



...Friends of Smithills Hall...



Patron: The Duke of Norfolk President: Sir William Goring Bt.
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FRIENDS BULLETIN 49

Autumn 2022

Chairman: David Williams, Vice Chairman: Joan Sheppard, Secretary: Sue Priest, Treasurer: Wendy Edwards, Members: Ruth Ellison Paul Lomas, Janette Rix

I cannot endure to waste anything so precious as autumnal sunshine by staying in the house ”

Nathaniel Hawthorne

The American Notebooks 1842

Welcome to the Autumn Friends' Bulletin. I hope you are well and have had an opportunity to enjoy a good summer. DW

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TRIVIA

WHY?

In golf, where did the term 'Caddie' come from?

BECAUSE

When Mary Queen of Scots went to France as a young girl, Louis, King of France learned that she loved the Scots game 'golf'. He had the first course outside Scotland built for her enjoyment. To make sure she was properly chaperoned (and guarded) while she played, Louis hired cadets from a military school to accompany her.

Mary liked this a lot and when she returned to Scotland (which was not a good idea as it turns out), she took the practice with her. In French, the word cadet is pronounced 'ca-day' and the Scots changed it into caddie.

DIARY DATES

History and Ghost Tours. 13th October and 17th November from 7pm. Each tour is a mix of history and ghost stories which have been handed down over the years, and are led by experienced Friends' guides. The total experience can last up to 2 hours.

Each tour needs to be pre-booked and paid for through Eventbrite (www.eventbrite.co.uk), or phone 01204 332853. It costs £10 and is suitable for 16+.

The Annual Wreathlaying in the Hall Chapel will be on Friday, Armistice Day, the 11th November, starting at 10.45am. This is an opportunity to

remember not only those recorded on the Chapel Memorial who fought and died but also those who fought and came home.



Smithills Chapel

Decorating Smithills Hall for Christmas

The Friends will be decorating the Great Hall, the Withdrawing Room, the Green Room, White Room and Library for Christmas. We plan to do this from 12 noon on Sunday 27th November. The rooms will be decorated as they would have been in their period heyday.

Are you free to help? All volunteers are welcome. Please let us know you are coming or just come along on the day, you will be most welcome.

The Friends Christmas Social will be held in the Devey Room in the Hall on Thursday 8th December with doors opening at 6.15pm to

commence at 7pm. There will be a speaker, Tom Preston, with part performance piece, part amusing talk which includes a bit of social history with impressions of some of the great comedians.

Details will be posted to members giving the cost. A buffet will be included and drinks will be available.

The Friends Carol Service will be held in the Chapel on Thursday 15th December. Doors will open at 6.15pm and the service will start at 7pm, and will include carols and readings. Member Rev Michael Taylor will be there. Mince pies and mulled wine will be provided in the Dome Room. Everyone is welcome.

DEREK ECCLES

It was with great sadness that we learned of the passing of long-time member of the Friends, Derek Eccles. Derek passed away on Wednesday 27th July 2022 aged 93. He had been unwell for some time and died peacefully at home after a spell in hospital with pneumonia.

Derek and Stella, his wife, were regular supporters of events at the Hall.

Our sincere condolences go to Stella (who is also a long-time member) and children Nicholas and Caroline. Derek was a retired head teacher and member of the Bolton Retired Headteacher's Association. We will greatly miss him.

CONFLICT AT BOLTON CROSS 1555

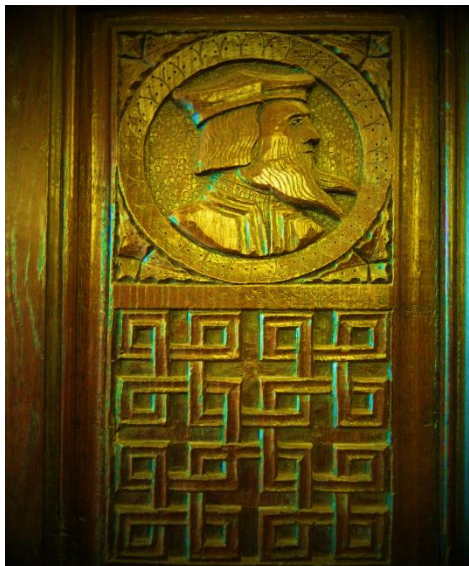
On August 11th 1555 Bolton Town Centre witnessed scenes of strife that must have caused the Boltonians of the day considerable unrest when the followers of two of the leading families in the district indulged in some blood-letting at or near the Market Cross. The Market Cross is at the entrance to Churchgate, close to the spot where James Stanley, the Earl of Derby was executed after the Civil War. Bolton was granted the charter to hold a market in 1251; it was held here on Mondays until it became too large,



when it moved to Market (now Victoria) Square in 1824. According to the Public Monuments and Sculpture Association, 'Scholes' History of Bolton dates the first Churchgate cross to 1482, described as a gilded iron on a circular stepped stone-based stand. This structure may have been replaced by an Elizabethan or Jacobean cross which survived until 1776, when it was removed as an obstruction to the markets. John Wesley preached from this cross in 1748. The current structure was presented to the town by Liberal MP George Harwood in

1909 and was welcomed in a town which was "none too full of monuments and statues", and "somewhat lacking in these interesting memorials of the town." It has four plaques which record significant events in the town's history."

What it doesn't record is the conflict between the Bartons and Levers in 1555. The trouble arose because a grant was made by Andrew Barton of Smithills Hall on 10th June 1539, a moiety (a half or part) of the Prebend (stipend) of Bolton, a half of the Parish Church of Bolton and half of all the tithes and oblations (offerings) of the Church.



Andrew Barton

Andrew Barton was given the grant for himself and his heirs from May 1st 1539 for the next 60 years. This grant upset the Lever family who believed their right to these lucrative revenues were greater than that of the Bartons. They had held these privileges in the past and Robert Lever and some tenants and dependents decided that they would

do all in their power to thwart Robert Barton, Andrew's son and heir.

They heard that the tithe corn had been cut and stored in the tithe-barn and that men of Andrew Barton (of Smithills Hall) were coming down from Halliwell to carry away his half of the tithe corn. To quote the wording of Barton's pleading on the matter to the Court of the Duchy of Lancaster; "*Lever and his men by force of arms in most ryottous and warrely manner neyther having the fere of Gode, nor yet remembering theyr dutye of obbedyence to our late sovereigns the Lord and Lady King and Queen, assembled themselves together at Bolton, where they lyed in wait for the plaintiffs servants to beat them if they carried the said corn away....When the plaintiffs servants arrived at the Crosse the defendents attacked them swearing and making great tumult, some weapons drawn, and threatened them if they did not give up the corn*".

The outcome of the pleading to the Court is as yet unknown. (DW)

HER MAJESTY

I am of an age when I remember my Primary School Head Master got us all together and told us the news "The King is dead, God save the Queen". Her loss now has left me feeling a beacon of normality has been removed. She was a consistent force for good. **Ma'am, we'll miss you.** God save the King. DW

