via email to barbara@thelancshiresociety.org.uk

We would also welcome any photographs taken by members at any events they attend for possible inclusion in future newsletters or on the website. Please send any photos in jpeg format to Barbara at the above email address. The cover of this edition is Burscough Mill taken by Mark Dowding who also took the other photos within the newsletter.

To save paper and postage this newsletter is available for download on the website -www.thelancshiresociety.org.uk

Paper copies are available from the society upon request for a charge of £2 to cover printing and postage. Please email mark@thelancshiresociety.org.uk for further details

Dates for your diary

Don't forget that Lancashire day is on November 27th and there will be events going on at various places around the county on or around that day. Mark Dowding will be at Parbold Library on the 27th from 7-30pm performing dialect songs and poems. Sid Calderbank will also be at the Harris Library in Preston on the 26th from 6pm

Membership

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Society then please complete the form on the following page and send it to the secretary who will add your details to the database. You will then receive regular updates by email with news of meetings and events.

Thanks to all the contributors for this issue - Sid Calderbank, Andy Hindly, Andy Lomax and also to Barbara Hindley and Mark Dowding for co-ordinating and editing the articles and the newsletter.

For more information about the Society and its aims then please visit the website:

www.thelancshiresociety.org.uk

Follow us on Facebook -

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/lancshiresociety/>



MEMBERSHIP FORM

I wish to become a member of the Lancashire Society

My details are as follows:

Name.....

Address.....

.....

email address.....

Contact number.....

*I wish to be contacted by Blind Carbon Copy (BCC) email (no one will see my email address).....

*I am happy for my email address to be seen by other members.....

(* Tick as appropriate)

(Note: Members will generally be contacted by email to avoid postage costs)

I understand that my details will be held on the computer of the secretary of the society and no other computer. This is for administrative purposes only and will not be revealed to a third party.

If I wish to leave the society then I shall inform the secretary who will remove my details from the computer.

Signed.....

Date.....

Please return this form to the secretary who will acknowledge your membership
Electronically – email the details to: barbara@thelancshiresociety.org.uk
Or post this form to 11 Church Street, Churchtown, Preston, Lancashire, PR3 0HT

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