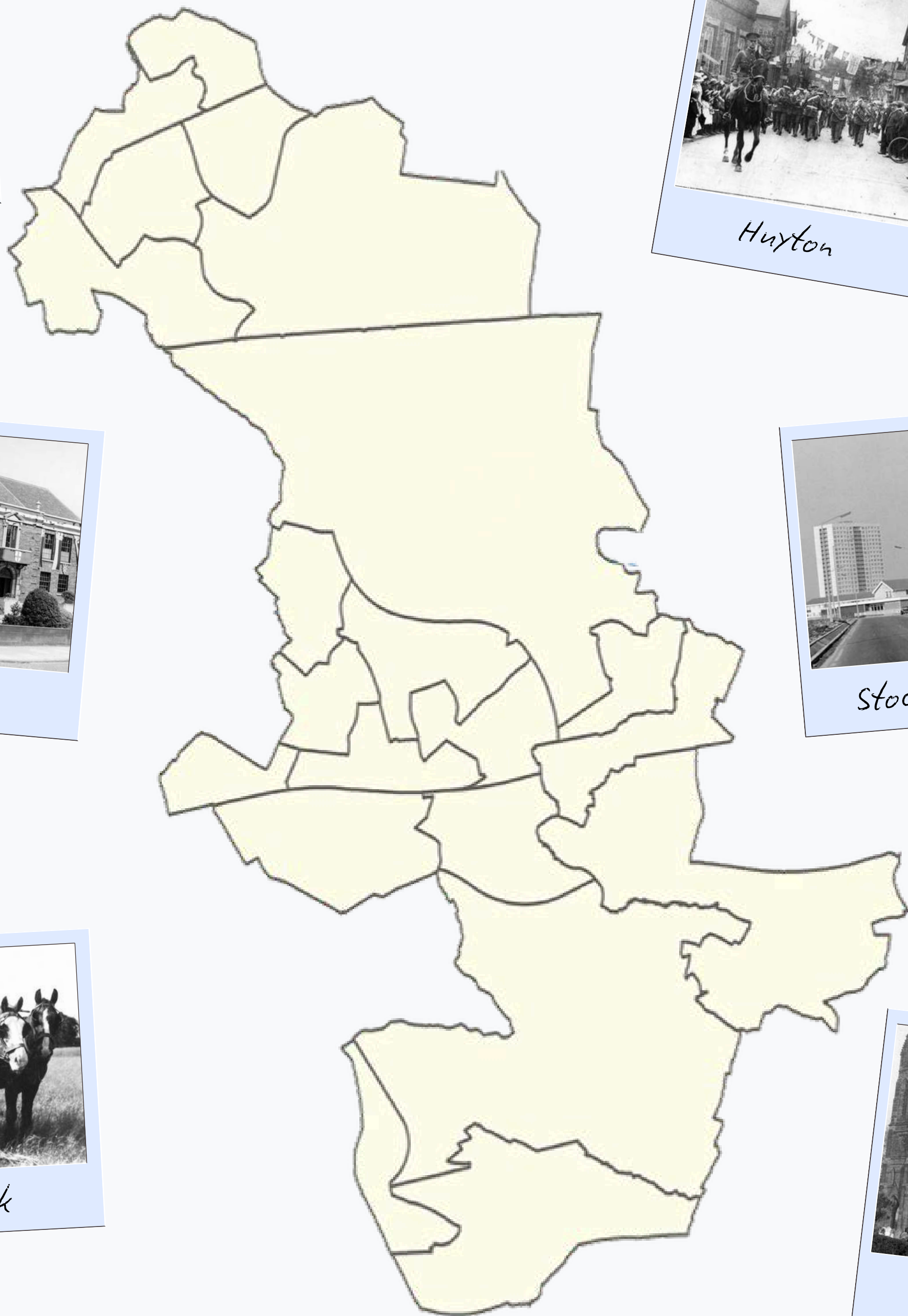
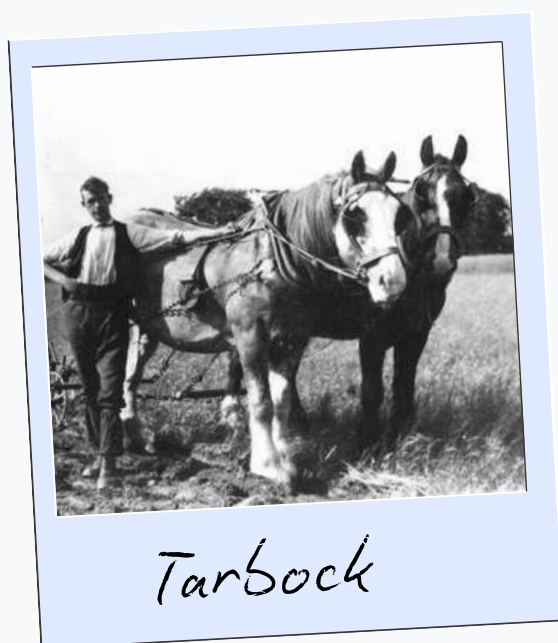
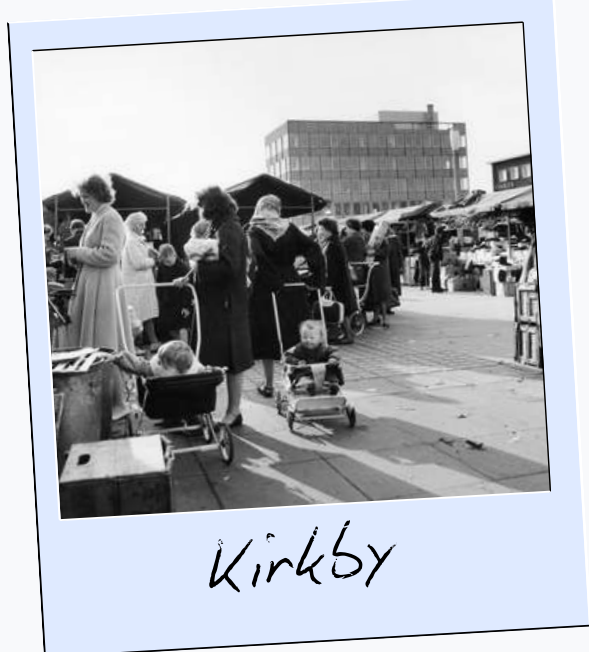


Knowsley Archives Presents:

Knowing Your Knowsley:

A Celebration of Local and Community
History.



Exhibition Catalogue



Exhibition Catalogue Contents

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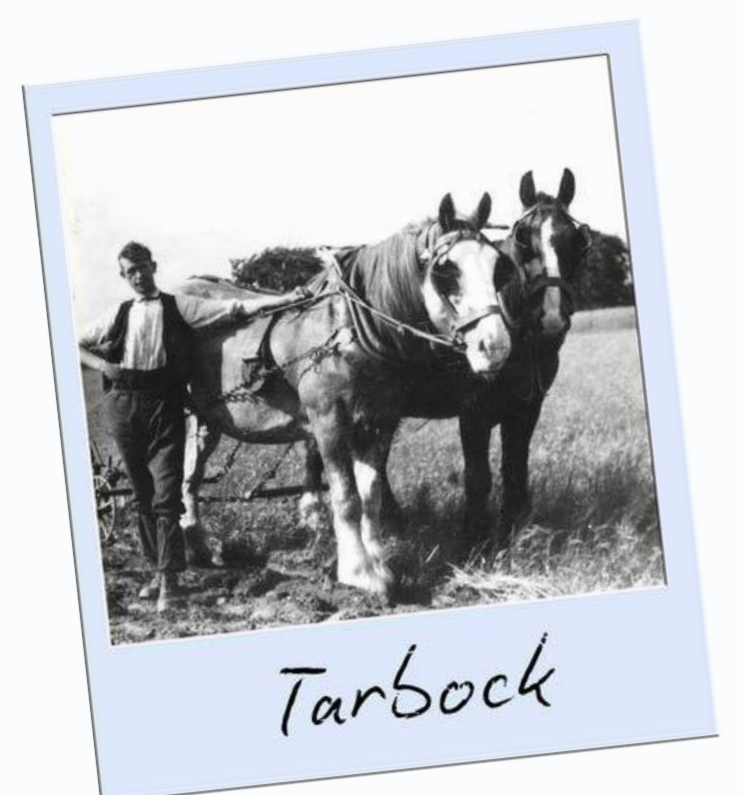
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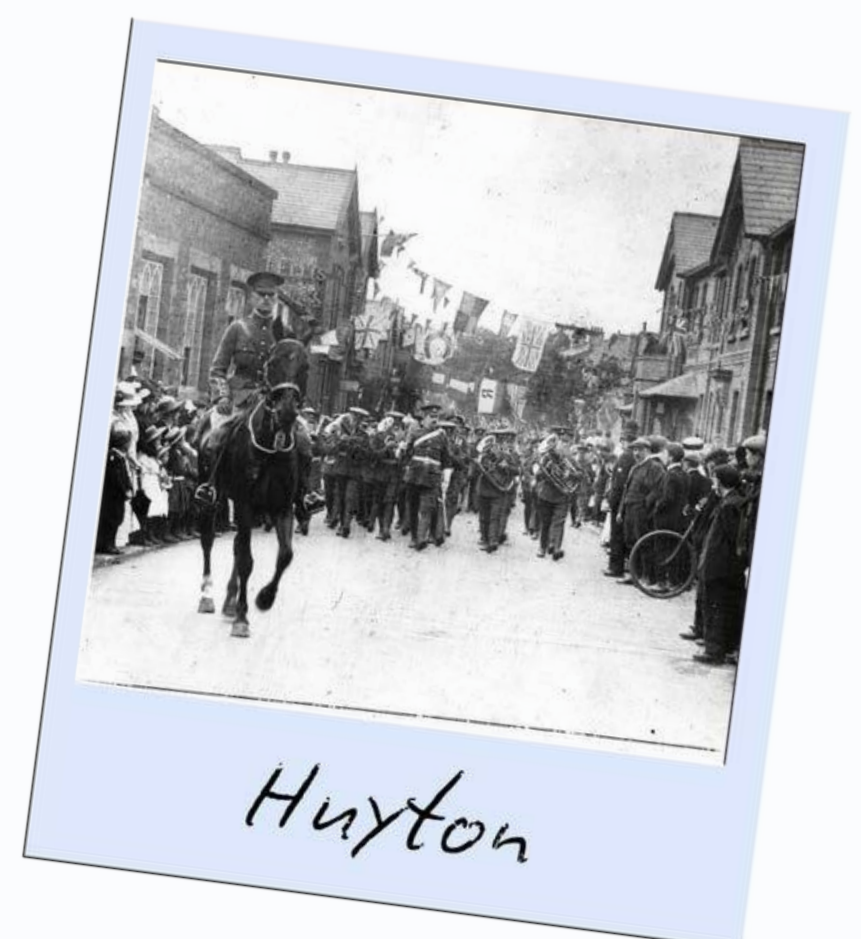
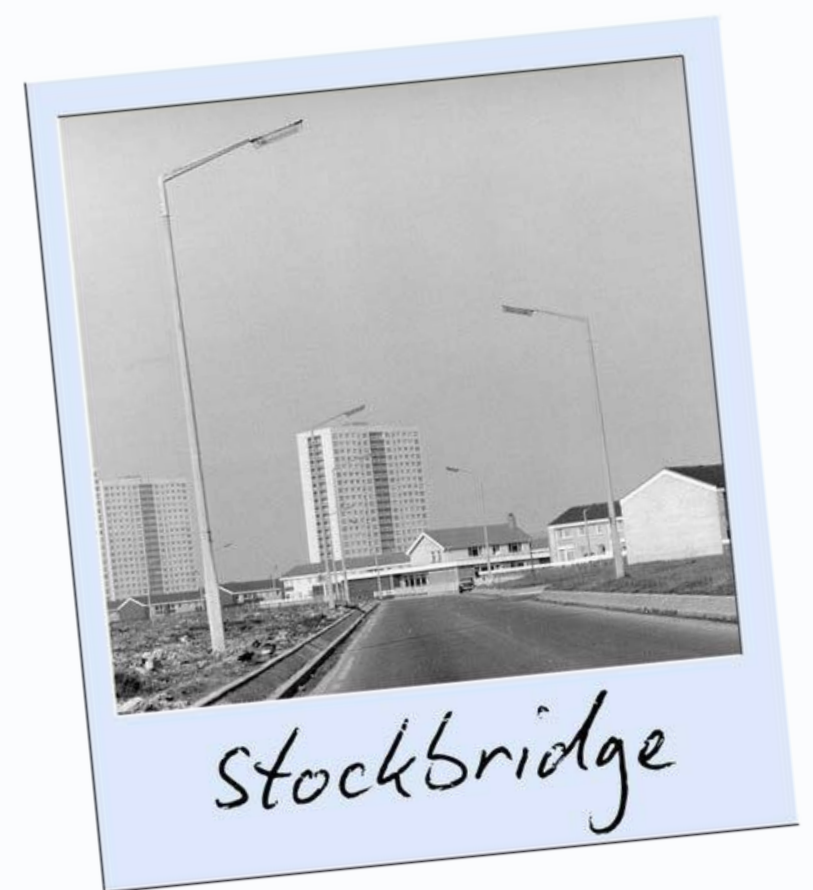
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About the Exhibition

This exhibition, *Knowing your Knowsley: A Celebration of Local and Community History*, highlighted historical items and documents from the townships that make up Knowsley. Each cabinet space had been dedicated to townships such as Kirkby, Prescott, Tarbock, Halewood and many more. An exclusive cabinet was showcased at Huyton Library which contained historical photographs, books and artefacts about Huyton-With-Roby.

The month of May 2026 was highlighted as Local and Community History Month by the National Year of Reading. Here at Knowsley Archives Service, this was celebrated with a themed exhibition to memorialise Knowsley's heritage and the stories of the communities that make up the borough.

The main purpose of the exhibition was to show fragments of history from each of the townships, with some items being displayed for the very first time.

During the month was talks from local authors, discussing their books with customers and staff. Also included were historical talks, reminiscence events, and local film shows ran by Knowsley Archives Service across the five library branches across Knowsley.

The exhibition ran from the 30th March to the 29th May 2026.



Space A



Photograph of Space A

Space A



Silver Jubilee Commemorative Gifts

Commemorative gifts were given to the children of each parish.

In Cronton, children born during 1977 were given a Jubilee Crown in a presentation case.



School-age children from Cantril Farm (now Stockbridge Village) each received a commemorative mug. This was organised by the Curate of St. Jude's Church, the Reverend David Long, supported by fundraising by the local pubs and clubs.

Collection: KA179/P/Z7/8[I] - Cantril Farm Silver Jubilee Celebrations and Cantril Farm Silver Jubilee Exhibition Collection

Material: Ceramics

Date: 1977

Space A



Foo Dog

A charming ceramic lying Foo Dog on a wooden stand with the inscription: 'Presented by Xu Yuanhe Jingze, Mayor of Yinng Town'.

On the base of the ceramic is a label reading 'Exhibition by Kentoken'.

The Foo Dog was acquired by Knowsley Archives Service in 2024 from Democratic Services, Knowsley Council. This ceramic is part of a collection of items gifted to Knowsley Mayors in the course of their civic duties. These items form a significant part of the Knowsley MBC Collection.

Collection: GB1076.KMBC - 2024/004/32

Material: Ceramic

Date: Unknown



Space A



Stadt Moers

A Pewter salver with the Stadt Moers crest in colour. Knowsley Council has been twinned with Stadt Moers in Germany since April 1980. Moers is situated in the Wesel district in one of the most populous states in Germany, the North Rhine-Westphalia.

This Pewter Salver is part of a bundle that was acquired by Knowsley Archives Service in 2024 from Democratic Services, Knowsley Council. It is part of a collection of items gifted to Knowsley Mayors in the course of their civic duties. These items form a significant part of the Knowsley MBC Collection.

Collection: GB1076.KMBC - 2024/004/46

Material: Pewter Salver

Date: Unknown



Space B



Photograph of Space B

Township of Kirkby

The name Kirk-by means church and settlement. Its origin may have taken place prior to the Norse who are believed to have arrived via Ireland around 900 A.D.

It is further believed that a simple chapel existed here about 870 A.D., this tradition being inscribed on a stone at the base of the cross which was erected within the present Kirkby parish church grounds in 1875. Though there is no evidence to support this claim, a chapel is known to have existed on this site after the Norman Conquest.

In the Domesday Survey of 1086, Kirkby was mentioned as Cherchebi, one of the six manors held by Uctred; the others being Roby, Knowsley, Crosby, Maghull, and Aughton. In the 11th Century, the area now known as South Lancashire was identified as the land between the Ribble and the Mersey. This land was divided into six Hundreds or Wapentakes, Kirkby being part of the Derbei Wapentake, or West Derby Hundred. It is believed that this Hundred, originally contained around thirty settlements with a total population of around 2,000 people; Kirkby's proportion therefore may have been as few as 70.

Over the centuries, the ownership of land around the Kirkby settlement passed through the hands of many families and it was not until the Molyneux family purchased the manor lands in their entirety in the 16th Century (partly in the 1560's and partly in 1596), that a semblance of continuity existed. The Manor of Kirkby continued to be held by successive Earls of Sefton until 1947 when the land was sold to the Liverpool Corporation...

