

# LANCASHIRE PLACE NAME SURVEY

Newsletter

March 2015

[www.lpns.org.uk](http://www.lpns.org.uk)

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## **LPNS Progress - and an unexpected encounter**

The November 2014 newsletter set out what we have so far achieved and discussed the need for a strategy to overcome the difficulties presented by a lack of Tithe Commutation Schedules for certain parts of pre-1974 Lancashire.

In the last newsletter we discussed the work undertaken on the Land Tax Returns. This work helps us to identify the major landowners and continues to reveal the unexpected.

When Farrar and Brownbill wrote about Salford Hundred in the *Victoria County History*, they discussed how an area called 'Hundersfield' was recorded between 1202 and 1361 and noted that it included quite large areas in east Lancashire. They named Wardleworth, Wuerdle, Wardle, Blatchinworth, Calderbrook, Todmorden and Walsden which together cover over 16,000 acres.

Trawling the Land Tax Returns has revealed that the area was recognised long after the dates given in the *Victoria County History*. All the Land Tax Returns for the places listed above locate the 'hamlets' as being within Hundersfield Township.

It seems likely that parallels can be drawn between Hundersfield and 'Makerfield' which gives an identity to Ashton in Makerfield and Newton in Makerfield both of which lie in the south-west of the county.

This discovery (to a degree) confirms the writer's belief that, with a range of taxes and levies being made each year, every township developed its own method of managing the collection. Consequently, ancient concepts were, to a degree, frozen by 'custom'.

The Land Tax Returns are available at Lancashire Archives ref. QDL/.

## **Family History Fair**

Lancashire Archives is celebrating its first 75 Years in 2015. As part of the celebrations there will be a Family History Fair at the Archives on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2015. Amongst the speakers will be Jennifer Holt who will discuss how the Land Tax Returns can help family historians. This would be equally useful to local historians who have not yet come across this resource.

There will also be a '1940s' inspired Open Day on the preceding Saturday (25<sup>th</sup>) - if you would like to know more about either day then telephone the Archives on 01772 533039 or email to [record.office@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:record.office@lancashire.gov.uk).

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## **2015 Annual General Meeting**

This year's AGM will be held on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at Lancashire Archives.

Subsequent to the AGM, Dr Fiona Edmond of Cambridge University will give our Annual Lecture when she will discuss:

*Brittonic and Welsh influence in Lancashire:  
history and place-names*

The Annual Lecture (for which there is a modest charge) will be given immediately after the LPNS AGM - please note that the Lecture is open to all.

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## **Society for Name Studies in Britain & Ireland**

The Society's latest newsletter is now available on line at:

<http://www.snsbi.org.uk/newsletter.html>

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### LANCASHIRE PLACE NAME SURVEY

Chair: Jacquie Crosby

Secretary: Andrew Walmsley ([secretary.lpns@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.lpns@gmail.com))

Co-ordinator of Volunteers (Treasurer *pro tem*): Jennifer Holt ([volunteers.lpns@gmail.com](mailto:volunteers.lpns@gmail.com))

Committee Members: Nigel Neil Christine Storey John Wilson

Peter Iles (Specialist Advisor - Archaeology; Lancashire County Council)

Prof. John Insley, Heidelberg University (Editor for the English Place Name Society)