If you have enjoyed reading this extract on the history on the township of Kirkby and would like to learn more, you can find the more detailed version available on our website via this link:

<https://archives.knowsley.gov.uk/kirkby/>

Cabinet One



A Journey on the Number 19

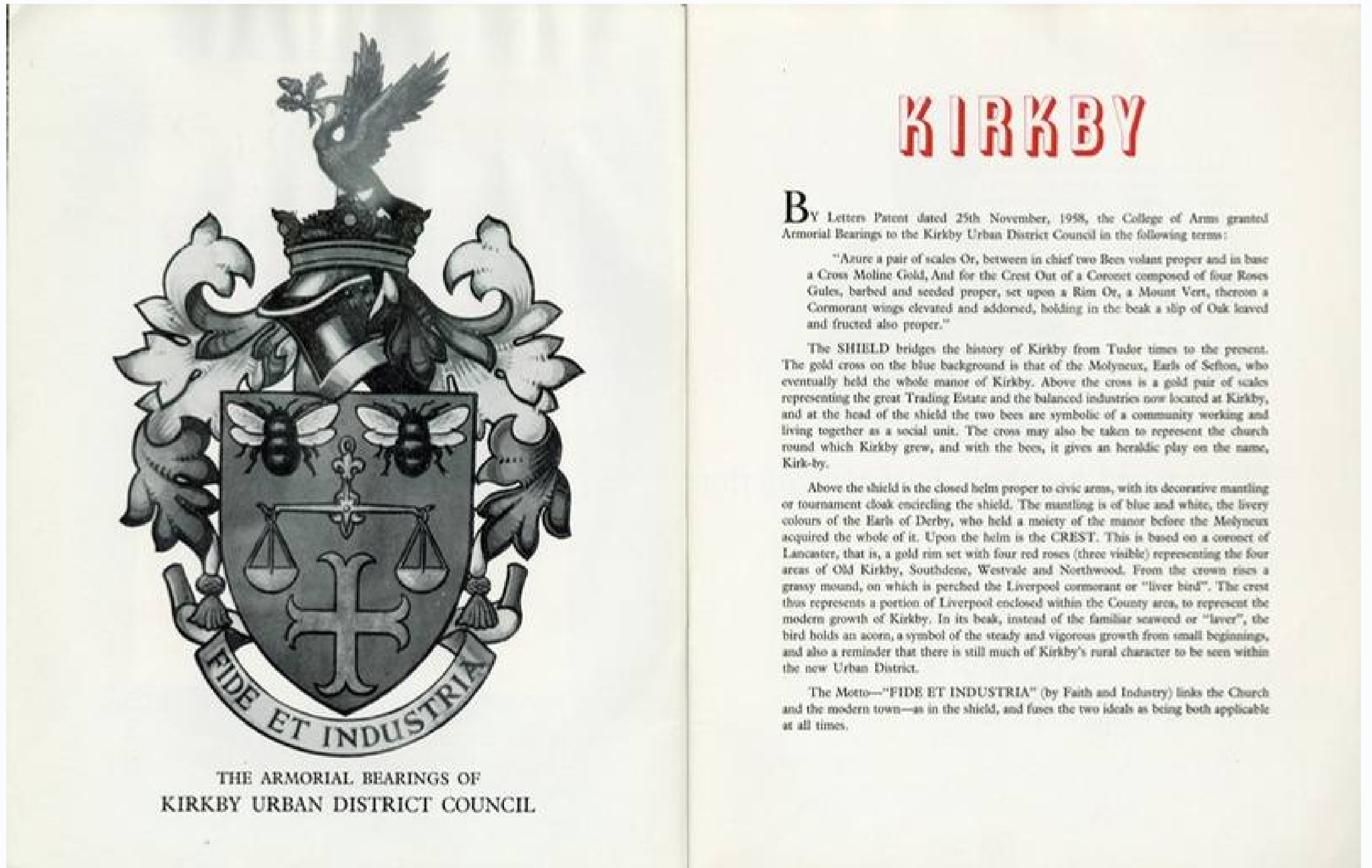
A tram on the 19 route on the wartime-built tramway extension to Kirkby Trading Estate, built alongside the East Lancashire Road.

Collection: Image 192 - Kirkby

Material: Photograph

Date: Mid-20th Century

Cabinet One



This is Your Town

A town guide for the people of Kirkby, produced by the Kirkby Urban District Council. Inside features a foreword by the Chairman of the Kirkby Urban District Council, Councillor Mrs M. J. Deering, J.P.). The guide discusses the opening the brand-new Kirkby Market and how the Council are managing housing, education, highways, libraries and industry.

On the open pages that can be seen, features an introduction to Kirkby and the original Armorial Bearings of the KUDC, featuring two bumble bees and the cross for the Molyneux Family (Earls of Sefton). Also featuring the motto: *Fide et Industria* meaning By Faith and Industry.

Collection: This is Kirkby: Your Town - Town Guides – 352.04.202

Material: Booklet/Town Guide

Date: 1961

Cabinet One



A Busy Day at Kirkby Market

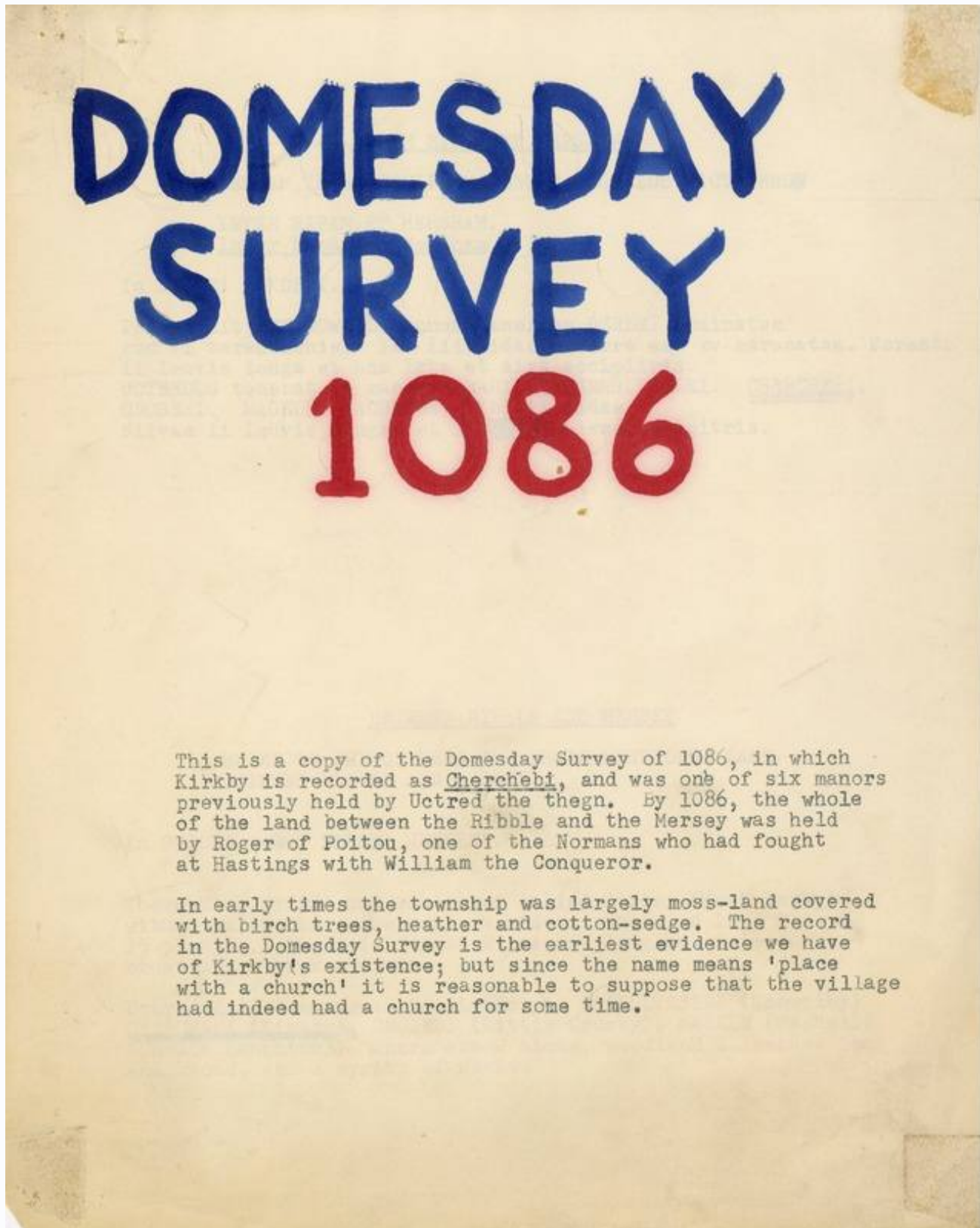
Town centre shopping at Kirkby Market in the 1960s, with many women and children shopping for essentials. A child in a pram can be seen peeking through some items unbeknown to his mother pushing the pram, whilst another child in a pram curiously watches on.

Collection: Image 593 - Kirkby

Material: Photograph

Date: 1960s

Cabinet One



The Domesday Survey 1086

This item provides a description of Kirkby's entry in the Domesday Book as Cherchebi, and a typed transcript and translation of the entry. The second item is a photostat copy of a page from the Domesday Book discussing Cherchebi (Kirkby). The Domesday Survey (or book) is a manuscript record of the Great Survey of parts of England and Wales in 1086. The survey was created by the orders of William the Conqueror and was written in Latin.

Collection:

GB1076.KLHS/6/2 &

GB1076.KLHS/6/3 - Kirkby

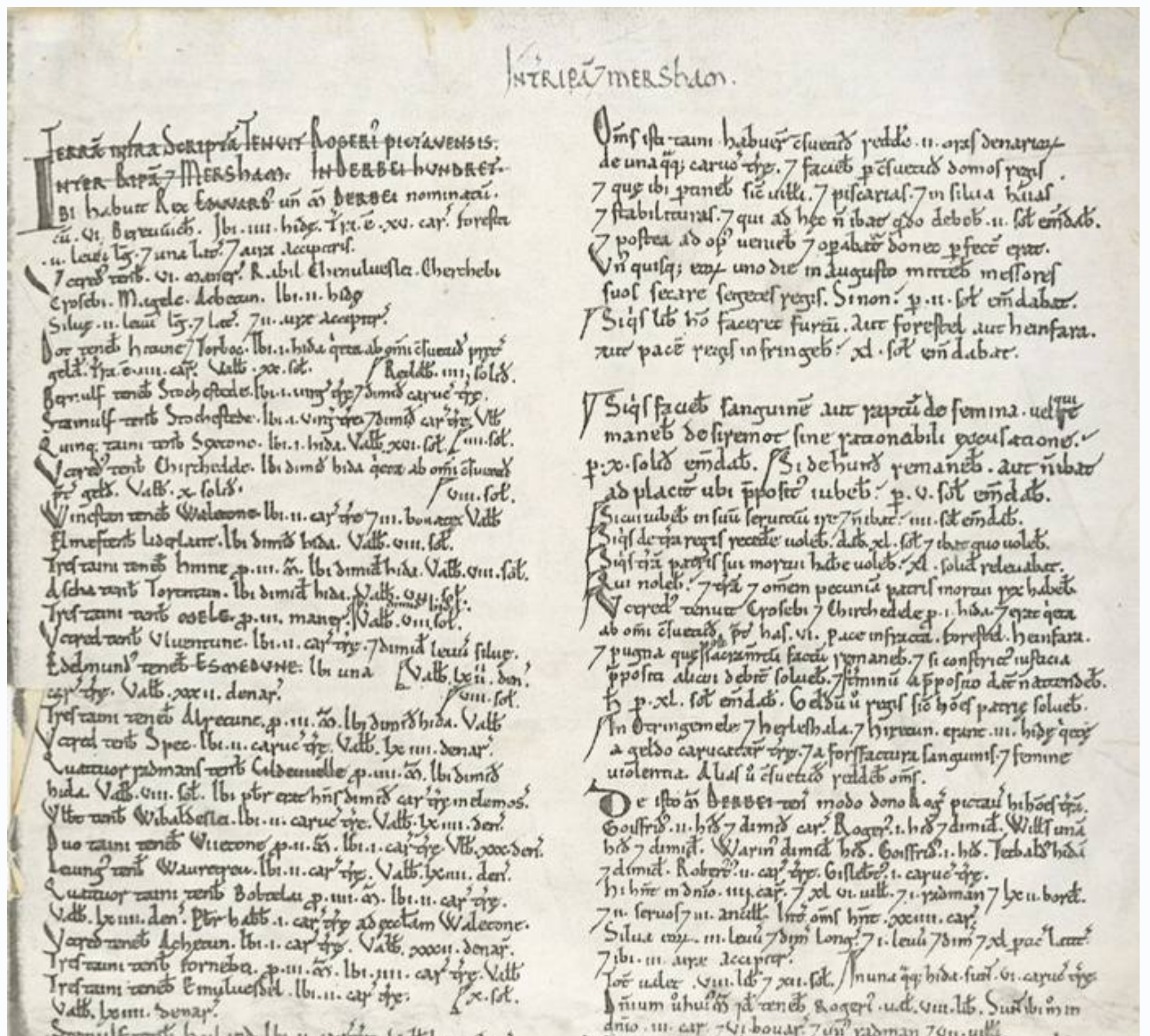
Liberal Historic Society

Collection

Material: Printed

Document & Photocopy

Date: 1966



Township of Tarbock

The spelling of the township name of Tarbock, named after a local brook, has changed more than any other in the West Derby Hundred. Variations have included Tarboc (1086), Turboc (1245), Terbock (1327), Tarbacke (1637) and Torbock before settling on its current form in the late seventeenth century. The township itself is 6 miles from Liverpool, 3.5 miles from Widnes and 2 miles from Prescott.

The Domesday Survey noted that the manor of 'Tarboc' was one of those previously held by the Saxon Thane, Dot. Tarboc, along with 'Hitune' (Huyton) was granted to Henry II in 1150 before it was given to the Lathom family. Towards the end of the twelfth century, the two were split between different branches of the family with Tarbock being assigned to Henry de Lathom. His son Richard was the first to adopt the name 'de Torbock'.

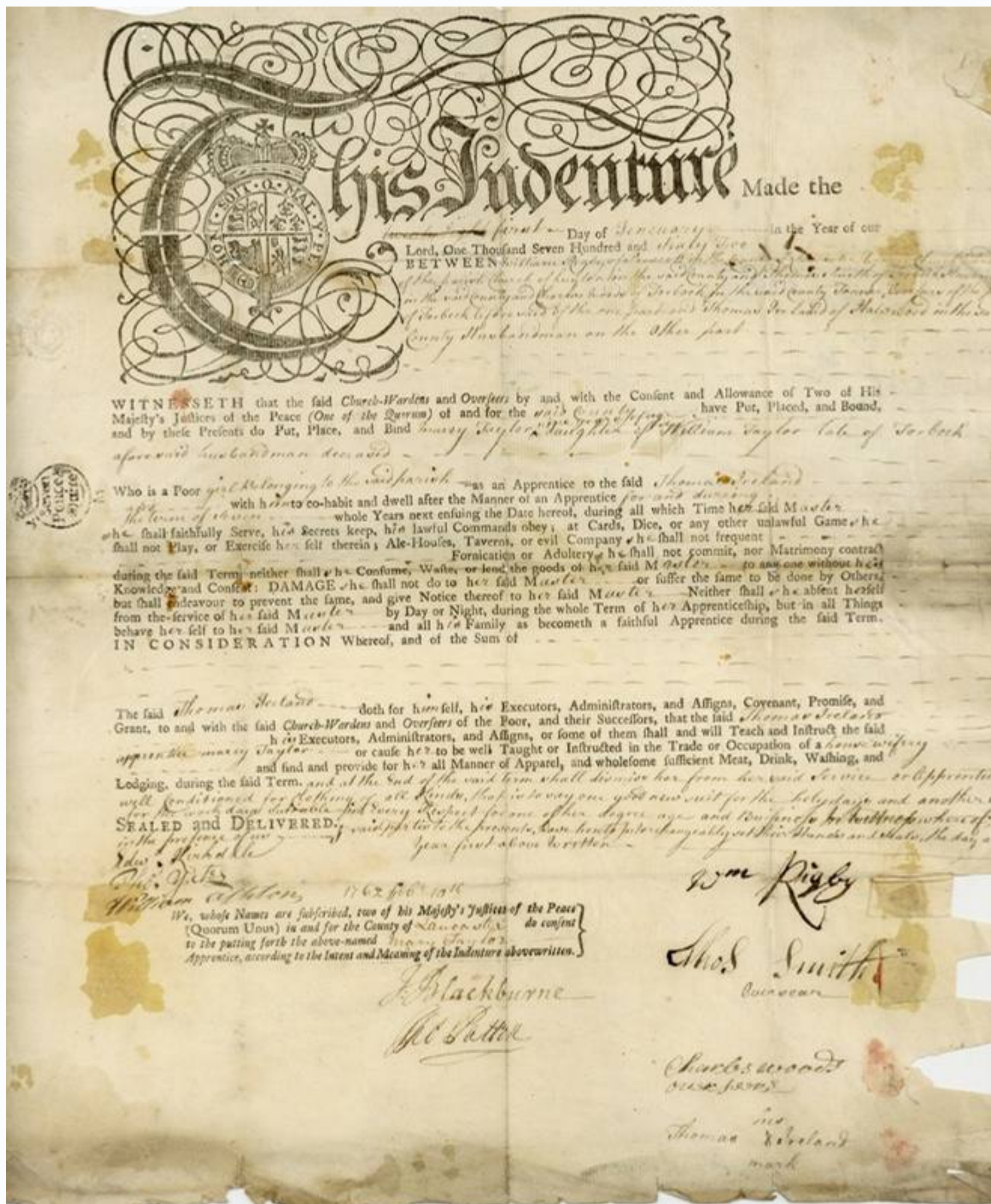
Tarbock Hall features in Saxton's map of Lancashire in 1577, although parts of the hall are believed to be fifteenth century in origin. It was surrounded by a 'moat' which was still very prominent on the Tithe map produced in 1847, although three-sides were reported to have been filled-in by the turn of that century.

Ownership of the manor remained in the Lathom family, often through the female line, until 1611 when it was sold to Thomas Sutton, a London gentleman and founder of Charterhouse School. Unfortunately Sutton died a few months later and it was his nephew who sold the estate to Sir Richard Molyneux, the Earl of Sefton three years later for £10,500...

If you have enjoyed reading this extract on the history on the township of Tarbock and would like to learn more, you can find the more detailed version available on our website via this link:

<https://archives.knowsley.gov.uk/tarbock/>

Cabinet Two



An Apprentice in House-Wifery

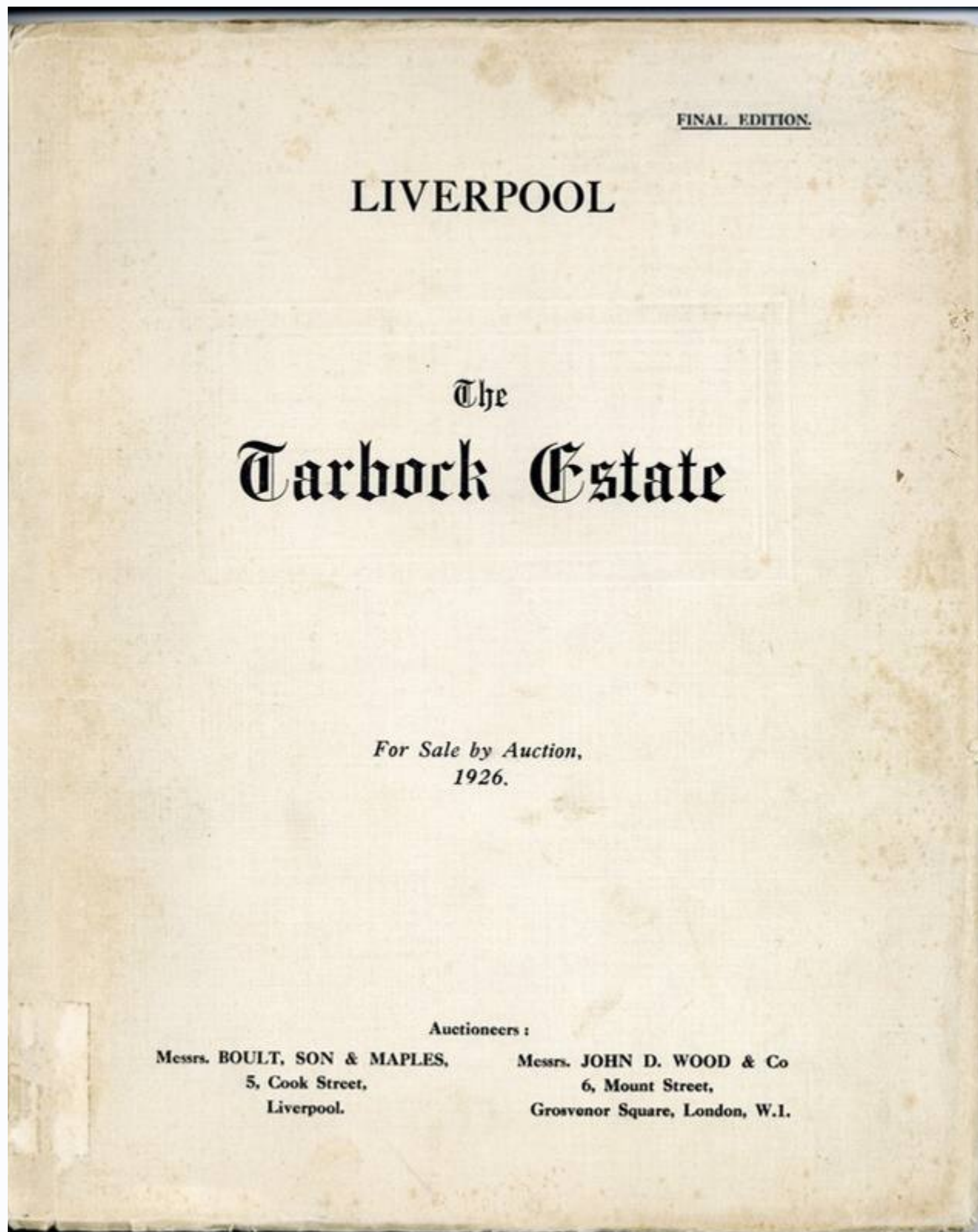
Apprentice indenture signed by the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of Torbock (Tarbock), apprenticing Mary Taylor aged 9, daughter of the late William Taylor of Torbock, in House-Wifery, to Thomas Ireland of Halewood, Husbandman, for 7 years from 1st January 1762. In her apprentice role, Mary would have been expected to carry out such tasks as manual labour including sewing, cooking, cleaning, and laundry.

Collection: GB1076.TTP/1/1/27 – Tarbock Township Collection

Material: Paper with Wax Seals

Date: 10th February 1762

Cabinet Two



Tarbock Estate Sale

Estate sale catalogue and plans for the Tarbock Estate. On the outskirts of Huyton, freehold to be sold in lots, estate of about 2272 acres. Includes 20 corn and potato growing farms, 10 small houses, 40 detached and semidetached cottages, small holding, market gardening land and building plots.

Collection: GB1076.ESTA/1/7– Estate Sale Catalogues

Material: Paper

Date: 1926

Cabinet Two



A Drive to the Hare and Hounds

Early motor car parked in front of 'Hare and Hounds', Tarbock, with two men sitting inside. Three other men stand for the photograph outside the public house.

Collection: Image TB66 - Tarbock

Material: Photograph

Date: Early 20th Century

Cabinet Two



All In a Day's Work

Hector Hughes, ploughing in a field in Tarbock, stands for a photograph with his two working horses.

Collection: Image TB70 - Tarbock

Material: Photograph

Date: Early 20th Century

Township of Prescott

Prescot is believed to be Anglo-Saxon in origin, with the name 'Prescota' – meaning a 'priest cottage'. It was the centre of an extensive parish, within the West Derby Hundred which included fourteen other townships including St Helens.

In 1333 the Lord of the Manor, William D'Acre, was granted the right to hold a weekly market and the town's importance is reflected in its inclusion on the Bodleian Map of Britain drawn by Gough in 1350. The manor was sold in 1391 to John of Gaunt and on his death passed to his son, who subsequently became Henry IV.

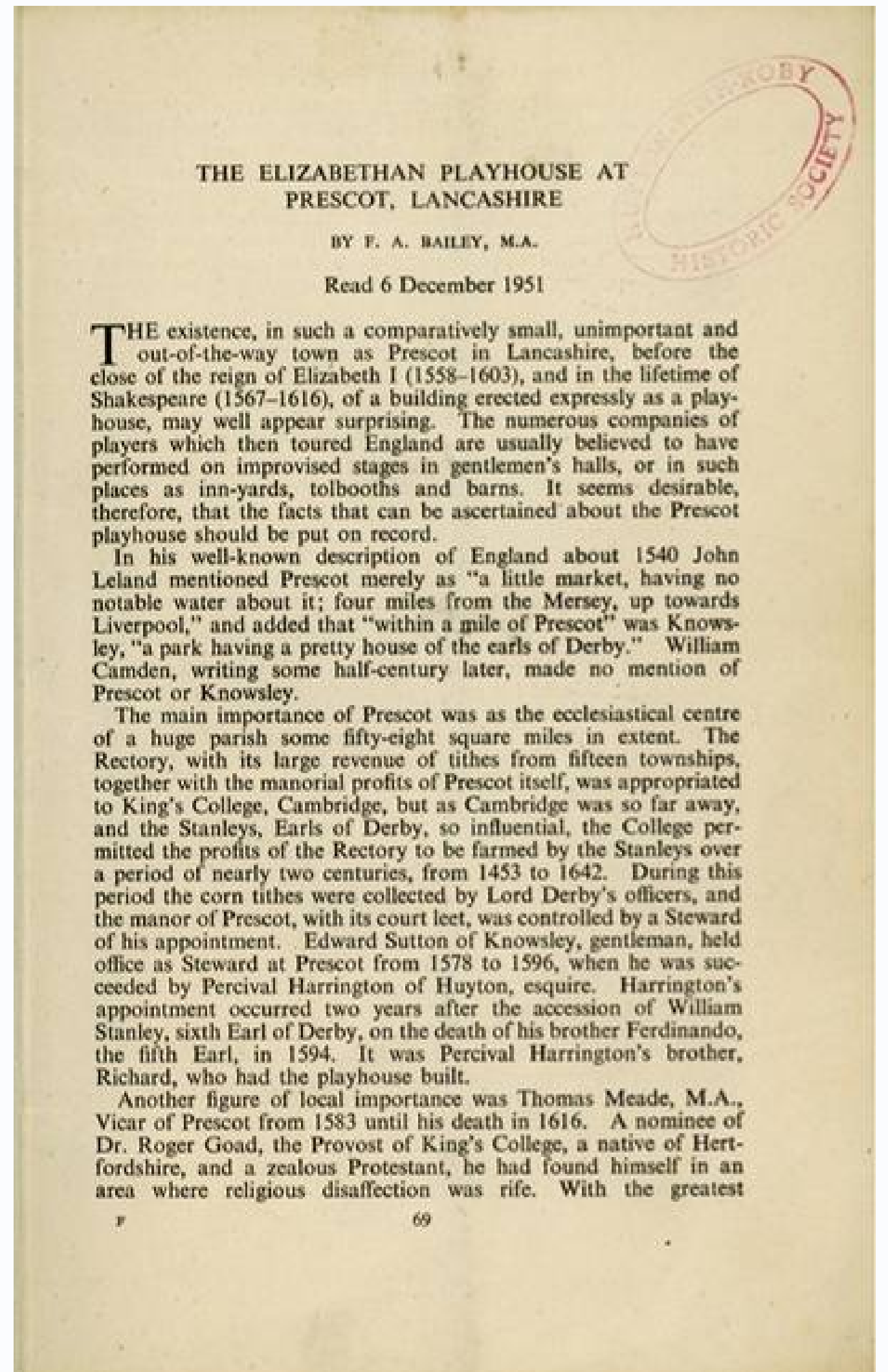
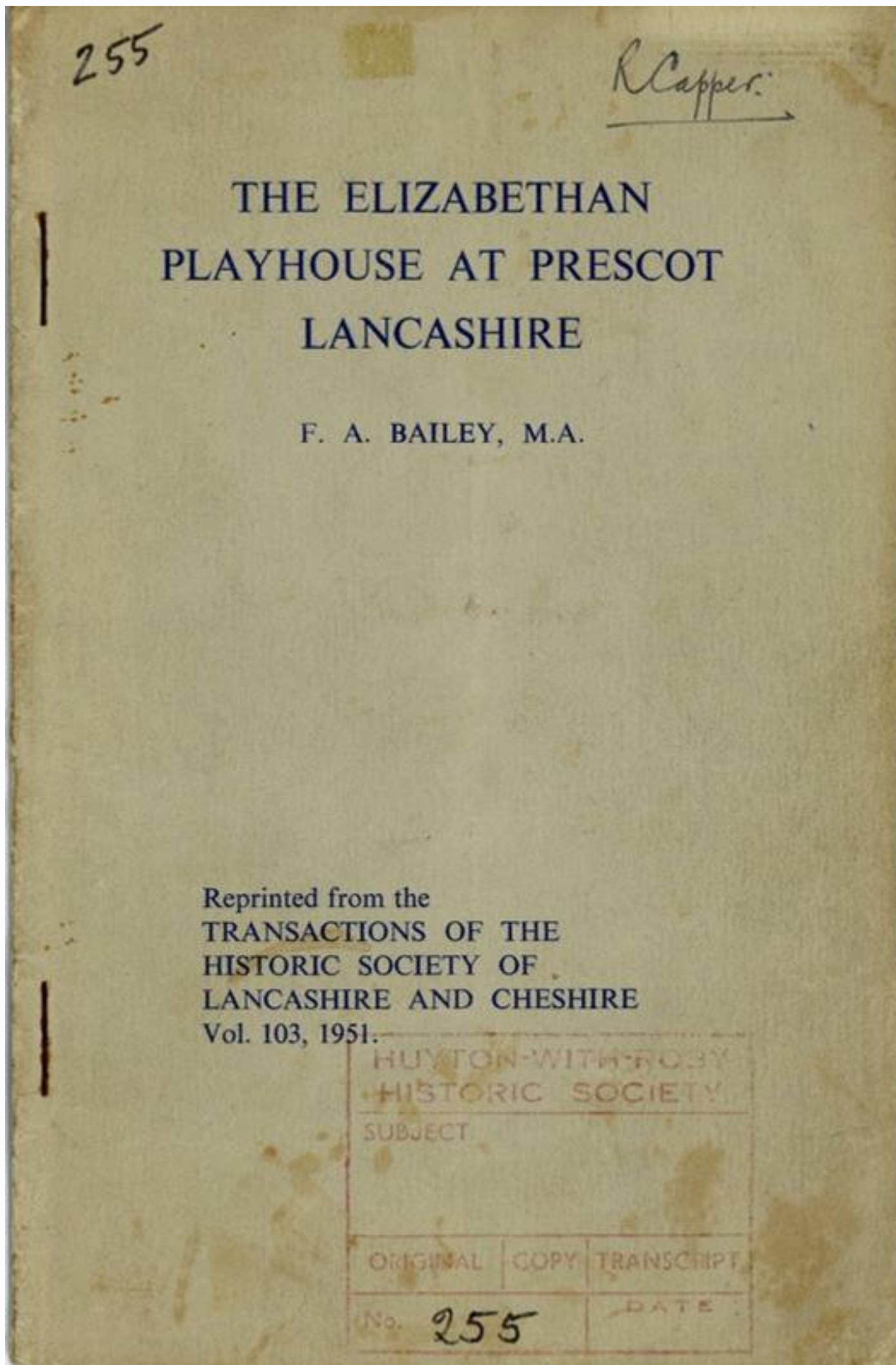
In 1447 Henry VI included both the Manor and Rectory of Prescott as gifts to establish a college at Cambridge University [subsequently King's College]. The Royal Charter gave the people of Prescott exemption from paying certain tolls, it also gave them a degree of self-government and the town adopted the college crest as its own. Due to the distance from Cambridge the daily running of the town was left to the Steward, his appointed deputy and the Court Leet (the local town council).

Considerable changes to the town occurred in 18th Century with the continued growth of a number of craft industries especially watchmaking, toolmaking and the potteries, resulting in increased prosperity and a rapid rise in population from an estimated 700 in the 1690s to 3645 in 1801. The town was practically rebuilt from the 1750s including the construction of a number of fine Georgian houses, some of which have survived to the present day...

If you have enjoyed reading this extract on the history on the township of Prescott and would like to learn more, you can find the more detailed version available on our website via this link:

<https://archives.knowsley.gov.uk/prescot/>

Cabinet Three



The Elizabethan Playhouse at Prescott

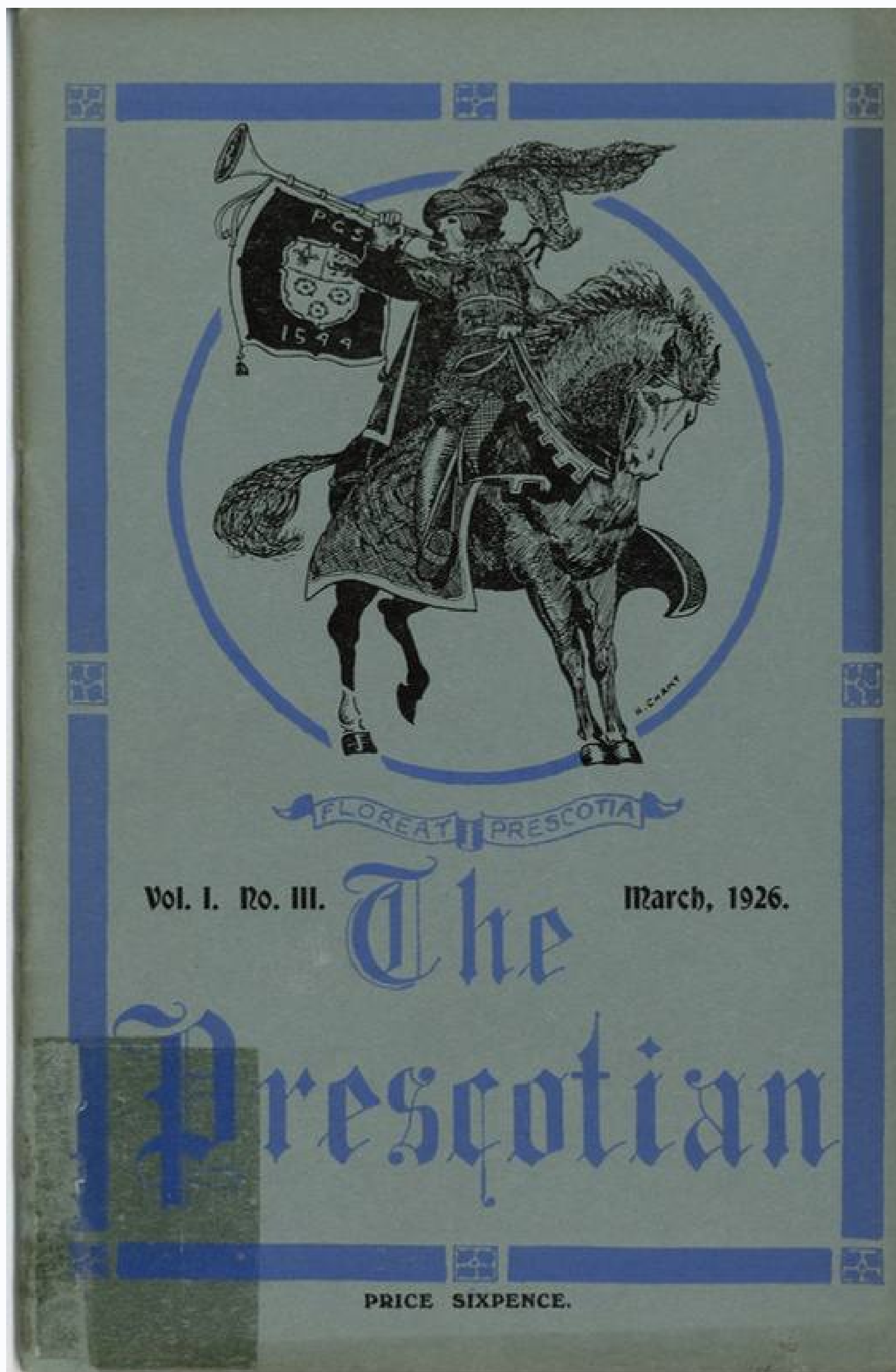
A printed booklet, reprinted from the Transactions of the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire, Volume 103, 1951, containing an essay by F.A. Bailey concerning the evidence for the existence of a playhouse in Prescott during the Elizabethan period.

Collection: GB1076.HHS/1/12/3 – Research Papers of R. Capper (Huyton Historic Society) Collection

Material: Booklet

Date: 1951

Cabinet Three



The Prescotian

A booklet produced by the Prescot Grammar School titled, The Prescotian. These booklets were produced by the school and featured topics such as sports, societies, events and school trips.

Collection: KA57/P Box 1/3 – Prescot Grammar School Collection – Vol. I No. III

Material: Booklet

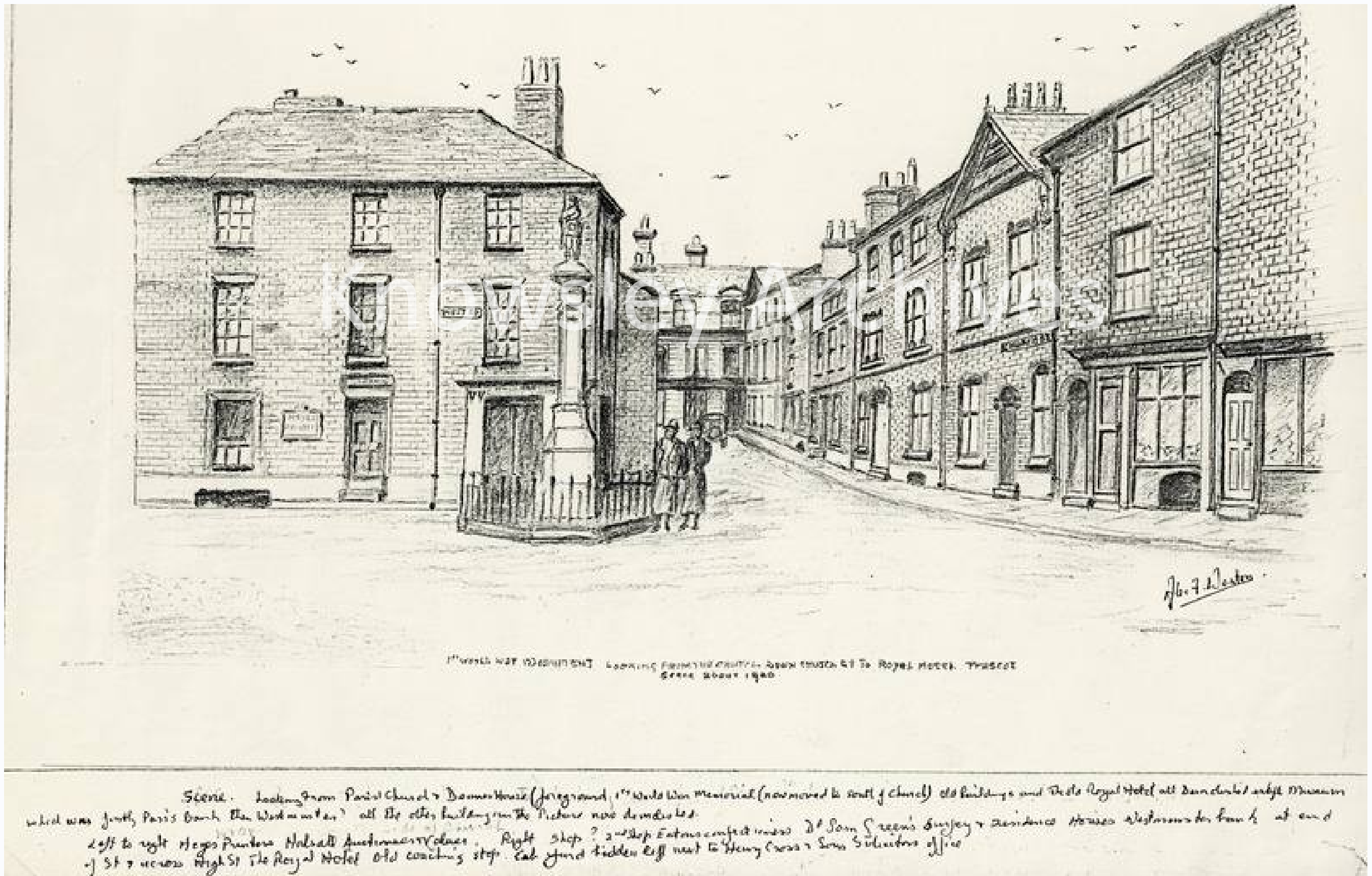
Date: March 1926

In the Editorial, this extract written at the end by H Chant and W. F. Corpe provides a wholesome message to current students about their future:

“But the time will assuredly come when you will take down a bound volume of THE PRESCOTIAN and find in it something more than mere faded paper and ink...it will then be a tangible record of the past...awakening memories of things done and friends made...and the greater the amount of enthusiasm that is put into it now, the greater will be the achievement both for the present and for that future when the long, long thoughts of a boy are left behind”.



Cabinet Three



A Scenic Drawing of Prescot

This photocopy of a pencil drawing by A. F. Weston depicts a scene capturing the War Memorial in its original location at the junction of Church Street and West Street. The monument was later moved to the south end of the St. Mary's Church.

Collection: GB1076.BLIC/12/3/5 – James Keir Blick Collection

Material: Photocopy of a drawing

Date: 1958

Cabinet Three



The Old Town Hall

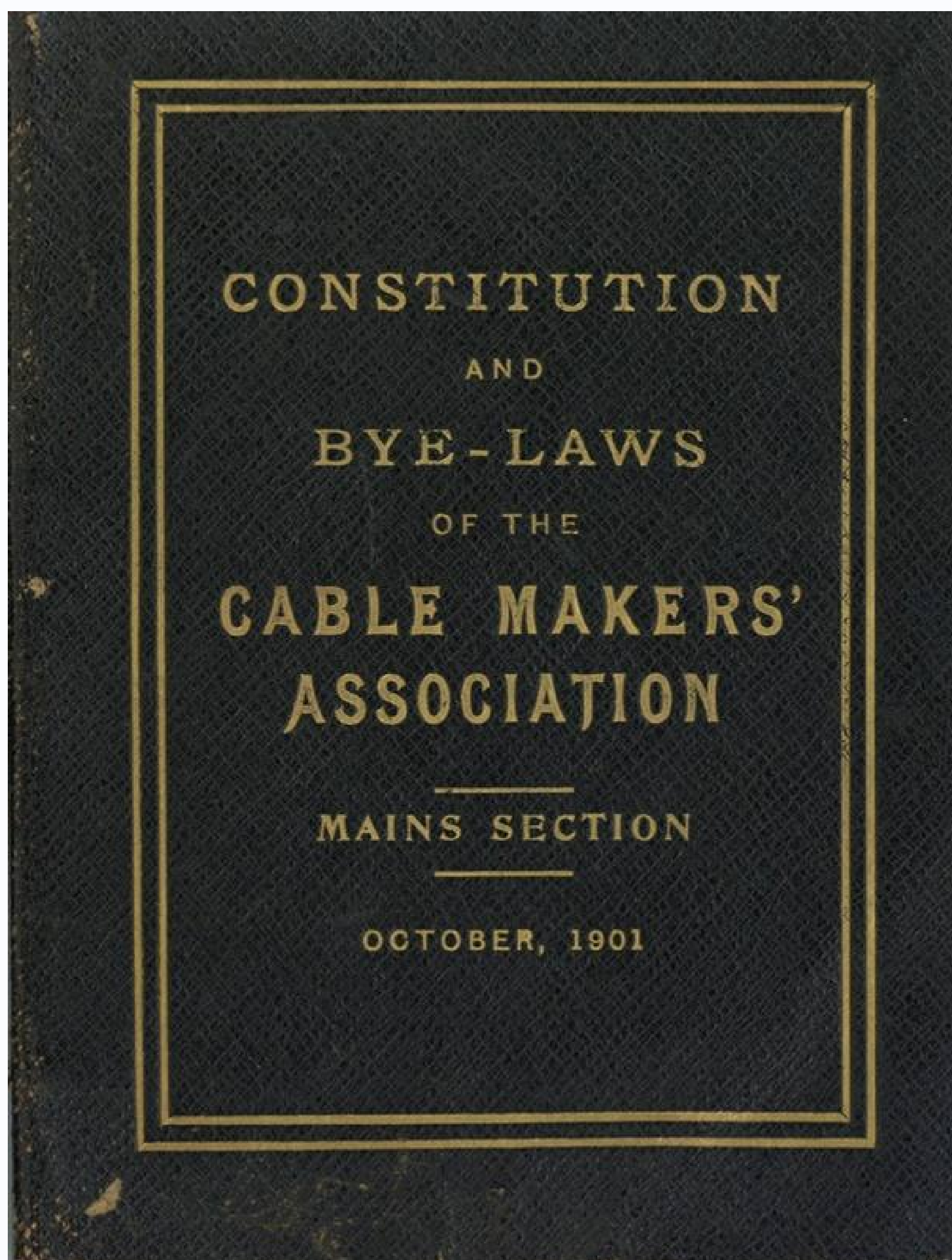
A view of the old Court House and Town Hall, Prescot.

Collection: Image PT 26 - Prescot

Material: Photograph

Date: 1918

Cabinet Three



A Worker's Handbook

A handbook titled Constitution and Bye-Laws of the Cable Makers' Association. Inside, the previous owner of this book has written their own notes on the first page. The book contains information on the objects of the association, general conditions and the constitution of the association.

Collection: BICC V/6/12 – British Insulated Callender's Cables Collection

Material: Book

Date: October 1901



Township of Whiston

From the 11th Century, South Lancashire was divided into six districts known as 'Hundreds' or 'Wapentakes'. As the Whiston area at that time was part of the parish of Prescott, it appeared as such on the district maps of the time within the West Derby Hundred.

Early references show the township as Quitstan (1245), Wystan, Quystan (1278), Whystan, Whytstan, Whyghstan (1292) and Quistan (1346), eventually reaching its present spelling of Whiston around 1355.

Whiston is located 1 1/2 miles south of Prescott, 3/4 mile east of Huyton Quarry, 4 miles south-west from St. Helens and 1 1/2 miles west from Rainhill.

Over centuries, Whiston had many changes in land ownership. The Lords of Whiston and Halsnead were influential, powerful families which included: Gernet; Dacre; Travers; Bold; Ogle; Case; Le Norreys; Pemberton; and latterly the Willis family whose descendants owned the Halsnead estate continuously from 1684 until 1929 when it was sold by auction. The Willis family were also the chief landowners within the Whiston district as a whole. The 17th Century Halsnead Hall stood until 1932 within the huge wooded area known as Halsnead Park.

Agriculture had been the main employment in the area over many centuries, but changing little in the process, however in 1955, part of Whiston's past was unearthed by the discovery of a medieval spade. Gradually, other industries developed to provide more varied local employment...

If you have enjoyed reading this extract on the history on the township of Whiston and would like to learn more, you can find the more detailed version available on our website via this link:

<https://archives.knowsley.gov.uk/whiston/>

Cabinet Four



A View of Whiston

A view of Cherrytree Close and Cedar Road

Collection: Image WH 93/14 - Whiston

Material: Photograph

Date: 1970s

Cabinet Four



Whiston in the 1930s

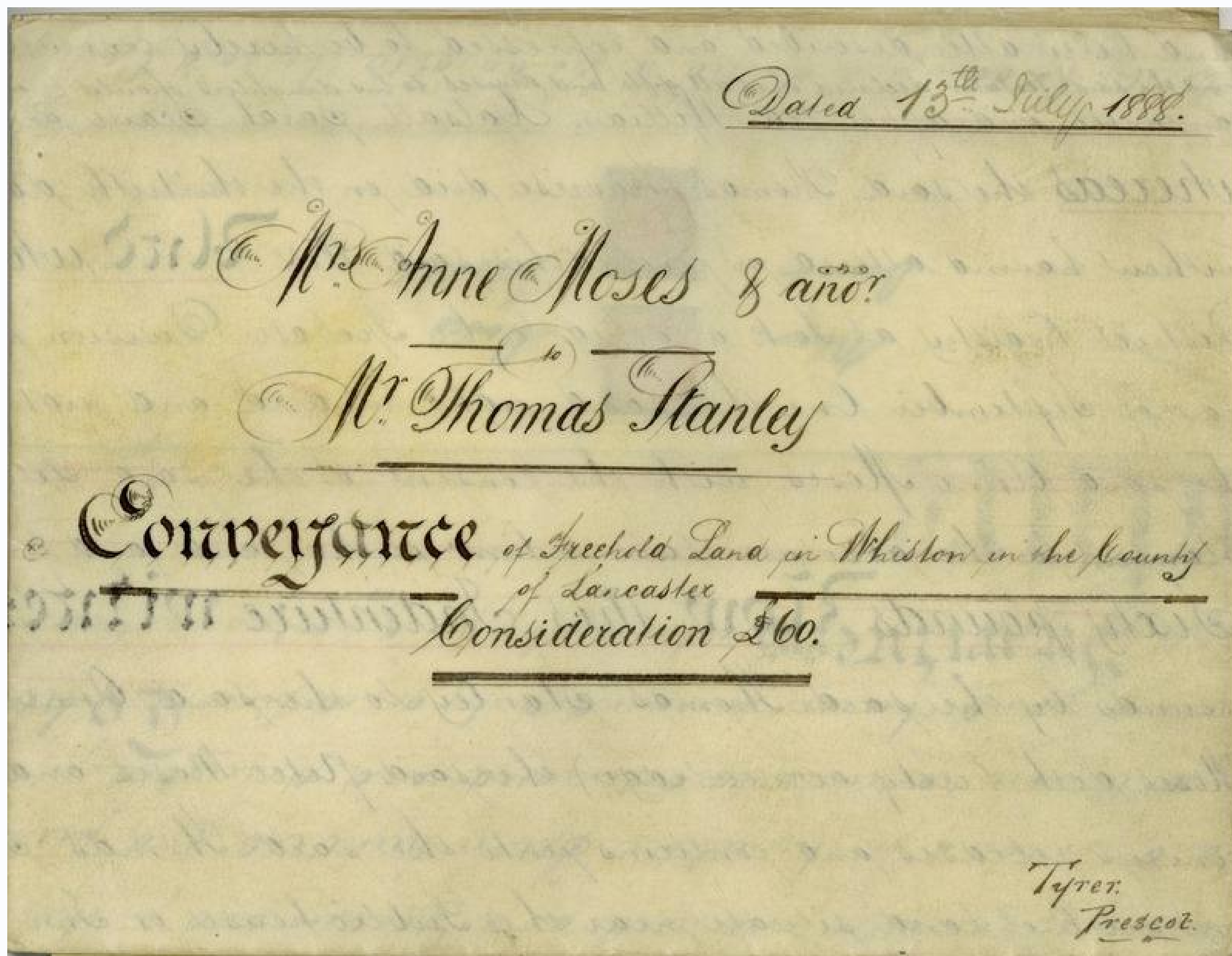
Looking up Paradise Lane towards Greene's Road. Four Children playing in the street stop to look at the camera.

Collection: Image WH 93/27 - Whiston

Material: Photograph

Date: 1930s

Cabinet Four



The Green Dragon

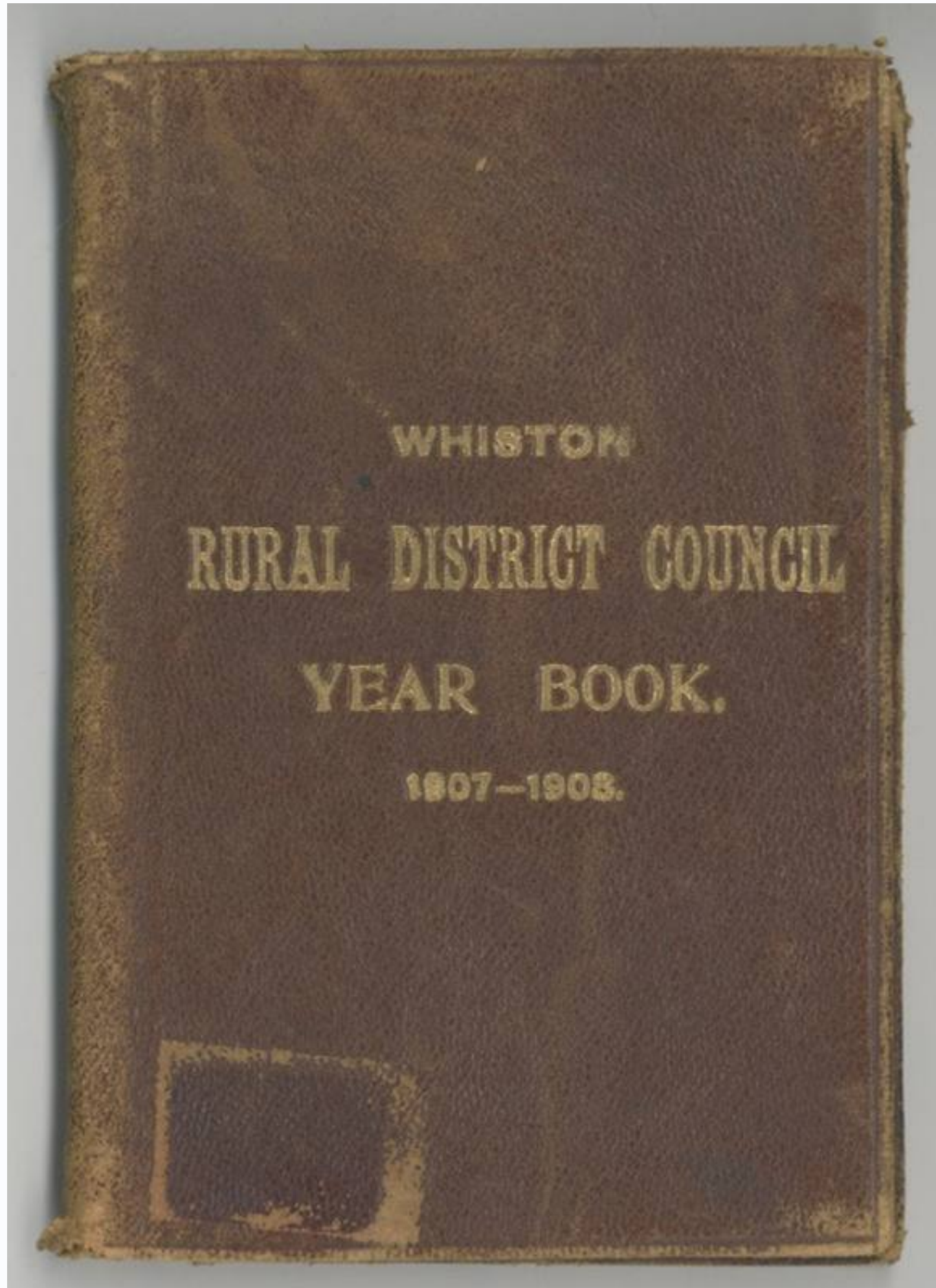
A conveyance between Mrs. Anne Moss & anor. to Mr. Thomas Stanley, of freehold land in Whiston, in the County of Lancaster. Consideration £60. Parcel of land situate near the Public-house, or Inn known as "The Green Dragon" in Whiston.

Collection: GB1076.TIDE/3/37 - Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council Legal Department Title Deeds And Other Legal Documents Collection

Material: Document

Date: 13 July 1888

Cabinet Four



An Early 20th Century Yearbook

These yearbooks would often contain lists of councillors, annual meeting reports, civic service details, and information on civic events.

Collection: KA137/O/Z92

Material: Book

Date: 1907 - 1908

Cabinet Four

PREFACE

An unpublished version of this guide was written in 1978 in response to the number of enquiries from schoolchildren who were involved in a local history project. Very little information was available in the library, so they sought the aid of the Whiston Historic Society, with the result that a simplified version was put together prior to a fuller history being written and published in 1982.

This version has been produced from the "History of Whiston" which was written by the late Jack Knowles and myself, with the encouragement of Mr Tom Scragg, and in answer to the many questions still being asked.

I would like to acknowledge the work of Jack Knowles on the Lords of the Manor of Whiston and the Halsnead Estate and to thank my wife for graciously receiving all the children (and some parents) who called to ask the questions in the early days.

Bill Blinkhorn.

January 1990

6

WHAT AND WHERE IS WHISTON ?

Since 1974

WHISTON is a small town or parish extending roughly from the M57 motorway in the south to Eccleston Park in the north, and from Prescot and Huyton in the west to Rainhill in the east. It has a Parish Council. The office of the Clerk of the Council is in the Community Centre which is in Dragon Lane.

Along with Prescot, Huyton, Kirkby and other towns around, it forms part of the Knowsley District which, together with the St Helens District and other Districts as far away as Southport, forms part of the MERSEYSIDE METROPOLITAN COUNTY.

Before 1974

Before 1974 there was no Merseyside County. We were not Merseysiders - we were Lancastrians. We belonged to Lancashire County whose centre is now at Preston (originally at Lancaster). And instead of being part of Knowsley District, we belonged to the WHISTON RURAL DISTRICT. This was a large area stretching from Windle (by the East Lancashire Road) in the north, to Cronton and Halewood in the south. The towns of Windle, Cronton, Whiston, Eccleston, etc were all separate parishes in the Rural District.

7

A Young Person's Guide To Whiston

A booklet created by Bill Blinkhorn for young people of today, covering historical aspects of Whiston from 1066 to the 1990s. Open on pages 6 and 7, detailing how the idea for this booklet began after many queries from schoolchildren about their local history. The booklet has a foreword from Principal Librarian for Reference & Information Services, T. W. Scragg.

Collection: Whiston: A Young Person's Guide – Bill Blinkhorn – 942.72 - Archive Special Collection

Material: Booklet

Date: 1990



Knowsley Council

- 30 -



Space C



Photograph of Space C

Township of Cronton

The township of Cronton, in the West Derby Hundred, appears in the Norman document the Testa de Nevill as Grohinton and Crohinton, in other sources it appears as Croynton (1292); Croenton (1348) and Crawenton (1562) this later spelling reflecting its Saxon origin as a 'settlement of crows'.

The manor formed part of the ancient Barony of Widnes until about 1250 when Edmund de Lacy gave the township, his land and feudal rights to Stanlaw Abbey as alms. The Abbey retained ownership until the dissolution of the monasteries in 1537 when the manor was sold to Thomas Holt of Gristlehurst.

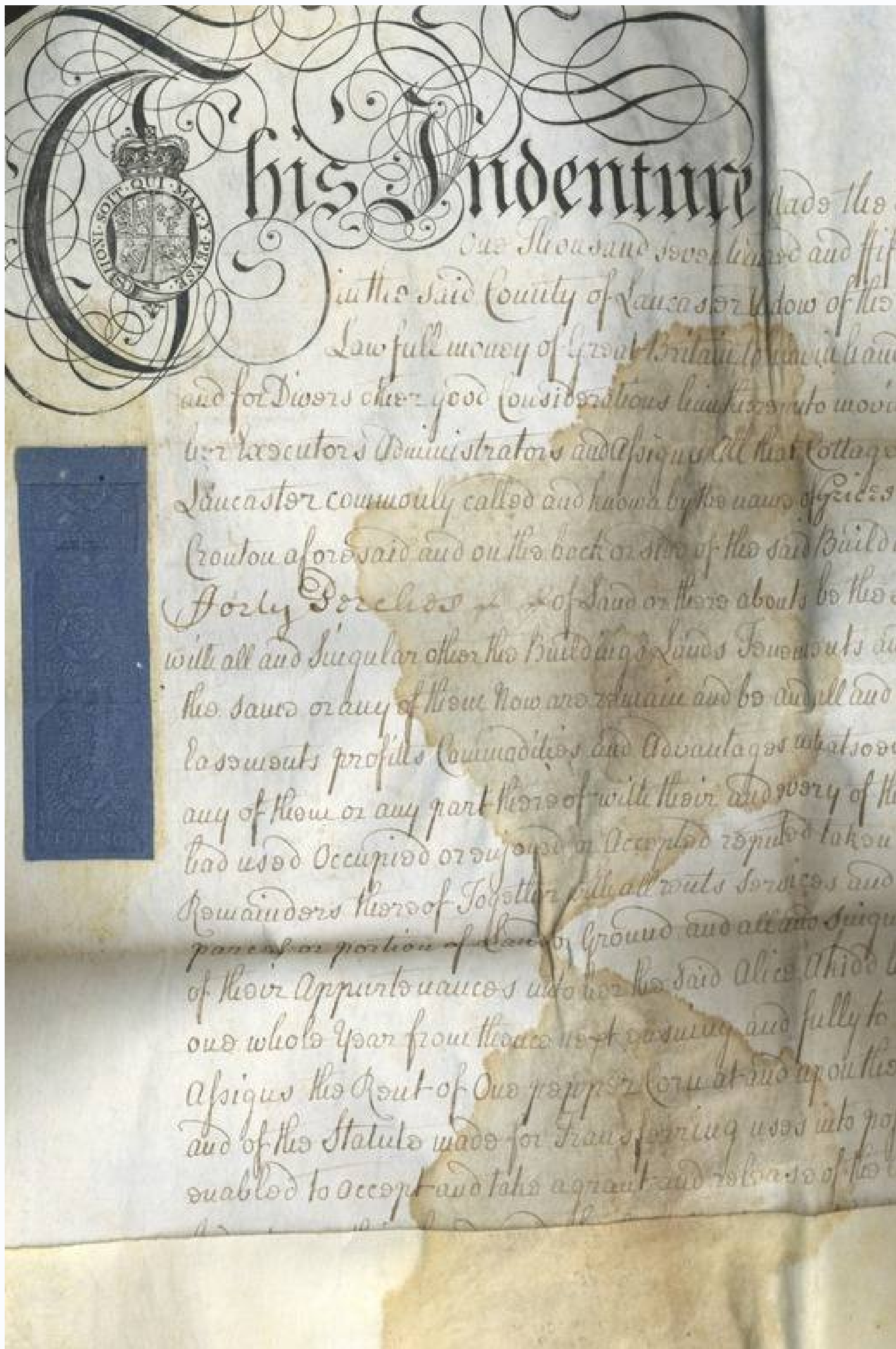
Although present-day Cronton has a link to astronomy through Pex Hill Observatory, a much older link exists through Charles Leadbetter. Leadbetter was born at Cronton in 1681 and would later become a well-known mathematician, navigator and astronomer. He had four books published during 1720s-1730s and became a gauger for Customs and Excise in London before his death there in 1744.

For over a century the manor and lands of Cronton passed through a succession of owners as it became sub-divided into smaller and smaller plots and sold and resold to local land-owners. The Wright family eventually becoming sole owners of the manor in the mid seventeenth century. Successive generations of the family lived at Cronton Hall until 1821 when it was again sold, this time to Bartholomew Bretherton of Rainhill who enlarged the house and grounds that already existed...

If you have enjoyed reading this extract on the history on the township of Cronton and would like to learn more, you can find the more detailed version available on our website via this link:

<https://archives.knowsley.gov.uk/cronton/>

Cabinet Five



A Lease from the mid-18th Century

Lease for one year (Release missing), between Richard Oculshaw if Standish, Lancashire and Alice Akidd of Widnes, a widow. For a cottage and buildings in Cronton (Oculshaw Hall); with the back enclosed by a ditch and hedge from the highway.

Collection: T2 -KA27/O/T - Cronton Parish Council Collection

Material: Document

Date: 29th April 1755



Signed by Richard Oculshaw with the wax seal remaining intact

Cabinet Five



The Stocks

A man is pictured sitting with his feet in the stocks at Cronton, while a young boy looks on.

Collection: Image CR 41 - Cronton

Material: Photograph

Date: 1905 - 1910

Cabinet Five



1893 Ordnance Survey

This is a composite copy of the 1893 Ordnance Survey map Lancashire sheet CXIV4 scale 1 mile:25", showing Cronton village.

Collection: GB1076.BLIC/12/1/8 – James Keir Blick Collection

Material: Map - Photocopy

Date: Original Map is from 1893 – No date on the photocopy



Township of Knowsley Village

In the Domesday Book of 1086, Knowsley was known as Chenulveslei, becoming Knuvesle in 1199; Knouselegh in 1258; Knouleslee in 1261; Knusele in 1262; and Knouslegh in 1346. The pronunciation varies between 'Nowsley' and 'Nosely'.

The village of Knowsley developed as a direct result of the Lathom/Stanley family, better known as the Earls of Derby with their vast estate and residence at Knowsley Hall. The manors of Knowsley, Roby, Huyton and Tarbock were all held by the Lathom family before the year 1200. The small local community which by 1900 had only reached 1,325 residents in the main relied upon Knowsley Park directly or indirectly for their livelihood.

Knowsley was held by the Lathom family since the twelfth century. In 1385, with the marriage of Isabel de Lathom to Sir John de Stanley, the lands passed to the Stanley family who still hold it today.

Sir John Stanley was made Lord Deputy of Ireland by Richard II and went on to hold a number of distinguished positions including Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, Treasurer of the Royal Household and Lord of the Isle of Man. His grandson Thomas also became Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, and in 1456 was summoned to Parliament as Lord Stanley. The second Lord Stanley (another Thomas) was knighted in 1460 and was created the 1st Earl of Derby by a grateful King Henry VII after his intervention proved decisive in the Battle of Bosworth in 1485...

If you have enjoyed reading this extract on the history on the township of Knowsley Village and Knowsley Estate and would like to learn more, you can find the more detailed version available on our website via this link:

<https://archives.knowsley.gov.uk/knowsley-village/>



Cabinet Six



Maypole Green

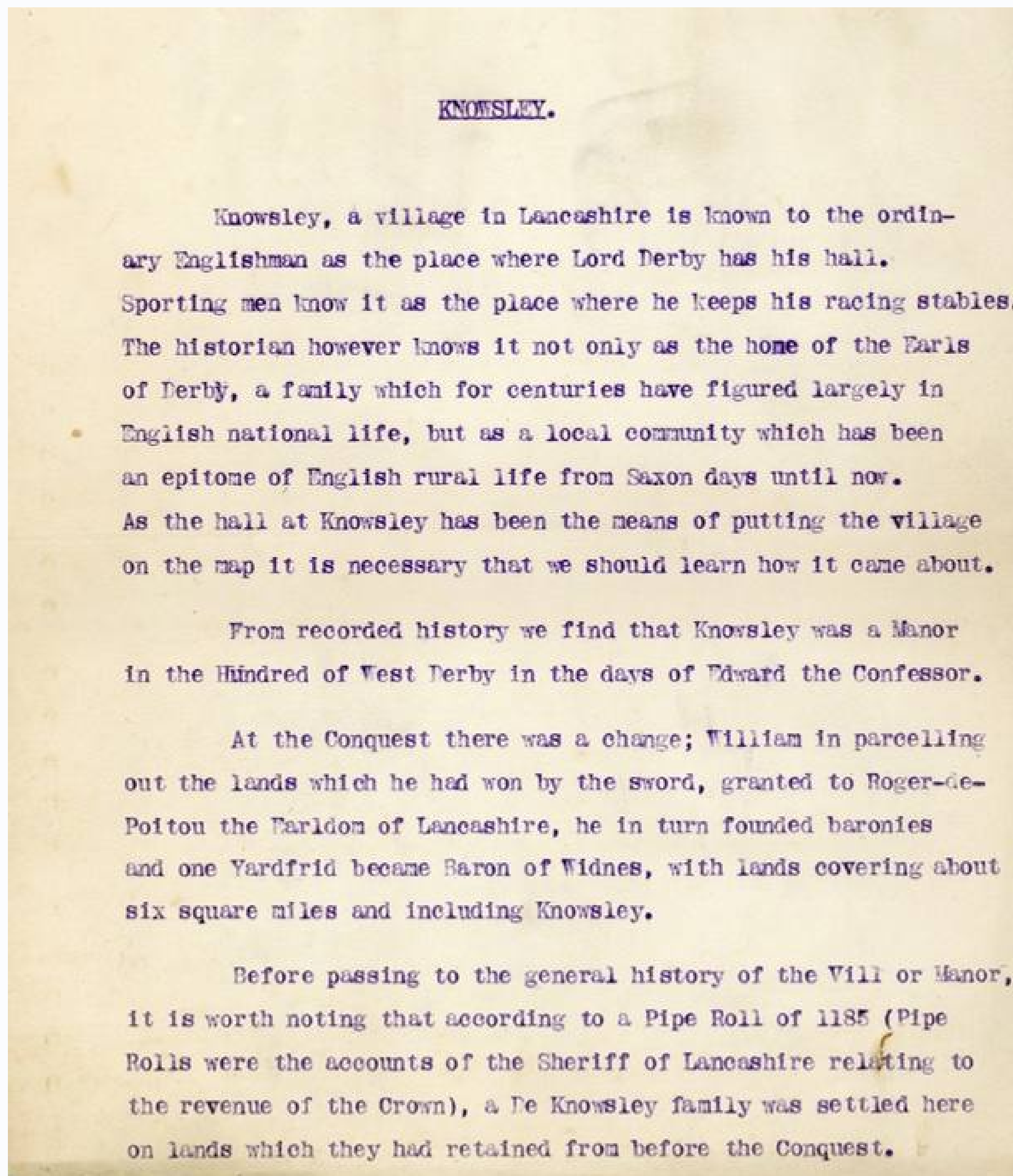
The maypole green and war memorial located at the Knowsley triangle (where Knowsley Lane meets School Lane).

Collection: Image KN 10 – Knowsley Village

Material: Photograph

Date: May 1977

Cabinet Six



A Manuscript for Knowsley

Typed manuscript signed by the author, James Hoult. The text deals with the history of Knowsley Village and the Estate from Saxon times to the date written (i.e., 1950). Refers to the de Knowsley, Latham, Stanley, Derby, and Richmond families as well as to various Earls of Derby. Also gives details of the author's 'Personal Chats' with local inhabitants, the 'old folk'. Includes a section on alms-houses, a section titled 'War on sparrows, moles and rats', and one that gives details of the Village Smithy.

Collection: GB1076.WARR/2/2/1 – Warren Collection

Material: Manuscript

Date: May 1950



Knowsley Council

Cabinet Six

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Lord Derby's grandchildren, Ruth Primrose and Priscilla Bullock also attended Knowsley Church as children of our day. Lady Victoria, their mother, was killed in a horse riding tragedy when she ran into a tree, and a brass plate was mounted on the wall in this church to her memory. I have a letter of thanks in my treasures from the late Lord and Lady Derby, as the children and tenants of the village subscribed to this memento.

Often in the early summer when the bracken was supple we would cross the field behind the cottage and make our way to the open moss, taking with us any broken crocks to add to our collection of brightly painted pieces that were left in our very own hiding places, and build a play house with turf and bracken which we pulled up to clear a space, sometimes we would take a walk across the hare-track, stumbling over the mounds of sniddle and undergrowth, picking cotton plant and armfuls of heather to take back home to put in every available stone jar.

Birch trees grew in profusion and long yellow catkins which hung from the branches of the Hazel were always a sight to behold. Among the many wild flowers that grew on the wayside was the harebell with its tiny blue bell shaped flowers. I loved to bend over them and listen for the quaint tinkle as they nodded and swayed, their tiny bells dancing cheek to cheek in the warm breeze.

The tall pink campion and the foxglove on the edge of the brookside, almost laughing, as we rushed past to see if we had caught a shrew in the long necked empty

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bottles we had left the day before by their haunts in the bank, then with our ears to the ground listening to their familiar squeaks.

At this season the men from the farm, wearing moss clogs, (wide sandals) which had wooden soles and leather straps which fitted over their working boots to stop them sinking, would spend much time cutting turf on the peat moss. First they would take off a layer of heather and bracken, then cutting blocks of peat with turf spades, we would watch the moss water oozing out as the spades were thrust into the narrow graves, then placing the blocks on the long barrows, were wheeled and tipped into straight rows like soldiers, to dry in the hot sun, later to be stacked for winter fuel.

We always enjoyed watching the sparks fly up the chimney from the smouldering turf when it was disturbed by a sharp jab from the poker in the long winter nights.

The summers in those days seemed so long and hot, and one place of great interest was the marl pit that was adjacent to the blue bell wood. The marl pit was a sun trap, surrounded by tall trees and shrubbery; much sweat was lost by men and horses in this deep pit. The men would dig the heavy marl with shiny spades and throw it into the waiting carts and when they had a good load, the horses would be led up the incline, straining every muscle to pull the heavy load onto the road and down the cart track to be spread on the moss fields. The marl, being a good fertilizer, had to be worked in another day by the

Tales from Nanny Goat Hall

This copy of 'The Children of Nanny Goat Hall' recounts tales from Annie Harrison née Blackburn's childhood growing up at Nanny Goat Hall, a cottage on Kirkby Moss, and her schooldays at Knowsley Village School. Open on pages 9 and 10, Annie reminisced how Lord Derby's children also attended the Knowsley Church with her.

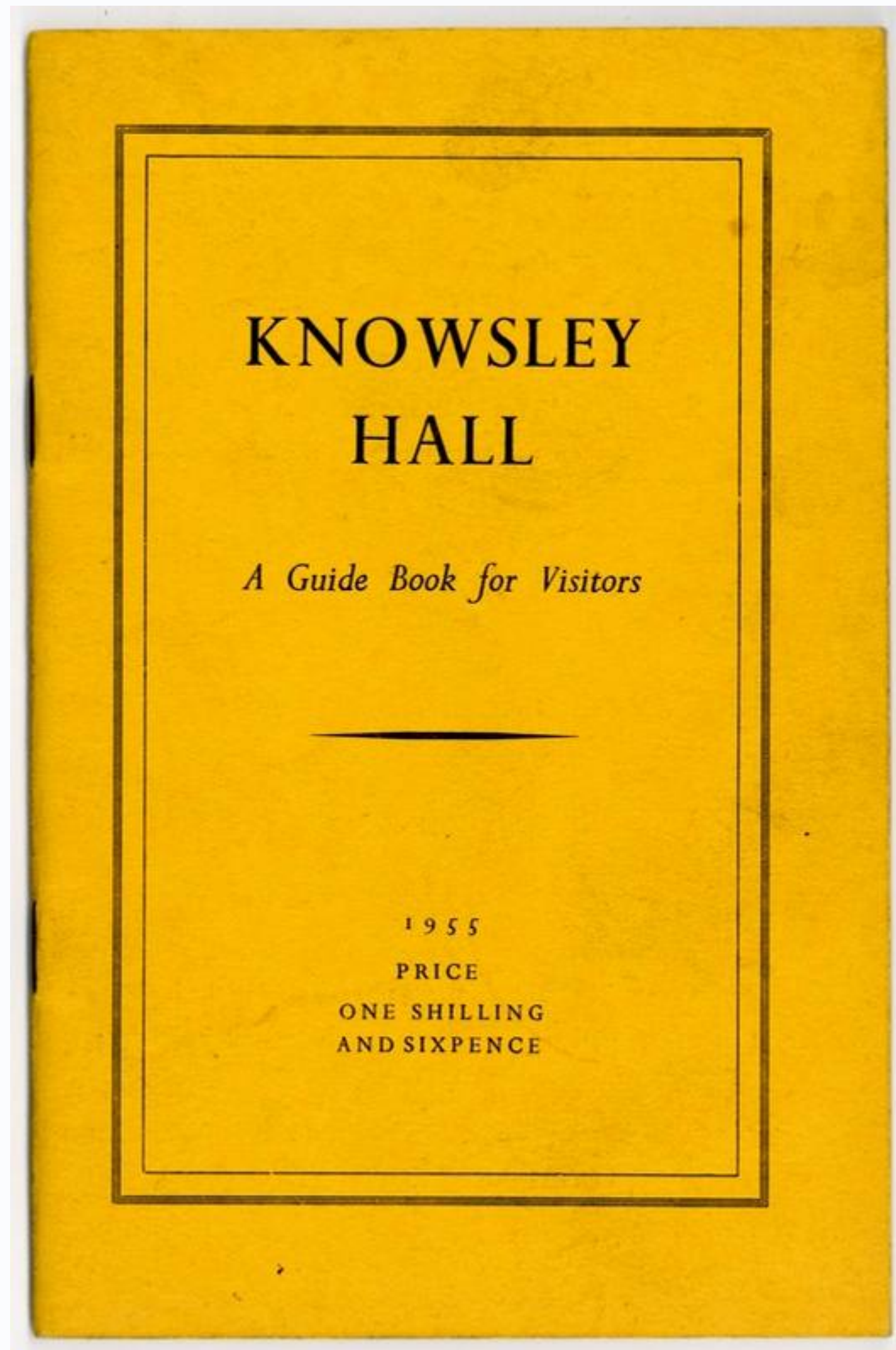
Collection: GB1076.GOR/7/1 – Margaret Gore Collection

Material: Book

Date: October 1974



Cabinet Six



A Guide to Knowsley Hall

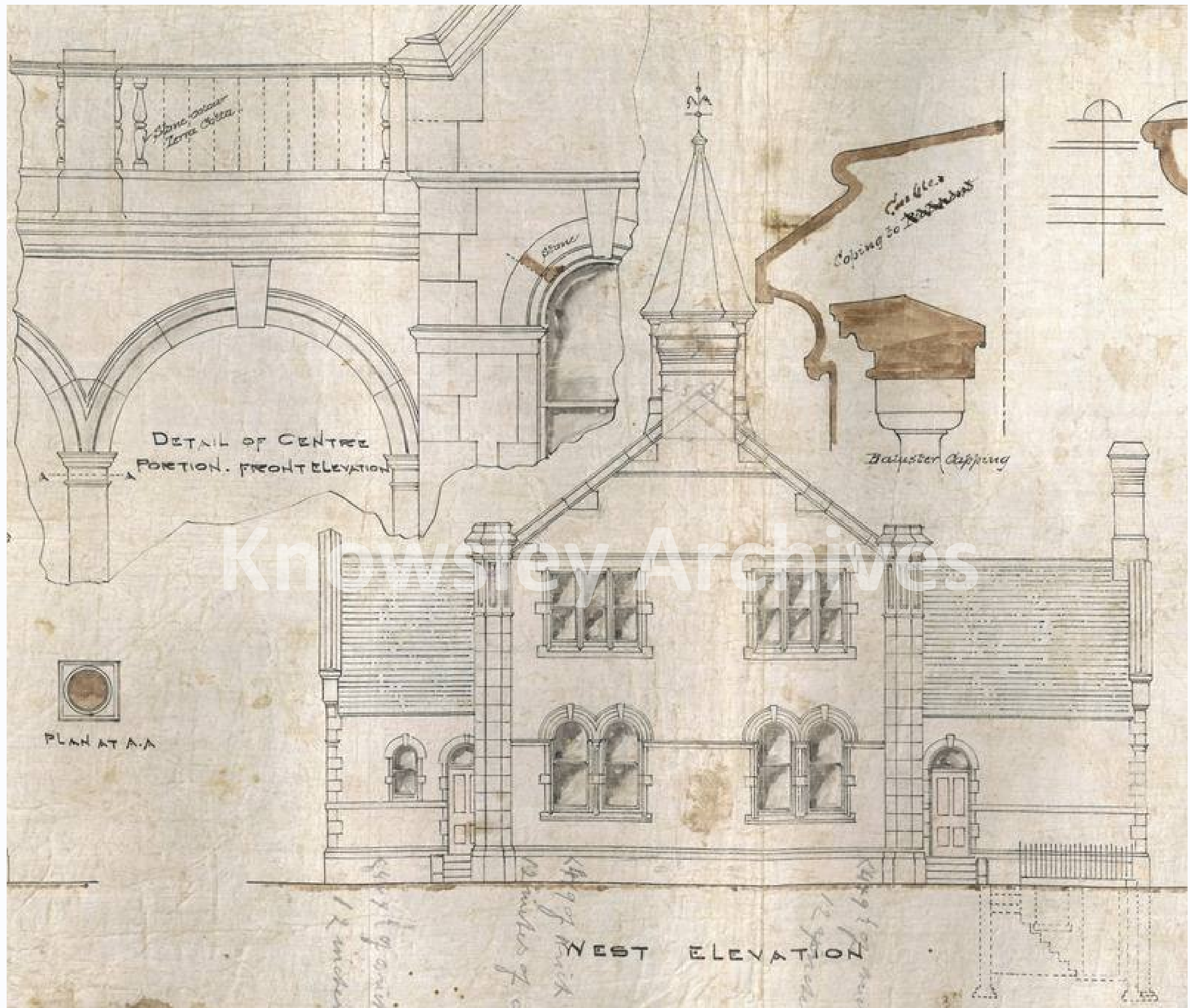
A guidebook for visitors to Knowsley Hall, featuring sections on the history of the house and the family. Included are opening times for the public in the months May to September on Sundays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Collection: Knowsley Hall: A Guide Book for Visitors - Archive Special Collection

Material: Book

Date: October 1955

Cabinet Six



The Building of Knowsley Village Hall

A segment of the plans for the construction of Knowsley Village Hall. These plans are part of a bundle of six carefully detailed architectural plans for the construction. The segment shows the west side of the Village Hall and the details of the centre portion from the front of the hall.

Collection: GB1076.KVH/1/2 – Knowsley Village Hall Collection

Material: Architectural plans

Date: 1896

Township of Stockbridge Village

Stockbridge Village may be a relatively new community (formerly Cantril Farm) but the area of land on which it now sits partly in Huyton and partly in Knowsley, has a rich history.

Stock Bridge (after which the lane and eventually the township was named) was originally a wooden bridge which crossed the River Alt. It was named as a boundary as early as 1189.

Descendants of the Stanley family prospered and the seat of the Earls of Derby became Knowsley Hall, the earliest part of which is believed to be late 15th Century. The Knowsley Estate lands covered a huge area (including Stockbridge) where tenant farmers and farm labourers worked the land whilst others were employed in other labour on the Knowsley Park Estate or at Knowsley Hall itself. A similar situation existed for those who worked for the Earl of Sefton with his nearby seat of Croxteth Hall.

Therefore, the agricultural life of the majority of local inhabitants remained the same for hundreds of years, it wasn't until 20th Century that major changes occurred for the nearby townships...

If you have enjoyed reading this extract on the history on the township of Stockbridge Village and would like to learn more, you can find the more detailed version available on our website via this link:

<https://archives.knowsley.gov.uk/stockbridge-village/>



Cabinet Seven



A drive down Waterpark Drive

A view of Waterpark Drive towards the heart of Stockbridge Village, formally known as Cantril Farm. The public house, The Barley Mow can be seen to appear on the right. The since demolished 22-storey high rises, Hillsdene, Mountdene and Towerdene, can be seen in the distance.

Collection: Image SV 1 – Stockbridge Village

Material: Photograph

Date: 1960s

Cabinet Seven



The Old Stockbridge Library

A busy issue desk at Stockbridge Village Library, The Withens, on the last day before closure. Patrons can be seen holding armfuls of books and a celebratory glass of 'bubbly' for both staff and patrons. The library, opened in 1971, had been located at The Withens shops, was then demolished. The library was moved to a temporary unit at the Croft shops, between a Sayers Bakery and a betting shop. The New Stockbridge Village Library opened adjacent to Heatwaves Leisure Centre, The Withens in October 1993. In 2011, the new Neighbourhood Centre opened which comprised of Stockbridge Village Primary School, Stockbridge Leisure Centre and Stockbridge Village Library. Photograph is copyrighted to Bill Bygroves.

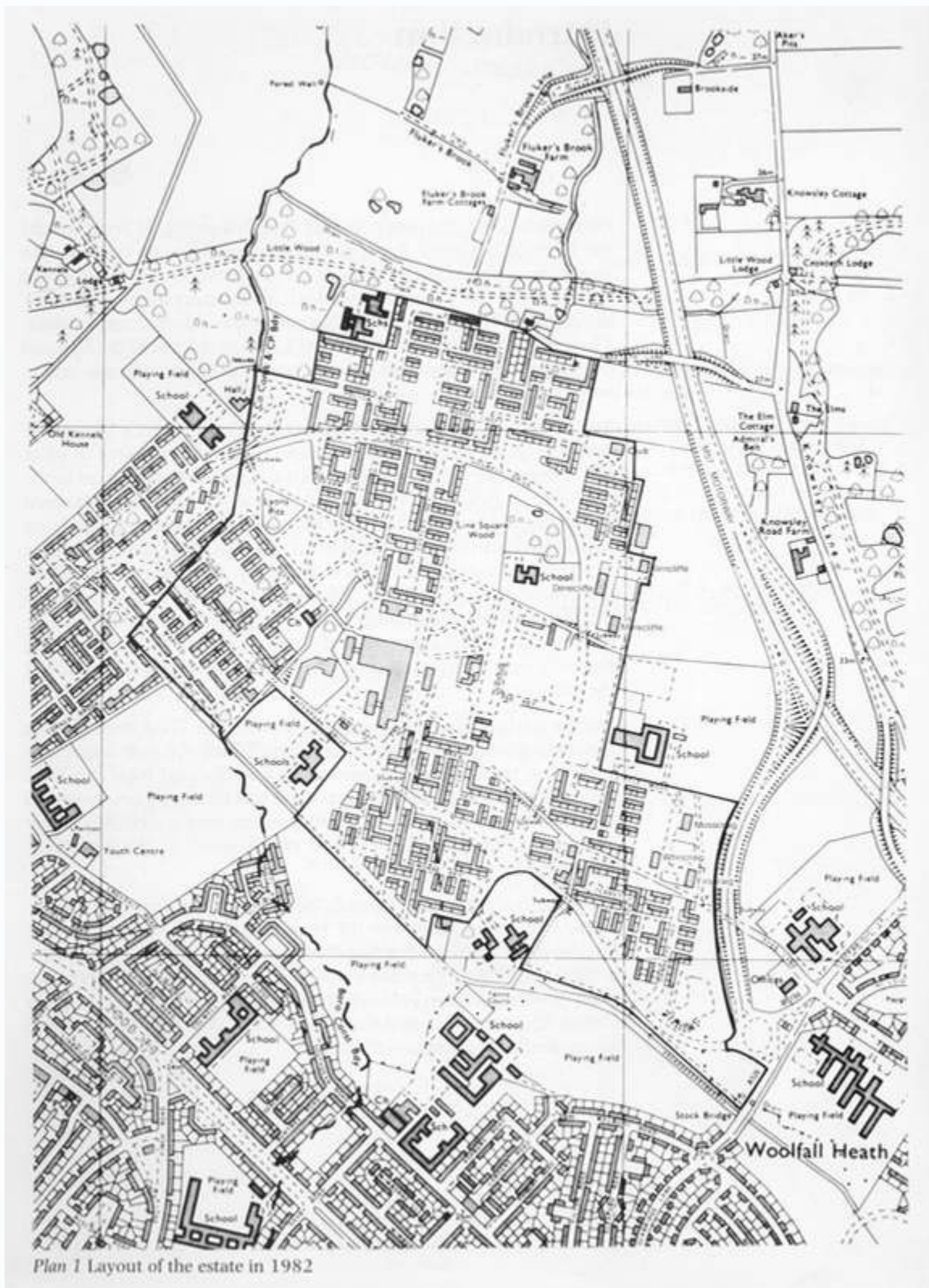
Collection: Image SV 8 – Stockbridge Village

Material: Photograph

Date: 28th November 1992



Cabinet Seven



Cantril Farm in 1982: the need for action

Cantril Farm was built in the 1960s on a large tract of former agricultural land some ten miles from central Liverpool. Conceived as an overspill estate for inner city residents, it was tenanted from the start by people displaced by Liverpool City Council's slum clearance schemes. Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council (KMBC) inherited Cantril Farm, along with 36,000 other public sector dwellings, when local government was reorganised in 1974.

Cantril Farm contained 3007 dwellings planned on semi-Radburn principles. Seventeen housing areas, each characterised by a predominant dwelling type, were separated by a criss-cross of footpaths and stretches of open space. The central area comprised three 22 storey, system-built tower blocks and a sub-terranean car park with a surface deck which supported community buildings and the only shops on the estate. The remainder of the dwellings were a mix of 4 storey maisonettes, 2 storey houses and 15 storey flats. Five schools including Cantril High School were provided for the residents. The ring road, Waterpark Drive, was for road traffic only. Pedestrians crossed the road using a series of subways.

The problems on Cantril Farm began well before Knowsley inherited the estate. Vacancies were growing, vandalism was rife, unemployment was high and rising. By the late 1970s, rent arrears had soared, shopkeepers were trading behind steel doors and families were leaving at a rate of more than 20 a week. The maisonettes were a complete failure: Knowsley had already demolished 112 of these before 1982. By 1982, reletting of the 546 remaining maisonettes and the 510 tower block flats (the Denes) had virtually halted. Cantril Farm was deteriorating so rapidly that it was expected to be half vacant within ten years and fit only for demolition.

Even within a Borough with a number of problem estates Cantril Farm stood out. Residents and many of their leaders feared that Knowsley had given up

Aerial view of Cantril Farm in 1982.

Building a Community

A book published by Stockbridge Village Housing Trust, about the change from Cantril Farm to Stockbridge Village, the arising issues and the financial feasibility of rebuilding the estate. Open on pages 4 and 5, show a map of the layout of the estate in 1982 and a reversed aerial photograph of the estate.

Collection: Stockbridge Village Trust: Building A Community – Stockbridge Village Trust – 363.5 Archive Special Collection

Material: Book

Date: 1988

Cabinet Seven



Stockbridge Remembered

Photocopy of 'Stockbridge Remembered' by Mary Routledge, an article published by Villages Housing Trust in the Village Times.

Local historian, Mary Routledge, wrote an in-depth and fascinating four-page article on the beginnings of Cantril Farm and her time living on the estate.

In her article, Routledge discusses her fond memories of the Withens shopping centre being built in the 1970s and being allocated a flat in Mossraig. She also recounts the community as very mixed, with people from North End, South End, West Derby Road and Everton, describing them as, "each of which bringing their own special way of living to the area".

Collection: KA96/2/PH221 – Photocopy Collection

Material: Paper Photocopy

Date: 1997



Knowsley Council

Township of Halewood

Halewood, located 8 miles south-east of Liverpool was originally part of Hale and it is difficult to discover when they separated but by the 15th Century, Halewood was definitely a separate township within the West Derby Hundred.

The township of Halewood lies between the old course of Ditton Brook in the north and Rams Brook in the south. Disputes over the manor lands of Halewood between the Ireland and Holland families began in the 13th Century and were to be ongoing for some time.

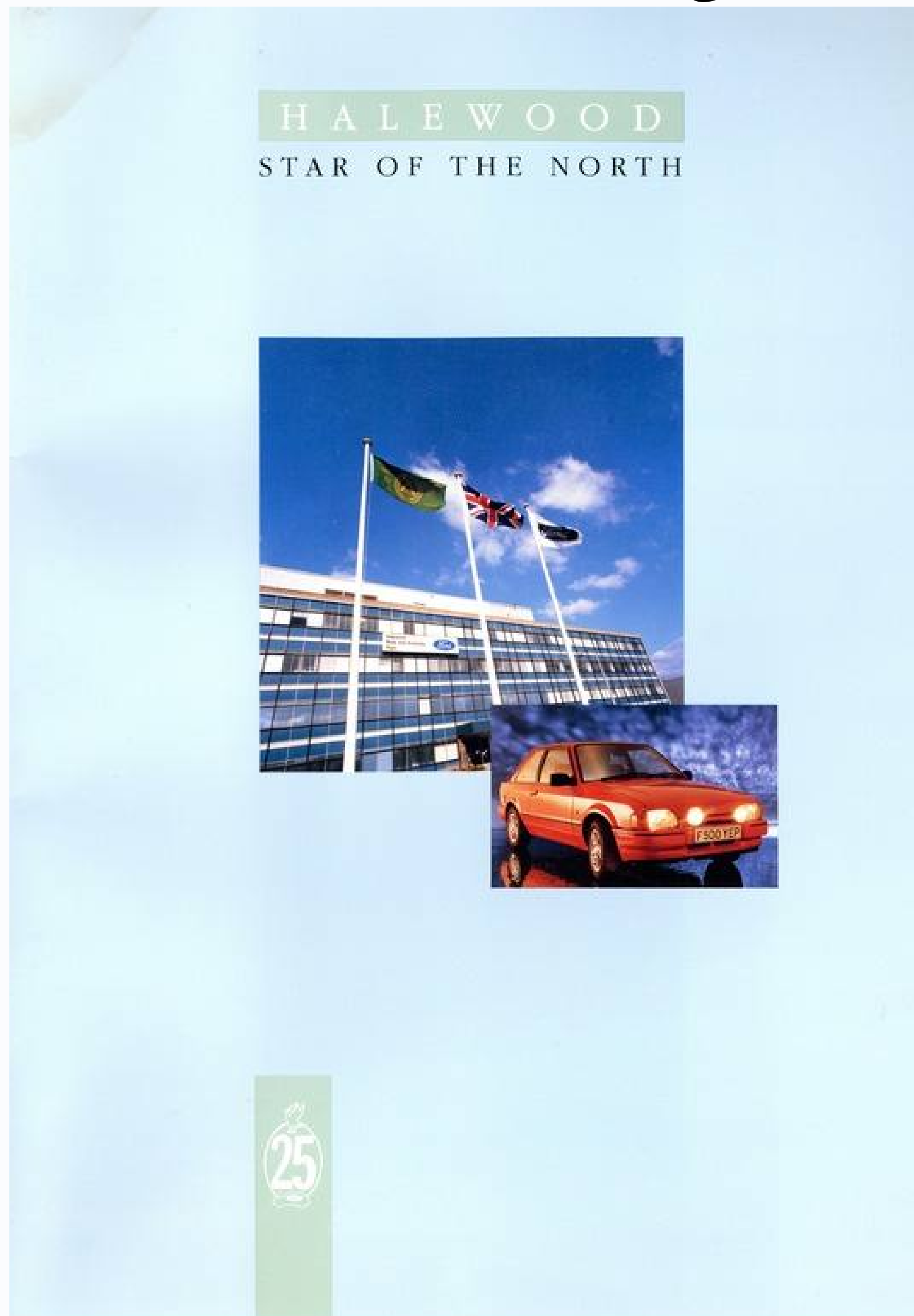
The Ireland family had Hale, most of Halebank and part of North End, while the Holland family who were the superior lords, controlled most of North End and a portion of Halebank. However, the Hollands were based at a Hall in Halebank, while the Irelands' main residence was the 'Hutt' within Halewood. This confusing state of affairs continued for centuries.

By 1628 the manor of Halewood was part of the dower of Charlotte Countess of Derby. During 19th Century, Halewood was still divided between two manors, the Ireland portion held by the Ireland-Blackburne's, and the Holland portion by the Earls of Derby...

If you have enjoyed reading this extract on the history on the township of Halewood and would like to learn more, you can find the more detailed version available on our website via this link:

<https://archives.knowsley.gov.uk/halewood/>

Cabinet Eight



Ford Motor Company at Halewood

Brochure and photographs relating to the Ford Motor Company Limited and its Halewood Operations. The company was built in 1963, and Production began with the Ford Anglia and the very first car off the production line was later preserved at Liverpool Museum. Halewood's Ford factory brought prosperity to the area but in the building of the plant, two ancient, moated sites were destroyed: the Old Hutt, and Wrights Moat.

Collection: GB1076.HWLH/6/1 – Halewood Local History Group Collection

Material: Brochure

Date: 1988



Cabinet Eight

HLAEWOOD VILLAGE

By the early 1700s, Halewood had developed into a well organised township with a cottage industry of linen weaving. It boasted four tool and parts makers (these men probably learned their craft in the watch and clock establishments in Prescot or Liverpool).

Two tanneries were in existence and a ROBERT WISWALL had established a shop. We do not know what Mr Wiswall sold, but one assumes that he stocked an assortment of every-day requirements which hitherto had necessitated a walk to Woolton or further afield.

At this time (the early 1700s), there were two alehouses on the Site of the present Cock & Trumpet and the Eagle and Child.

The life style of the ordinary working man and his family was, of course spartan. The introduction of potato growing into Lancashire around 1680 did much to lower the winter death rate as the crops could be stored easily to provide a staple diet during the cold 'dead' months until spring foods were available.

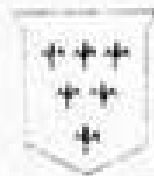
In 1722, Halewood Council rented a cottage from Lord Derby for use as a workhouse. The rent was 6d a year. It is recorded that, in 1776, there was room for 40 individuals in this workhouse.

An indication of the way in which the township was organised around this period is shown by the facts that a town clerk (5/- per year) and two laylayers (3/8 per year) were appointed and served terms of office of about 10 years. The job of the laylayers was to fix items such as rates.

Capable individuals had to take on different duties for a period of 12 months. As an illustration of this, one John Plumpton served as highways supervisor in 1699; as constable in 1704; as land tax assessor in 1716; and as overseer of the poor in 1720.

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LORDS OF THE MANOR (HALE)



The Irelands of Hale



The Irelands of Hutt



The Blackburne Family

THE IRELANDS OF HALE (THE HUTT)

In 1185, Henry II attempted to make a complete conquest of Ireland and sent his son John over to conduct the campaign. Among his followers appears to have been one Richard of Walton, probably as a cleric.

Of Richard's exploits in Ireland we know nothing, but for some reason he earned the distinctive name of Meath. So Richard of Walton became Richard of Meath and a great favourite of John, the King's son. So much so that when John became King in 1199, Richard was made clerk of the exchequer and, in July 1200, he received a grant of royal lands in Walton and, three years

later, the grant of the Manor of Hale to hold by the ancient ferm of 905. This grant was confirmed to Richard of Meath in 1227 by Henry III.

Richard of Meath married Cecilia of Columbers. The union produced four sons and two daughters, namely, Richard, Geoffrey, Adam, Henry, Cecilia and Edusa. Richard and Geoffrey both died young, but Adam and Henry appear to have enjoyed life at The Hutt and on the Hale estates for some time. Once again we find the name changed; instead of Henry of Meath, he becomes Henry of Hale.

When Henry died (about 1260 or 1261) the Hutt and the Estates of Hale descended to Cecilia and Edusa as co-heiresses. Cecilia married Sir John de Woolfall, on the death of Edusa, her son Adam who was living in Ireland successfully maintained a suit for moiety of the Hale Estates and came to

6

A History Compiled by Local Historians

A detailed and fantastic telling of the history of Halewood Village. Open on pages 5 and 6, detailing how Halewood had developed into a well organised township in the 18th Century. Also mentioned are the prominent family, the Irelands of Hale (The Hutt).

Collection: Halewood Village: A Short History by the Halewood History Group – number -

Material: Book

Date: 1988



Cabinet Eight



A View of Old Halewood Village

Halewood Village (Halewood Lane Ends). Thatched cottages can be seen on the left and a group of girls are standing in the middle of Bailey's Lane.

Collection: Image HW 9 - Halewood

Material: Photograph

Date: 1906

Cabinet Eight



The Derby Arms Inn

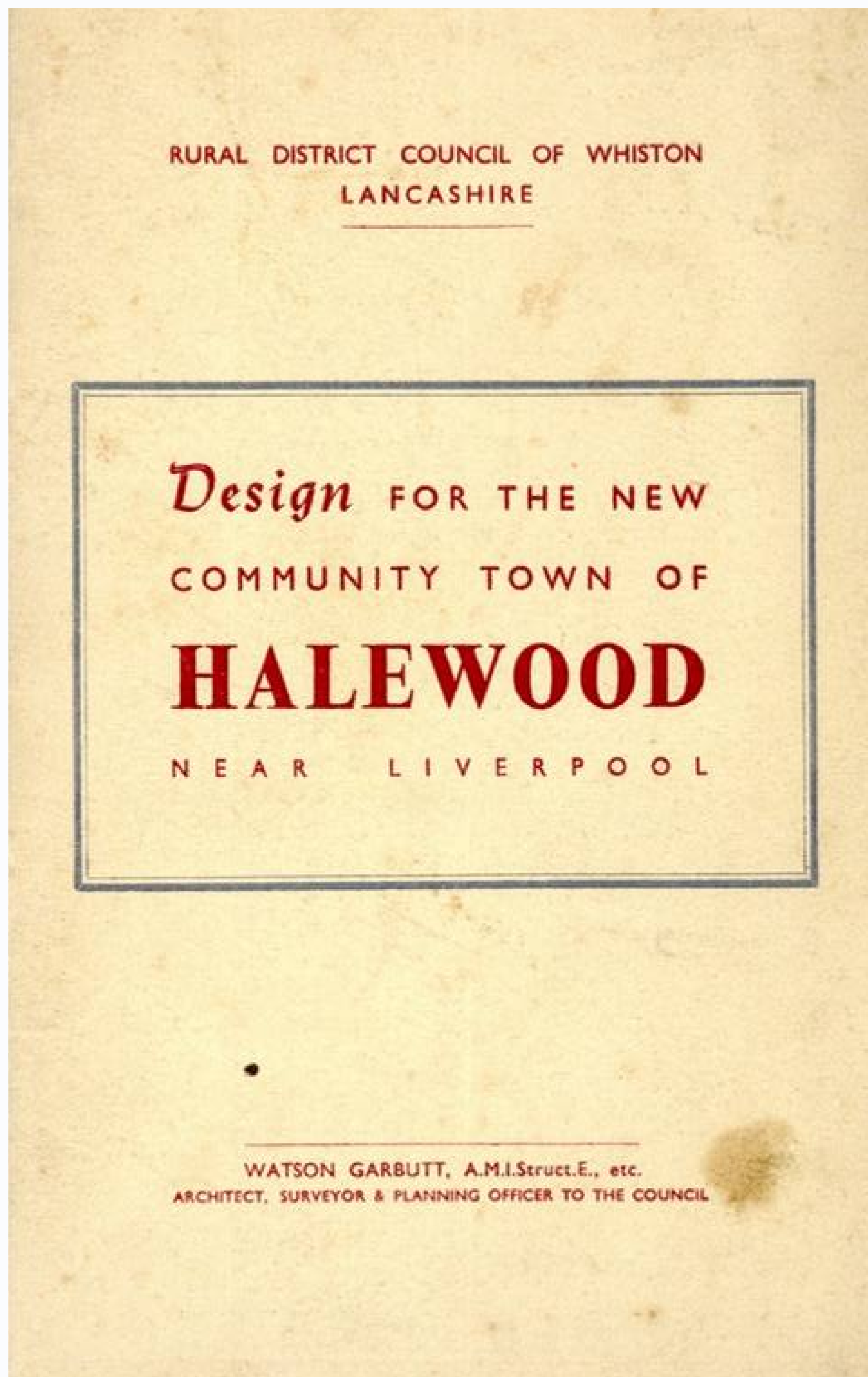
On the right of the photograph is the original Derby Arms which stood on the site of the present hotel of the same name. The village shop is in the left foreground.

Collection: Image HW 10 - Halewood

Material: Photograph

Date: 1906 - 1910

Cabinet Eight



A Design for a New Community

Design for the new community town of Halewood near Liverpool. This booklet was produced by Whiston Rural District Council, Lancashire as part of the planning scheme to meet the future needs of post war development. Included in the booklet is plans surrounding housing, industry, public transport, and education.

Collection: KA85/P/Z18 – Halewood Papers Collection

Material: Booklet

Date: 1945



Knowsley Council

Township of Huyton-With-Roby

The focal point of Huyton is the historic Parish Church dedicated to St. Michael which stands (as many churches of this name), occupying high ground on a ridge and therefore visible throughout the township.

There may have originally been a Saxon church on this site but a church certainly existed here in the 12th Century for it was granted to the Priory of Burscough, by Robert, son of Henry de Lathom (whose family are remembered by the present-day Lathom Road).

In the 14th Century, the lordship of the 'de Lathom' lands including Huyton, Roby and Knowsley, changed to the Stanley family by marriage. In 1485, Thomas, Lord Stanley, became the first Earl of Derby, a title given to him by Henry VII in appreciation for the Stanley family's support at the Battle of Bosworth. Also around this time the Harrington family acquired the tenancy of the manor of Huyton Hey by marriage.

The medieval village of Roby was clustered around the crossroads of what is today Station Road, Roby Road and Carr Lane. In the centre was the Cross, the exact date or purpose of which remains unclear, although it has also been called the Market Cross, Stocks Cross (from the stocks which were in front of it until the early 19th century) and the Boundary Stone. For many years it had the impressive Edenhurst Cottages for a backdrop...

If you have enjoyed reading this extract on the history on the township of Huyton-With-Roby and would like to learn more, you can find the more detailed version available on our website via this link:

<https://archives.knowsley.gov.uk/huyton/>

<https://archives.knowsley.gov.uk/roby/>



Councillor 'Larry' Nolan Cabinet

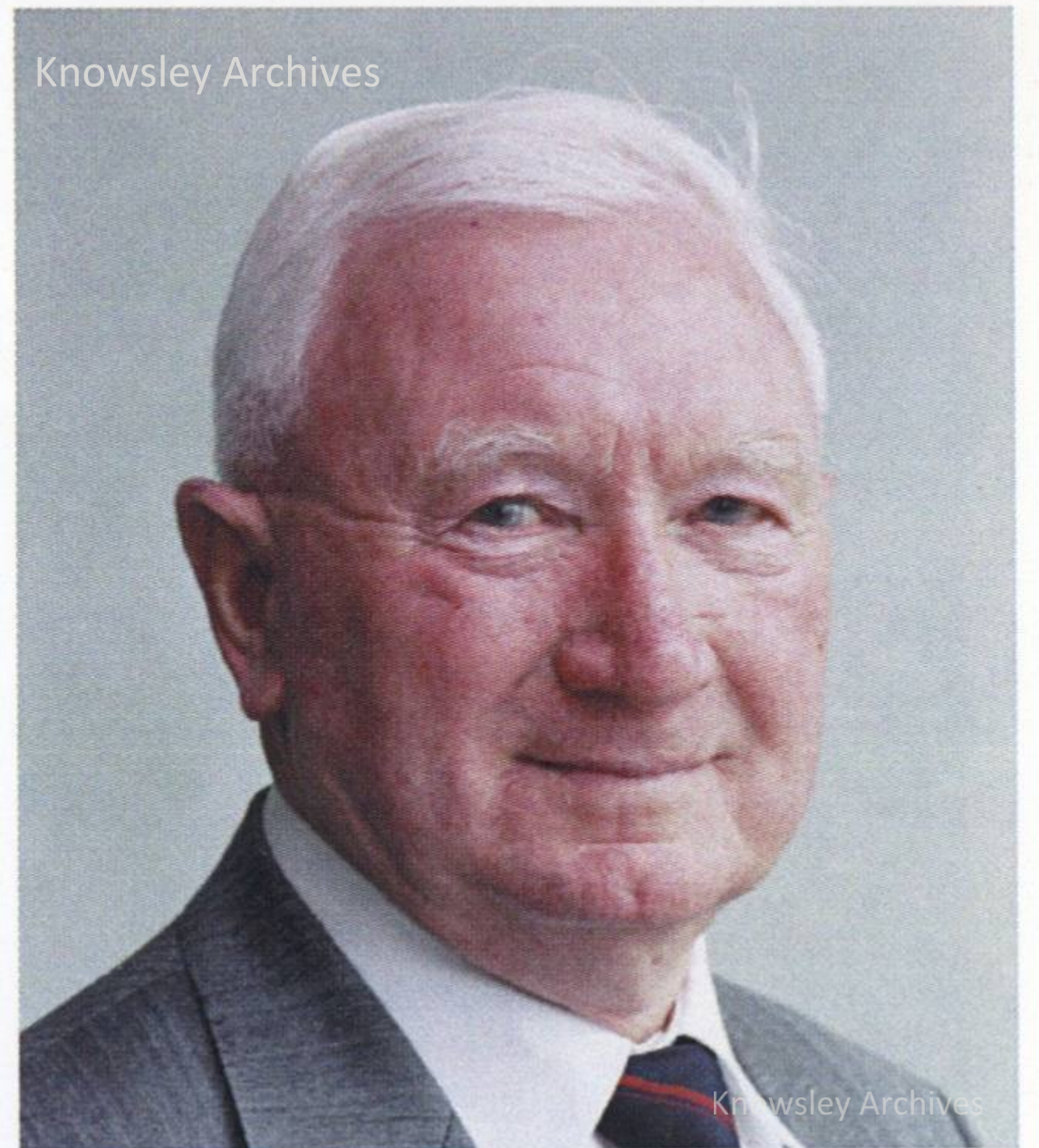


Photograph of Councillor 'Larry' Nolan Cabinet located at Huyton Library

Councillor 'Larry' Nolan Cabinet

Councillor 'Larry' Nolan (1930-2006) Cllr. Nolan's political career spanned 51 years of Labour Party membership and service to the community.

His first political office was as a member of Whiston Parish Council in 1955, before election onto Huyton with Roby Urban District Council, representing St. Michael's Ward, on 7th May 1963.



Councillor Lawrence 'Larry' Nolan

He served on a number of Committees between 1963 and 1969, also serving as a school governor at Huyton Hey School (1963-1969) and Mosscroft County Primary School (1966-1972). In 1972, he was elected to represent the Princess Ward community and was active on a number of committees.

Following local government reorganisation in 1974, Cllr. Nolan was elected to Council, representing Ward No. 1 (Huyton Farm, Princess and Woolfall wards).

He was elected Mayor for the period 1978-1979, when he hosted a visit to Knowsley by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and was a serving councillor until his death in 2006.

Cllr Nolan produced the MPhil dissertation, 'Local Government Re-organisation 1966-1972 with special reference to the Metropolitan District of Knowsley', published in full and as an abridged edition, 2007.



Grant of Freedom of the Borough

Displayed for the first time in Huyton, the Conferment of the Freedom of the Metropolitan Borough of Knowsley. This document is a sealed and illuminated certificate of the grant of the freedom of the borough of Knowsley conferred on The Right Honourable Sir Harold Wilson, K.G., O.B.E., F.R.S., MP in recognition of the eminent service rendered by Sir Harold Wilson to the Borough, both as the Right Honourable Member of Parliament for the Huyton Constituency since 1950 and as the former Prime Minister of Her Majesty's Government.

Collection: GB1076.JHW/1/2 – Harold Wilson Collection

Material:

Date: 18th May 1977

Liverpool "Star" free Newspaper - Thursday 9/1/86.

Bridging the centuries

HOW many folk living in Huyton know that many years ago there was possibly a river near Archway Road Bridge? This, of course, is just part of the fascinating history of Huyton, dating back to the Domesday book. At the latter half of the 19th century, the foundations of the present Archway Bridge were being dug, because heavier trains meant a

more substantial structure was needed. The builders had to excavate to a greater depth than had been originally planned, and a dried up river bed was uncovered, and the remains of a small boat or ship was found.

The vice-chairman of the Huyton-with-Roby Historic Society understands a team from an un-named museum

removed these remains, and unfortunately they have been unable to find out which museum it was.

There is also on record the finding of a flint arrowhead in Roby, perhaps a relic of pre-historic man who roamed the thick forest, which covered the whole of Huyton and Roby from the earliest of times.

Bridging The Centuries

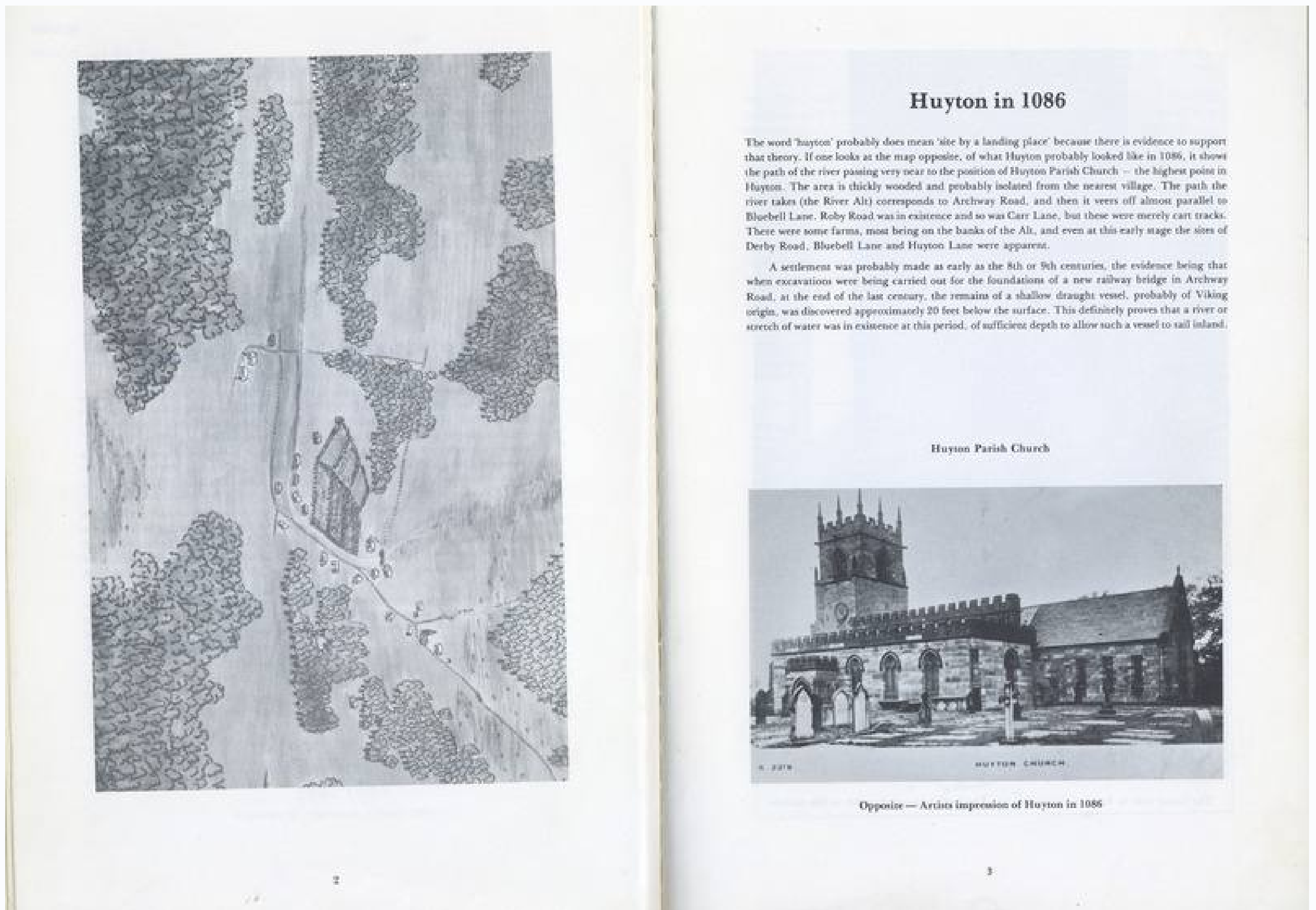
A news cutting from the Liverpool Star of a article that was based on a previous article written by Mr Capper, who had summarised his efforts to locate more information about the discovery of a small boat or ship in Huyton.

Collection: GB1076.HHS/1/11/15 – Research Papers of R. Capper (Huyton Historic Society) Collection

Material: Newspaper Cutting

Date: 9th January 1986





Beautiful Huyton

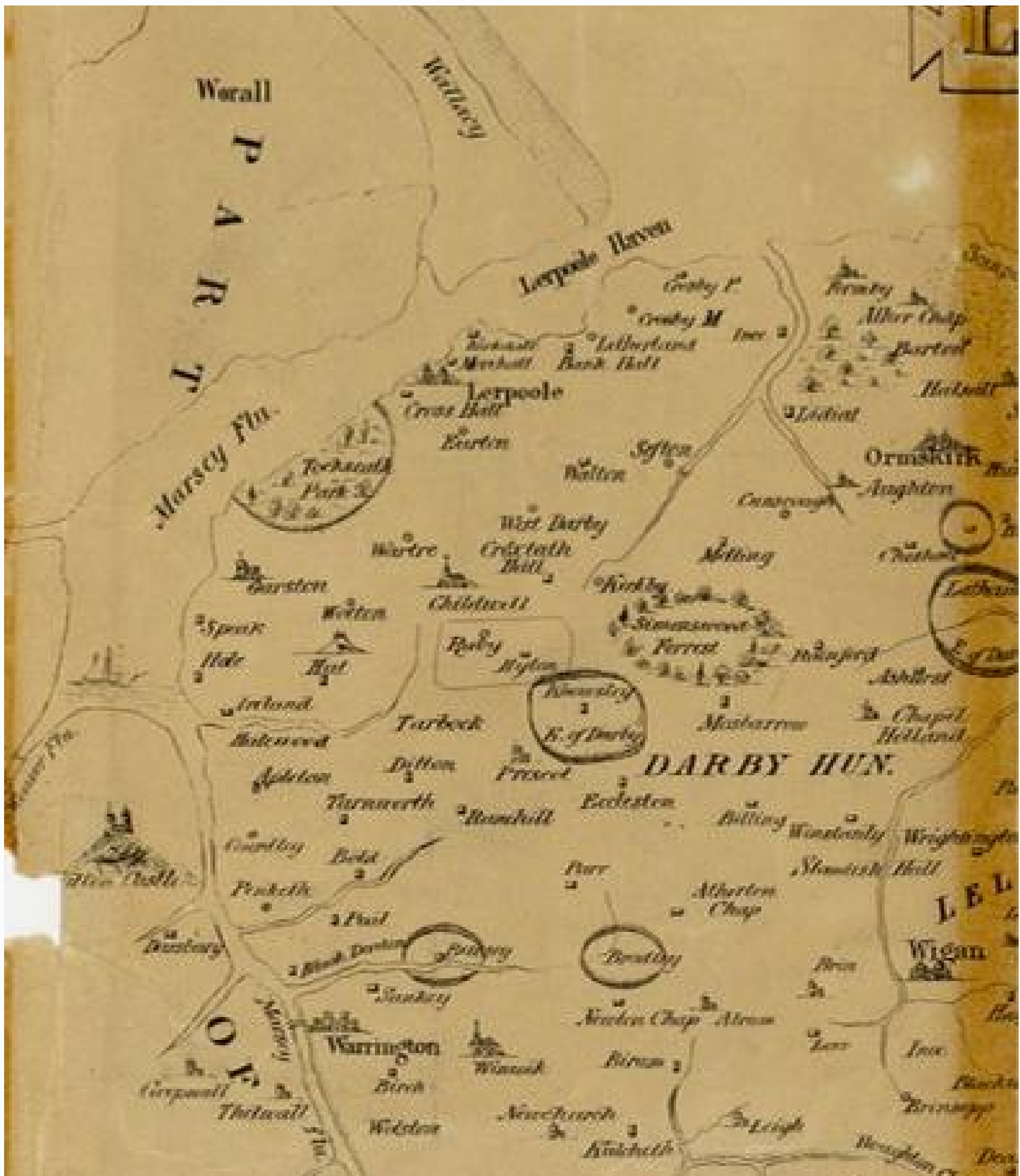
A book written by Andrew G. Colwell, who gives a glimpse of the people and places in Huyton and Roby over the centuries, showing ways of life that no longer exist.

In the introduction, Colwell writes in 1980 that *'during the last fifteen years the township of Huyton and Roby have undergone more changes than at any times over the past 1,000 years'*. On the open pages that can be seen, features an artist impression of Huyton in 1086 and a paragraph on the beginnings of Huyton. Also included in this paragraph, there is a mention of the discovery of *"a shallow draught vessel, probably of Viking Origin"*.

Collection: Beautiful Huyton-with Roby: "A Charming Residential Suburb" by Andrew G. Colwell – 942.72 – Archive Special Collection

Material: Book

Date: Published 1980



Fragments of Lancashire

A section of Gregson's Fragments of Lancashire 1598 map. This section shows Liverpool as Lerpoole, and also features Kirkby, Huyton, Roby, Tarbock and Prescott. The other sections of the map that are not visible, show areas of Lancashire and Greater Manchester.

Collection: GB1076.HHS/1/11/15 – Research Papers of R. Capper (Huyton Historic Society) Collection

Material: Map

Date: 1598 and then copied from an 1821 drawing



Royal Visit to Huyton

A military band marches along Derby Road, Huyton, amidst flags and banners while local residents look on. Part of the festivities on the day of a royal visit to the region, King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra, on the 6th July 1909. Photograph is copyrighted to

Collection: Image HU294 - Huyton

Material: Photograph

Date: 1909



Brennard's Decorators

Mr and Mrs Brennard in their shop. Brennard's business (decorators) started in 1810 on Damhouse Lane, and later transferred to Derby Road, Huyton in 1853. The paint and wallpaper stores were started by Mrs Brennard in the 1950s. Photograph is copyrighted to N. R Hatton

Collection: Image HU145 - Huyton

Material: Photograph

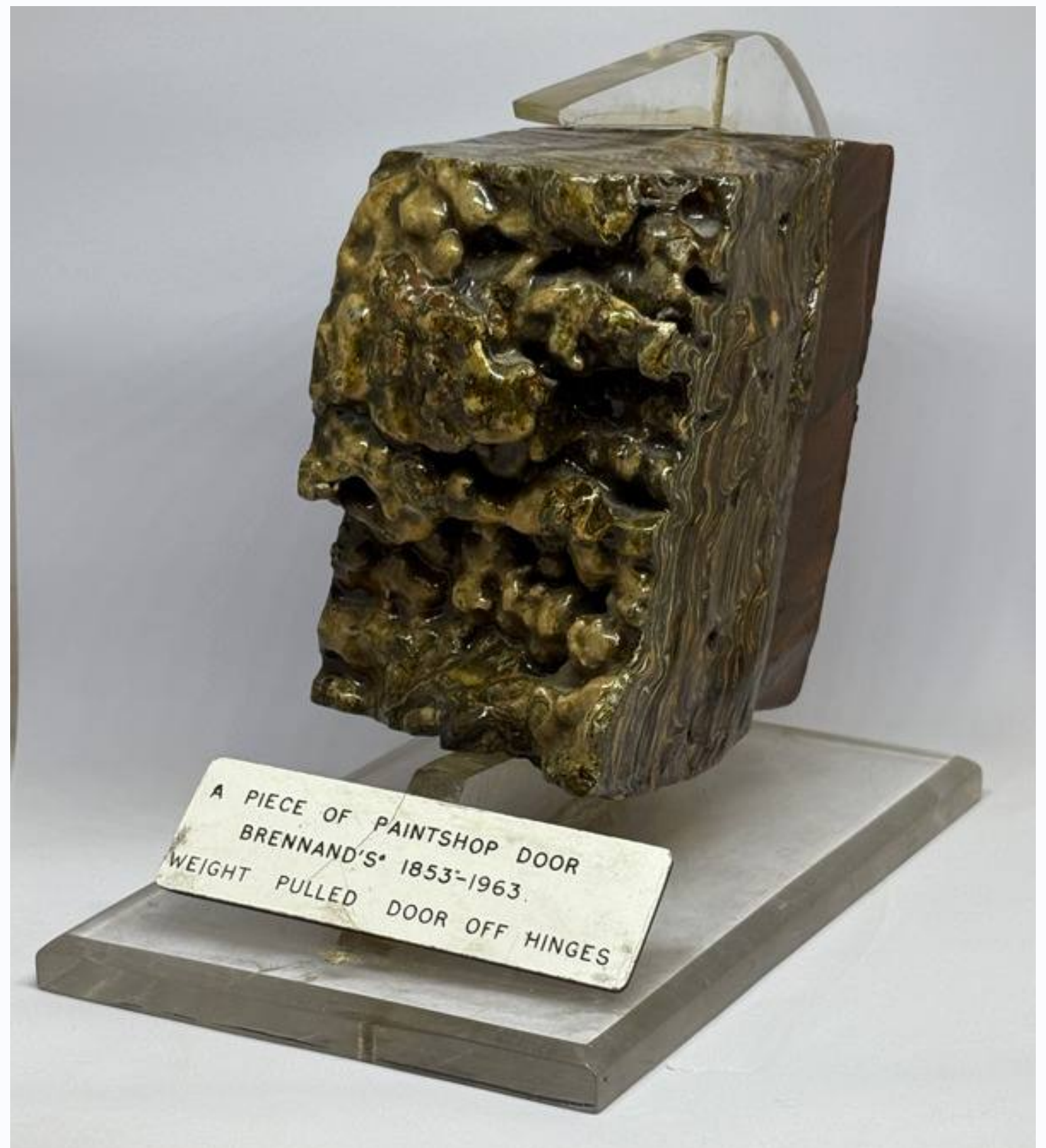
Date: 1963

Brennand's Door

A piece of a wooden door that originates from Brennand's decorators and painters' shop. It is estimated to be over 5,000 layers of paint, spanning over 100 years. The painters and decorators would use door to wipe excess paint from their brushes. The weight of the paint would eventually pull the door from its hinges.

Material: Wood and Paint mounted on acrylic plastic

Date: 1853 - 1963



A close up of the different layers of paint



Credits

Exhibition Space - Knowsley Archives Service at The ARK (Archive Resource for Knowsley)The Kirkby Centre – First Floor, Norwich Way, Kirkby, L32 8XY

Curated by - The team at Knowsley Archives Services

Knowsley Archives Service, based in The ARK: Archive Resource for Knowsley, is home to a wide range of resources that describe the heritage of the people and communities that make up the Borough of Knowsley.

Our Mission Statement is:

- To collect, preserve and organise archive materials relating to the people and places of Knowsley, creating a collective memory for the borough that is accessible for research and consultation, either physically or online through digital content and finding aids
- To encourage learning through engagement, offering support to individuals and groups as they explore the collections, enabling our communities to develop a sense of pride and place
- To promote Knowsley's rich heritage, sharing an understanding of the history of the communities that make up the borough of Knowsley

Knowsley Archives Service was awarded Accredited Archive Status by The National Archives in November 2017 and was retained in 2024